

Opening a 'green gate' for new-energy related industries

By TIAN BING
AND LI XIANG

It's a chilly winter but, when you wake up, you're in a warm room, heated by solar panels and geothermal heat. You get dressed, eat, and go to the garage to find the lights already on because of the natural light outside.

Welcome to the "low-carbon" life your average Joe or Joan living in the Binhai New Area are going to be enjoying thanks to the new energy business.

Obviously, industry experts and scientists are saying, environmental and energy problems are forcing us to look for alternatives in a low-carbon economy.

Hence the theme of this year's second China (Binhai Tianjin) International Eco-city Forum & Expo, which runs today till Sept 27 — "Low-carbon development and eco-cities".

One session had experts from around the globe discussing topics such as "low-carbon technology and renewable energy applications", or "management of low-carbon energy systems", and "low-carbon-energy-based infrastructure".

Tianjin's Binhai New Area, which is the permanent host of this event since the first session last year, has opened a "green gate" this year to let people imagine a "low-carbon city". It is giving priority to new energy sources such as wind power, solar power, green batteries, and semiconductor lighting.

There are several wind power generators, 80 meters high with 93-meter blades and a stand-alone capacity of 2 megawatts each.

Tianjin Binhai's first wind power project, the Dashentang wind farm, will begin operation next year, and generate enough power for 73,000 families.

The new area has the nation's densest concentration of wind power companies — more than 30 of them, including Vestas, Gamesa, and the Tianjin Dongqi Wind Turbine Blade Engineering Co.

By 2020, it is expected to have five wind farms with a total capacity of 230,000 kilowatts.

Under the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015), the area will have photovoltaic (PV) demonstration sites in the

high-tech zone and Sino-Singaporean Tianjin Eco-city, according to Zong Guoying, head of the new area.

And, by 2015, its Solar PVs are expected to have a total output of 4100 megawatts. In addition, there will be 100,000 PV roofs with 300 megawatts of installed power, making the new area an international leader in new energy production.

The fact that the area's power usage increases at about 25 percent annually has caused the green battery industry to play a catch-up game. Currently, the area's Lithium Ion battery output accounts for more than a third of the nation's total, making it the top green battery producer in overall strength.

The LED industry is in a fledgling state and has a basic supply chain in place, with more than 30 companies involved in semiconductor lighting R&D. Samsung LED has the only overseas manufacturing plant in Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area.

"We'll do our best to have less than 150 tons of CO2 emission per million dollars of GDP, and a 20 percent utilization rate for renewable energy," Zong said.

"The regional development theory for the 12th five-year plan calls for intensive internationalization and low-carbon emissions. And technology is the key to this," said Xia Xin, head of the high-tech zone's economic development bureau.

To maximize the renewable energy sector's contribution to a low-carbon lifestyle, the new area recently announced its measures for promoting alternative energy development.

Brilliant future

Over the next three years, it will spend 1.8 billion yuan on the wind power, solar PV, green secondary battery and semiconductor lighting industries.

The announcement came at the same time as a session on "policies for financing and investing in low-carbon development" at the second China (Binhai Tianjin) International Eco-city Forum & Expo.

Forum participants agreed that, "this will be a model for low-carbon financing, upgrading traditional industries and promoting a low-carbon alternative energy industry".



Overhead view of the picturesque Tianjin Binhai New Area.

JIAO YONGPU / FOR CHINA DAILY

Binhai forum: Focusing on eco-development

Discussions and expo are better and more high-level

By HAN TIANYANG
AND LI XIANG

How do we really build a low-carbon city; how do we develop green architecture; and how can we possibly hope to sustain development?

These questions and many others are exactly the sort of thing that the second China (Binhai Tianjin) International Eco-city Forum & Expo hopes to address.

This is the second year of the forum, which is held in the Binhai New Area of the municipality of Tianjin, and runs from Sept 23 to 27. Last year it attracted over 100,000 people.

Zong Guoying, head of the Tianjin Binhai New Area, has explained that this year's is bigger and better, with more high-level, instructive discussions.

"Representative of China's pilot cities for low-carbon development as well as those from advanced cities overseas will take part in a roundtable, joining academics and business people to share their views on green development," Zong said.

"There will be a parallel expo at the same time showcasing low-carbon technologies and products," he added.

Xu Datong, head of the New Area's commerce committee said they are expecting more than 600 important guests for the forum.

"The expo covers a 37,000-square-meter area and has more than 1,300 booths all concerned with low-carbon techniques and eco-friendly

cities, in the areas of green architecture, a recycling economy, and emerging industries," Xu explained.

There will also be separate meetings on government policies, new products, and green finance to bring potential buyers and sellers together and to serve the needs of exhibitors, the organizing committee said.

"The forum will bring pioneering ideas and methods, mature experience and methods, advanced technology and products, and the top people in eco-friendly urban development for a high-level green feast of ideas and practices," Zong said.

The five-day forum has a main session and six panel discussions on eco-standards, low-carbon improvements for urban planning and infrastructure, rethinking green architecture, and directions for the future.

It also comes with an annual report, details of the current low-carbon development situation in China that is expected to be instructive for future development, Zong said.

Ji Zemin, the deputy director of the commerce committee, said that seven model, low-carbon cities, including Shenzhen and Xiamen, will send delegates to explain their experiences with high-tech developments.

Ji said that everyone is welcome to visit the expo to get a feel for the future of cities.

The forum will be a permanent fixture and a place where all countries can

come and exchange ideas on eco-city development.

Zong noted that Binhai still needs greater global wisdom for green development and said that the forum will help the district in its search for sustainable development and an efficient, resource-saving economy and harmony between human and nature.

This year is also the first year of China's 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) and, given the effects of global climate change and the increasing number of natural disasters, low-carbon solutions for development has become a major concern of city managers. So, this year's theme is "low-carbon development and eco-cities".

Organizers of the forum and expo are the National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Tianjin municipal government, and China Center for International Economic Exchanges.



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

A development blueprint for the Tianjin Binhai New Area, the permanent host of the China (Binhai Tianjin) International Eco-City Forum & Expo.



WANG HUAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Tianjin eco-city is now under construction.



JIAO YONGPU / FOR CHINA DAILY

Tianjin's Binhai New Area offers a first-rate livable environment.



JIA LEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

The new area has the nation's densest concentration of wind power companies.

Multinationals tapping into China's low-carbon market

By LI XIANG

A lot of people only associate low-carbon companies with new industries such as renewable energy or solar and wind power, but, traditional industries can also adopt low-emissions standards, according to the managing director of a major cable company in China.

"After a century of service, we've learned that it's possible to leave the world a better place than you found it," Alex Tham,

managing director of Alcan Cable China, made this remark during an interview with China Daily, prior to the open ceremony of the second China (Binhai Tianjin) International Eco-city Forum & Expo, in Tianjin.

"Many people think low-carbon and green represent the well-known, renewable energy business such as solar



Alex Tham, managing director of Alcan Cable China

and wind power. In fact, traditional areas such as the cable industry can also adopt a low-carbon-emissions standard as their corporate objective," explained Tham.

As an example, he said, "China has signifi-

cant aluminum resources and using aluminum alloy cable to reduce the dependence on copper resources for strategic, economic, and environmental levels is not only imperative, but also provides China with a competitive advantage."

Alcan Cable reportedly put around \$100 million into the Tianjin Airport Economic Area, in 2007.

The construction area of its world-class manufacturing plant covered 140,000 square

meters and made Alcan Cable the first aluminum alloy cable enterprise to tap into the Chinese market.

How the company does in China is important for Alcan Cable strategically. The Tianjin factory has been providing its STABILOY® aluminum alloy power cable in China for residential, institutional, and industrial applications

STABILOY® cable has experienced a failure-free operations in North America

for over 40 years. In five-year period, STABILOY® cables have been installed in over 1,000 projects in China.

"A fundamental of Alcan Cable's vision is the creation of economic prosperity that considers the environment in everything we do," said Tham. "At Alcan Cable, HSE (health, safety and the environment) is not a slogan, but an integrated part of the company culture."

With a history spanning over 100 years, Alcan provides

its customers with high quality products and outstanding customer service.

As a leading manufacturer of aluminum cable and rod and strip products in North America, Alcan Cable serves the utility, electrical distribution, OEM and renewable energy markets. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, Alcan Cable has five manufacturing operations — four in North America and one in China.