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## China science academy announces bold energy goals



Workers at a nuclear reactor in China

Jia Hepeng  
23 October 2007  
Source: SciDev.Net

[BEIJING] The ambitious energy efficiency goals set in a report by a top Chinese research organisation have received a mixed response from leading scientists and experts.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) released the report — 'Addressing the challenge: Developing a sustainable energy system' — yesterday (22 October) in Beijing.

The CAS report provided China with its boldest target yet: to limit growth in consumption of fossil fuel to no more than 50 per cent of 2005 levels by 2050.

Experts estimate that China will reach this amount of growth by 2030, and only by 2050 could it start to reduce fossil fuel consumption.

But Lu Yongxiang, president of CAS, said at the launch, "With economic restructuring, including the restructuring of China's exports, and with progress in low carbon technology, we think it might be possible to reduce fossil fuel consumption after 2030, and then the 2050 goal can be realised."

In setting a growth target, CAS has implicitly set a carbon dioxide emission cap, argues Fang Junshi, director for policy at the National Steering Committee for Energy, China's top energy policymaking body.

For developing countries, he says, it is more important to ensure reasonable growth in energy supplies for economic growth.

The CAS report also suggests that by 2050, hydropower and nuclear energy should account for 20 per cent of energy production, and non-hydropower renewables should account for 25 per cent.

At the report launch, Zhou Dadi, former director of the Energy Research Institute under the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), revealed that China could adopt low-carbon energy technology sooner and to a greater degree than it had planned.

A 2006 NDRC plan stated that China plans to increase its nuclear power generation capacity from seven to 40 million kilowatts by 2020, accounting for four per cent of its total power generation capacity.

"With the current development speed, there is little question as to whether we can fulfil our [nuclear power] goal in 2020," said Zhou, adding that nuclear power generation capacity will be hundreds of millions of kilowatts in the near future.

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