

Supply and Use of Energy Resources in China

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China is one of the world's largest countries and is developing into a powerful economy. The rapid growth of the Chinese economy has stimulated a large increase in energy demand. Coal resources are abundant in China, and for many years, coal has accounted for an overwhelming share of Chinese energy production and consumption. This, in turn, has resulted in severe environmental pollution. Moreover, coal transportation is a very heavy burden on the railway system. Therefore, to improve air quality and achieve sustainable development in the social economy of China, it is imperative to continuously develop and use cleaner and higher-quality forms of energy, and to diversify the energy production and consumption structure.

Natural gas is an important source of clean energy. It has entered into a period of fast development, and its use is continuously boosted by environmental pressures. China has framed its programs for natural gas on the basis of a natural-gas exploration-and-development assessment and on the results of investigations into the markets for natural gas applications. The programs include an exploration and development program for domestic natural gas resources, an import program for natural gas (including liquefied natural gas, LNG), a pipeline construction program to transport gas from west to east within China, and a construction program for natural gas utilization. The Chinese government places great emphasis on these programs. Some of these projects have passed through the assessment stage, carried out by China International Engineering Consulting Corporation, and the project proposals are being processed by the State Development and Planning Commission.