

On behalf of



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety

of the Federal Republic of Germany

Urbanisation in China Newsletter

Information on urbanisation issues in China

A service of the Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership Project of GIZ

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Dear Readers,



Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership

Rodenhoff, Head of Division KI II 3 of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), responsible for the Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership at BMUB, will preface our newsletter today.

Enjoy reading,

Sandra Retzer
and the team of the Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership Project

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

since the BMUB and also GIZ are busy with preparing the International Conference on Green and Energy-Efficient Building & New Technologies and Products Expo (IGEBEC) on 21-22 March 2017 in Beijing, it is the perfect opportunity to take a closer look at the building sector in China and Germany.

In China, buildings take up more than 30 percent of the national primary energy consumption, which are mainly covered by fossil fuels. With rising urbanisation rates and living standards, this proportion will increase even further. In Germany, nearly 40 percent of the total final energy is consumed in buildings, so the need for efficiency improvements is obvious in both countries.

Climate-friendly construction and housing offer significant potential for emissions reductions, hence these are among the pillars of Germany's climate policy and also featured in the German Climate Action Plan 2050 released at COP23 in November 2016. In this context, Germany formulated the ambitious target of a nearly carbon neutral building stock by 2050. An important support factor – in addition to financial resources – is the regulatory framework. From 2021 onwards, all new buildings must be nearly zero-energy buildings. In order to serve as a role model, public buildings have to fulfil this new standard already two years earlier.

The Chinese government is also eager to reduce building energy consumption and has been implementing various measures over the past years, such as introducing and improving energy codes and design standards for new and

We hope that you enjoyed reading our first newsletter on urbanisation in China and are happy to present you the second edition today. We are even more delighted that Dr. Vera

Project Information

In the light of rising urbanisation rates, climate change and the need for closer cooperation on sustainable city development, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang initiated the Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership in 2013. Minister Barbara Hendricks of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMUB) and Minister Chen Zhenggao of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China (MoHURD) signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on the implementation of the Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership in November 2015.

In June 2016, The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been commissioned by both ministries to implement the Partnership.

The Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership aims at promoting the exchange of experience, best practice and expertise between cities and provinces of the two countries on current issues of integrated and sustainable urban development. Through capacity development and training for officials, municipal actors, urban planners, developers, and other relevant stakeholders, sustainable urbanisation will be strengthened in both countries.

existing buildings. For example, according to China's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) the building efficiency and the quality of the construction shall be increased and the buildings' life cycle expanded. Energy-saving retrofits of existing buildings and the application of renewable energy in buildings are also among the measures that will be amplified. Furthermore, the Chinese NDCs include a target to increase the construction of green buildings to more than 50% of all new buildings by 2020.

Since both countries are facing similar challenges and targets, energy efficiency will also be a focus area of the Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership. That is why GIZ – on behalf of BMUB – is organising a workshop on prefabricated buildings as one new approach to increase energy efficiency and increase the development of new technologies and materials in the building sector at IGEBEC, Beijing. In case you are in China, you are very welcome to join the event!

Enjoy reading,

Dr. Vera Rodenhoff

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General News

Crack Down on Air Pollution Targeting Migrants?

Beijing's coal-based energy demands and its traffic create one of the unhealthiest, most polluted areas in the world. To combat the city's smog problems, the Beijing government announced new regulations to diminish dusty roads, while also prohibiting open air barbecues and the burning of trash. However, studies show that the main smog origins are located in the provinces of Hebei and Shanxi, not in the city centre. Various experts argue that the city might use air pollution issues as justification to target rural migrants, who are often running street vending shops and living in areas with no access to infrastructure. While the discrimination against immigrants following economic reform has slowed down, the sustaining of the "hukou" system (China's household registration system which determines where citizens are allowed to live) still splits the country. Without access to public housing, healthcare, education, or welfare migrants are in a vulnerable spot and further side-lined through the new regulations. [More...](#)

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China's Population to Peak Around 2030

China's population is expected to peak at about 1.45 billion around 2030, according to the National Population Development Plan for 2016-2030 released by the State Council. The country will enter a key transitional period between 2021 and 2030 in its population development as it will witness a decrease in the number of people of working age while at the same time the number of elderly people and the rate of national migration and diversified family patterns will

As of March 1, Mrs. Keru Feng supports the Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership Project of GIZ in Beijing as Senior Technical Advisor (keru.feng@giz.de).

Upcoming Events

- The project will organise the "Sino-German Workshop on Prefabricated Buildings" during the International Conference on Green and Energy-Efficient Building & New Technologies and Products Expo (IGEBEC) in Beijing on March 22, 8:30 - 12 am. Come and join us!
- The Sino-German Mayors' Programme will take place at the end of September 2017 in Germany. If you are interested and wish to participate you can contact the team of the Urbanisation Partnership.

increase. [More...](#)

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China Encourages Graduates to Work in Rural Areas

The Chinese government has released a plan to encourage college graduates to relocate to rural areas in central, western and north-eastern China which are suffering from various economic difficulties. The guidelines, jointly issued by the General Office of the State Council and the General Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, also demanded more job creation at local levels. More jobs for graduates should be created in areas like public education, social aid and healthcare at the community level. Economic and social development in remote and poor areas in China's interior have been the weakest link in China's modernization process, while Northeast China, one of the manufacturing centres of the country, is suffering from labour losses and increasing work costs. [More...](#)

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Urban Planning

New Green Space for Beijing's Residents

Beijing continues to improve its environmental situation by adding green spaces across the city. In 2016, Beijing added 408 hectares of parks and green, mostly near residential areas. According to Beijing's Municipal Bureau of Landscape and Forestry, the urban parks help to improve the resident's living quality and offer more opportunities to exercise. Furthermore, the local authorities issued an ambitious plan to build 85,000 square meters of greenery on the city's rooftops. [More...](#)

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Resident Reduction in Beijing to Fight Pollution

To counter Beijing's air pollution, population imbalances and rapid urban growing rates, the local government plans to reduce permanent residents of China's capital. Dongcheng, one of Beijing's central districts, plans to reduce its current resident number to 762,000. Meanwhile, Xicheng district targets a maximum of 1.1 million residents, Daxing district below 1.7 million and Shunyi district under 1.3 million in the next five years. The reduction shall mainly result from relocation of residents, companies and several government departments. In an earlier plan, the city of Beijing intended to cut its population by 5 million inhabitants but refrained from the target. The current plan is less strict and is set to reduce the population to below 23 million people by 2020. [More...](#)

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Climate and Environment

China's Cities Failed in Educating the Public on Environmental Hazards

The local governments of 100 Chinese cities failed a test on how good they inform the public about environmental issues in their respective cities. The survey of PITI (Pollution Information Transparency Index) started in 2009 and is carried out annually by the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs and the Natural Resource Defense Council. The test aims to evaluate the transparency of local government information by looking at various factors, such as the frequency of interactions between the local and public environmental protection authorities. Beijing is one of the top cities in informing the public on environmental hazards whereas cities in West China rarely share information with their citizens, for example on the current level of air pollution. [More...](#)

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High Standard Incineration for Urban Waste Promoted

The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the National

Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Land and Resources and the Ministry of Environmental Protection jointly issued a plan to strengthen urban garbage incineration. The plan promotes building a waste treatment system that includes household, construction and food waste, optimises the allocation of incineration, pushes biological treatment processes, and also realises effective waste treatment in industrial parks. [More...](#)

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Adaptation and Resilience

New National Disaster Prevention and Alleviation Plan Issued

Recently, the State Council published its new National Disaster Prevention and Alleviation Plan (2016-2020) to decrease nationwide losses caused by natural disasters down to 1.3 % of the country's GDP. A storage system for relief goods such as blankets, food and other necessities shall be established on five levels (central government, provinces, municipalities, counties, and villages) to ensure the basic support of people within 12 hours after natural disasters occur. Another 5,000 demonstration communities of national disaster alleviation are planned and every community should have at least one disaster information assistant. Furthermore, Beijing's local government plans various regulations regarding forecasting, monitoring, emergency preparations, urgent rescue, medical care, and reconstruction. [More...](#)

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Transport and Infrastructure

Beijing to Build First Tramway Line in 50 Years

Beijing is planning to build its first tramway line in 50 years to expand the public transport options especially for tourists. The last tramway in Beijing stopped its service in 1966. The line will connect a lot of touristic sights in the western areas of Beijing. The local government set a project budget of about RMB 4.7 bn (EUR 647 million). With a total length of 8.8 km and with six stations, the tramway will offer a capacity of 300 passengers per car and will also include a short underground section. [More...](#)

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China Gets Serious about Vehicle Exhaust Emission Regulations

China, home to 170 million vehicles, will adopt one of the world's strictest standards on vehicle exhaust emissions to further control air pollution, starting in two phases in 2020 and 2023. All light vehicles should follow the new China's National IV standard A starting from July 1, 2020, and then should follow the even stricter standard B starting from July 1, 2023. According to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, 86.9 per cent of carbon monoxide and 92.2 per cent of nitrogen oxides stem from vehicles exhaust. In addition, the ministry said with technical support the petroleum plants will be ready to provide high quality petroleum for most vehicles by 2020. [More...](#)

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Buildings and Housing

Vertical Forest Project in Nanjing

Within the next year the Yangzi Investment Group plans to create Asia's first vertical forest in the Jiangbei District of Nanjing. The third project of this kind worldwide will be made up of two towers, whose facade will be covered by 1,100 trees and 2,500 cascading plants. According to the company, the forest will provide lots of benefits from the regulation of the microclimate to the isolation of noises and the reduction of heat flows between building and the outside. Moreover, the plants are expected to absorb 25 metric tons of carbon dioxide

per year and help to reduce the city's air pollution problem. A special design allows the towers balconies to carry the weight of the plants. To ensure the longevity of the project, the Yangzi Group will test every single tree in a wind tunnel to check their resistance against different weather conditions. [More...](#)

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Shanghai Home Sales Rocket During Chinese New Year

During the seven day period of the Chinese New Year, a wave of 78,000 square meters of new homes were sold in Shanghai only, excluding government-subsidised affordable housing. A residential project in the Jiading District sold 21,000 square meters, followed by the new Pudong area where 13,000 square meters were sold. [More...](#)

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Social and Cultural Affairs

6 million Homes for Shantytown-Dwellers in 2017

China will build 6 million new homes for residents of shantytowns before the end of 2017 and is determined to renovate all of its existing shantytowns by 2020, according to the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development. In 2015, construction began on 6.01 million new dwellings, and another 6.06 were started in 2016. This year new work began for which the central government has provided 224.3 bn RMB (EUR 31.3 bn) in subsidies, an increase of 15 billion RMB (EUR 2.1 bn) compared with last year. [More...](#)

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Restorations of Traditional Hutongs

Beijing plans to restore more than 1,500 hutongs by 2020 as one key measure to promote conservation and restoration of traditional architecture in the historical heart of the city. Illegal stores built in hutongs inside the Second Ring Road will be removed as they have demolished walls of the "siheyuan" - traditional courtyard residences - to build facades for barber shops, restaurants, or stores. Historians have been consulted to ensure the restoration work will closely follow historical and traditional building styles. [More...](#)

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Picture of the month

Restorations of traditional hutongs in Beijing are being closely watched by guards...



Registration information

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices

Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36 + 40
53113 Bonn, Germany
Phone: +49 228 44 60-0
Fax: +49 228 44 60-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
Phone: +49 61 96 79-0
Fax: +49 61 96 79-11 15

Email: info@giz.de
Internet: www.giz.de

Registered at

Local court (Amtsgericht) Bonn, Germany: HRB 18384
Local court (Amtsgericht) Frankfurt am Main, Germany: HRB 12394

VAT no. DE 113891176
Tax no. 040 250 56973

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please click [here](#).

In charge of this newsletter:

Sandra Retzer, sandra.retzer@giz.de

Editor(s):

Sandra Müller, sandra.mueller@giz.de
Marie Peters, marie.peters@giz.de
Sandra Retzer, sandra.retzer@giz.de
Xueling Liu, xueling.liu@giz.de

With contributions from:

Sophia Benzmann

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