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## CHINA CONSIDERS ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN APPROVING NEW PROJECTS

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The energy consumption indicator will be taken as a compulsory threshold when authorities approve, certify or record new investment projects, Ma Kai, minister in charge of China's National Development and Reform Commission said on July 26 at a national conference on energy saving work.

In response to the country's current dissatisfactory energy-saving situation, the stipulation is aimed to check excessively fast growth of high-energy consuming industries.

Some localities again plan to develop high-energy consuming industries as the country's tight electricity supply eases, Ma said, adding that such plans must be stopped resolutely.

The Chinese government raised in March the goal of cutting energy consumption for each unit of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 20 per cent in 2006-2010 and by 4 per cent in 2006.

But the country's energy consumption showed no trace of remarkable slowdown in the first half. Statistics show that the country's coal consumption grew by 13.8 per cent year on year in January-April, while coke consumption increased by 11 per cent and electricity by 12.5 per cent.

An executive meeting of the State Council, China's cabinet, on July 19 passed in principle a resolution on the issue of energy saving. The resolution, entitled "State Council Resolution on Stepping up the Work of Energy Saving", highlights the importance of saving energy for China, a country with the world's largest population and with a shortage in energy resources.

The meeting called for redoubled efforts to build up an energy-efficient industrial system, doing a good job in major energy-consuming industries, improving energy-saving technology, tightening control in energy consumption, establishing a mechanism to ensure energy-saving implementation and enhancing the awareness of the public on energy-saving.

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