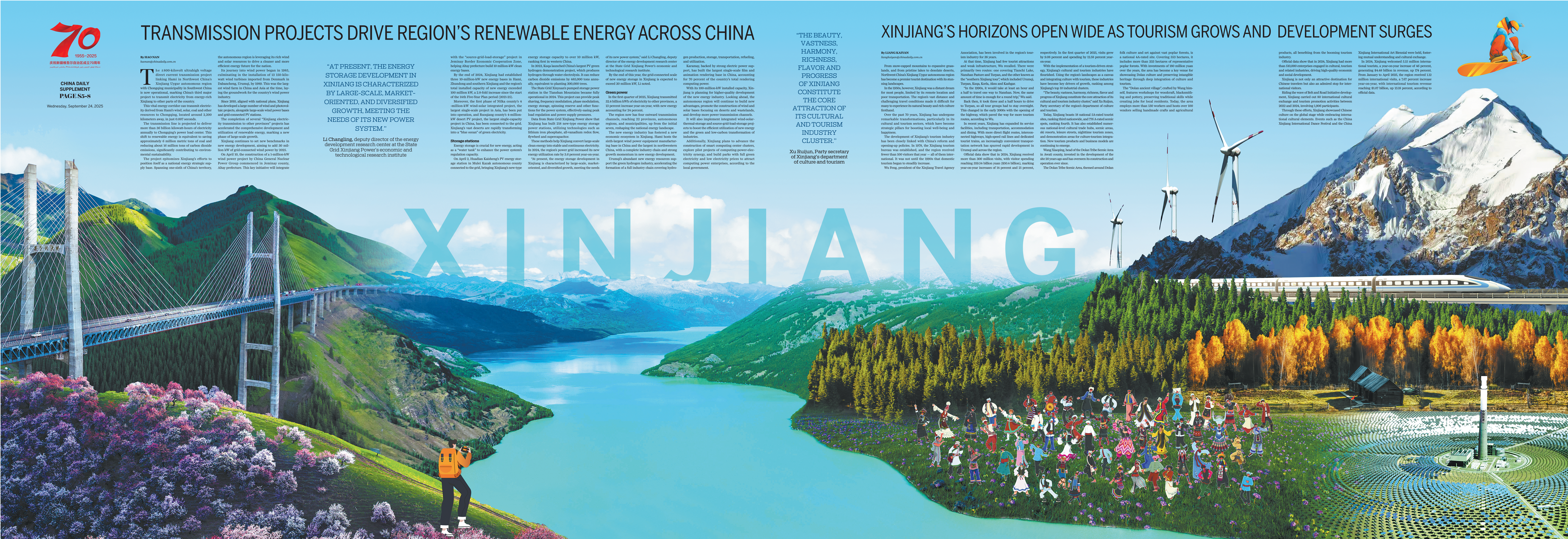




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1955-2025
庆祝新疆维吾尔自治区成立70周年
XINJIANG'S RENOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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TRANSMISSION PROJECTS DRIVE REGION'S RENEWABLE ENERGY ACROSS CHINA

By HAO NAN
haonan@chinadaily.com.cn

The 2,800-kilovolt ultrahigh voltage direct current transmission project linking Hami in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region with Chongqing municipality in Southwest China is now operational, marking China's third major project to transmit electricity from energy-rich Xinjiang to other parts of the country.

This vital energy corridor can transmit electricity derived from Hami's wind, solar, coal and other resources to Chongqing, located around 2,200 kilometers away, in just 0.007 seconds.

The transmission line is projected to deliver more than 36 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually to Chongqing's power load center. This shift to renewable energy is equivalent to saving approximately 6 million metric tons of coal and reducing about 16 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, significantly contributing to environmental sustainability.

The project epitomizes Xinjiang's efforts to position itself as a national energy strategic supply base. Spanning one-sixth of China's territory,

the autonomous region is leveraging its rich wind and solar resources to drive a cleaner and more efficient energy future for the nation.

Its journey into wind power began in 1985, culminating in the installation of 33 150-kilowatt wind turbines imported from Denmark in Dabancheng, Urumqi, by 1989. This was the largest wind farm in China and Asia at the time, laying the groundwork for the country's wind power industry.

Since 2008, aligned with national plans, Xinjiang has developed a large number of wind and photovoltaic projects, alongside large-scale wind power bases and grid-connected PV stations.

The completion of several "Xinjiang electricity transmission line projects" has accelerated the comprehensive development and utilization of renewable energy, marking a new phase of large-scale growth.

Xinjiang continues to set new benchmarks in new energy development, aiming to add 30 million kW of grid-connected wind power by 2025.

On April 10, the construction of a 1-million-kW wind power project by China General Nuclear Power Group commenced in Jinmayi county, Altay prefecture. This key initiative will integrate

"AT PRESENT, THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVELOPMENT IN XINJIANG IS CHARACTERIZED BY LARGE-SCALE, MARKET-ORIENTED, AND DIVERSIFIED GROWTH, MEETING THE NEEDS OF ITS NEW POWER SYSTEM."

Li Changling, deputy director of the energy development research center at the State Grid Xinjiang Power's economic and technological research institute

with the "source-grid-load-storage" project in Jinmayi Border Economic Cooperation Zone, helping Altay prefecture build 10 million-kW clean energy bases.

By the end of 2024, Xinjiang had established three 10-million-kW new energy bases in Hami, Zhumadong and southern Xinjiang and the region's total installed capacity of new energy exceeded 100 million kW, a 2.8-fold increase since the start of the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25).

Moreover, the first phase of Nika county's 4-million-kW wind-solar integrated project, the largest single-scale project in Asia, has been put into operation, and Ruogang county's 4-million-kW desert PV project, the largest single-capacity project in China, has been connected to the grid. Xinjiang's vast deserts are rapidly transforming into a "blue ocean" of green electricity.

Storage stations
Energy storage is crucial for new energy, acting as a "water tank" to enhance the power system's regulation capacity.

On April 2, Haaslan Kalsheng's PV energy storage station in Mukei Kazak autonomous county connected to the grid, bringing Xinjiang's new-type

energy storage capacity to over 10 million kW, making first in western China.

In 2023, Kuqa launched China's largest PV green hydrogen demonstration project, which produces hydrogen through water electrolysis. It can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 485,000 tons annually, equivalent to planting 300,000 trees.

The State Grid Xinyuan pumped storage power station in the Tianshan Mountains became fully operational in 2024. This project can provide peak shaving, frequency modulation, phase modulation, energy storage, spinning reserve and other functions for the power system, effectively easing peak load regulation and power supply pressures.

Data from State Grid Xinjiang Power show that Xinjiang has built 218 new-type energy storage power stations, utilizing technologies such as lithium iron phosphate, all-vanadium redox flow, flywheel and supercapacitor.

These methods help Xinjiang convert large-scale clean energy into stable and continuous electricity. In 2024, the region's power grid increased its new energy utilization rate by 3.6 percent year-on-year.

"At present, the energy storage development in Xinjiang is characterized by large-scale, market-oriented, and diversified growth, meeting the needs

of its new power system," said Li Changling, deputy director of the energy development research center at the State Grid Xinjiang Power's economic and technological research institute.

By the end of this year, the grid-connected scale of new energy storage in Xinjiang is expected to exceed 20 million kW, Li noted.

Green power

In the first quarter of 2025, Xinjiang transmitted 32.4 billion kWh of electricity to other provinces, a 12 percent increase year-on-year, with new energy accounting for 24 percent.

The region now has four outward transmission channels, reaching 22 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities, up from the initial seven, reshaping the national energy landscape.

The new energy industry has fostered a new economic ecosystem in Xinjiang. Hami hosts the

sixth-largest wind power equipment manufacturing base in China and the largest in northwestern China, with a complete industry chain and strong growth momentum in new energy development.

Urumqi's abundant new energy resources support the green hydrogen industry, accelerating the formation of a full industry chain covering hydro-

gen production, storage, transportation, refueling, and utilization.

Karamay, backed by strong electric power support, has built the largest single-scale film and animation rendering base in China, accounting for 70 percent of the country's total rendering computing power.

With its 100-million-kW installed capacity, Xinjiang is planning for higher-quality development of the new energy industry. Looking ahead, the autonomous region will continue to build new advantages, promote the construction of wind and solar bases focusing on deserts and wastelands, and develop more power transmission channels.

It will also implement integrated wind-solar-thermal-storage and source-grid-load-storage projects to boost the efficient utilization of new energy and the green and low-carbon transformation of industries.

Additionally, Xinjiang plans to advance the construction of smart computing center clusters, explore pilot projects of computing-power-electricity synergy, and build parks with full green electricity and low electricity prices to attract

computing power enterprises, according to the local government.

"THE BEAUTY, VASTNESS, HARMONY, RICHNESS, FLAVOR AND PROGRESS OF XINJIANG CONSTITUTE THE CORE ATTRACTION OF ITS CULTURAL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY CLUSTER."

Xu Ruijun, Party secretary of Xinjiang's department of culture and tourism

XINJIANG'S HORIZONS OPEN WIDE AS TOURISM GROWS AND DEVELOPMENT SURGES

By LIANG KAIYAN
liangkaiyan@chinadaily.com.cn

From snow-capped mountains to expansive grasslands, and from pristine lakes to desolate deserts, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region has become a premier tourist destination with its stunning landscapes.

In the 1990s, however, Xinjiang was a distant dream for most people, limited by its remote location and poor transportation. The region's vast distance and challenging travel conditions made it difficult for many to experience its natural beauty and rich culture firsthand.

Over the past 70 years, Xinjiang has undergone remarkable transformations, particularly in its cultural and tourism sectors, which have become strategic pillars for boosting local well-being and happiness.

The development of Xinjiang's tourism industry has been closely linked with China's reform and opening-up policies. In 1978, the Xinjiang tourism bureau was established, and the region received fewer than 100 visitors that year — all of them international. It was not until the 1990s that domestic tourism began to steadily increase.

Wu Feng, president of the Xinjiang Travel Agency Association, has been involved in the region's tourism industry for 38 years.

At that time, Xinjiang had few tourist attractions and weak infrastructure, Wu recalled. There were primarily two routes: one covering Tianchi Lake, Nanshan Nature and Turpan, and the other known as the "southern Xinjiang tour", which included Urumqi, Turpan, Kuqa, Korla, Aksu and Kashgar.

"In the 1990s, it would take at least an hour and a half to travel one way to Nanshan. Now, the same amount of time is enough for a round trip," Wu said. Back then, it took three and a half hours to drive to Turpan, so all tour groups had to stay overnight. This changed in the early 2000s with the opening of the highway which paved the way for more tourism routes, according to Wu.

In recent years, Xinjiang has expanded its service facilities, including transportation, accommodation and dining. With more direct flight routes, interconnected highways, high-speed rail lines and dedicated tourist trains, an increasingly convenient transportation network has spurred rapid development in Urumqi and across the region.

Official data show that in 2024, Xinjiang received more than 300 million visits, with visitor spending reaching 369.54 billion yuan (\$50.4 billion), marking year-on-year increases of 14 percent and 21 percent,

respectively. In the first quarter of 2025, visits grew by 9.08 percent and spending by 12.58 percent year-on-year.

With the implementation of a tourism-driven strategy, Xinjiang's cultural and tourism industries have flourished. Using the region's landscapes as a canvas and integrating culture with tourism, these industries have become key drivers of growth, ranking among Xinjiang's top 10 industrial clusters.

"The beauty, vastness, harmony, richness, flavor and progress of Xinjiang constitute the core attraction of its cultural and tourism industry cluster," said Xu Ruijun, Party secretary of the region's department of culture and tourism.

Today, Xinjiang boasts 18 national 5A-rated tourist sites, ranking third nationwide, and 756 4A-rated scenic spots, ranking fourth. It has also established numerous national-level cultural trade hubs, scenic areas, ski resorts, leisure streets, nighttime tourism zones, and demonstration areas for culture-tourism integration. New tourism products and business models are continuing to emerge.

Wang Xiaoping, head of the Dolan Tribe Scenic Area in Awati county, invested in the development of the site 20 years ago and has overseen its construction and operation ever since.

The Dolan Tribe Scenic Area, themed around Dolan

folk culture and set against vast poplar forests, is a national 4A-rated site. Covering 553 hectares, it includes more than 333 hectares of representative poplar forests. With investments of 180 million yuan over the years, the area has become a key venue for showcasing Dolan culture and preserving intangible heritage through deep integration of culture and tourism.

"The 'Dolan ancient village', crafted by Wang himself, features workshops for woodcraft, blacksmithing and pottery, preserving traditional skills while creating jobs for local residents. Today, the area employs more than 130 workers and hosts over 100 vendors selling handmade crafts and agricultural

products, all benefiting from the booming tourism industry.

Official data show that in 2024, Xinjiang had more than 510,000 enterprises engaged in cultural, tourism and related industries, driving high-quality economic and social development.

Xinjiang is not only an attractive destination for Chinese travelers but also an admired stop for international visitors.

Riding the wave of Belt and Road Initiative development, Xinjiang carried out 80 international cultural exchange and tourism promotion activities between 2022 and 2024, involving 1,506 participants.

Through these efforts, Xinjiang showcased Chinese culture on the global stage while embracing international cultural elements. Events such as the China Xinjiang International Dance Festival and the China

Xinjiang International Art Biennial were held, fostering mutual understanding and cultural exchange.

In 2024, Xinjiang welcomed 5.35 million international tourists, a year-on-year increase of 46 percent, generating \$4.48 billion in revenue, up 174 percent. From January to April 2025, the region received 1.2 million international visits, a 7.67 percent increase year-on-year, with international tourism revenue reaching \$1.07 billion, up 15.36 percent, according to official data.

