

Repairs in full swing to get villagers back into their homes after flood

By YUAN SHENGGAO

After more than one month living in a temporary settlement, 68-year-old Wang Hua, a resident in the village of Shoucheng in Yicheng county, Shanxi province, finally returned to his old home on Nov 5. He was seen off by his neighbor Ge Decheng, who would also be returning home several days later.

Wang's residence, as well as those of six other families, was almost washed away by a severe flood starting on Oct 2. Ge's house was the most severely damaged of all the properties.

To help the hard-hit families, the village committee of the Communist Party of China and the villagers committee carried out renovations on the houses soon after the floodwaters receded, with the costs covered by the local government and donations from the public.

From Oct 2-7, Shanxi was stricken by the most severe autumn flood in its recorded history. The residences of more than 19,100 urban households and 138,100 rural homes were destroyed by the flooding.

The governments at various levels have implemented measures to assist those affected.

Soon after the flooding occurred, the Shanxi Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development required officials to conduct surveys on all sites to assess the severity of damage, according to Zhai Shunhe, an official at the department.

"The governments have taken steps to assist in the reconstruction according to the different levels of damage to properties," Zhai said. "Our surveys found that a

total of 138,100 rural families suffered losses to various degrees. Among these, 81,400 households are eligible to receive financial subsidies from the government for their reconstructions."

According to the official, the governments in Shanxi have begun repairs to 23,034 flood-affected residences belonging to rural families.

He added that to this date the renovations for 5,884 households have been completed.

Flood-affected residents, who have needed to move to temporary settlements, including rented houses, have also received rental subsidies from the government, according to Zhai.

In addition to the government subsidy worth a total of 333 million yuan (\$52 million), donations from individuals and businesses throughout Shanxi and from the rest of the country have also played an important role in disaster alleviation.

According to the Shanxi Red Cross Society, it has received cash and material supplies worth a total of 899 million yuan from various benefactors. The bulk of these donations is being used for post-disaster reconstruction.

The Shanxi Charity Federation and the Shanxi Department of Civil Affairs are also using donations they received to assist in the disaster relief.

Yang Zhenzhong, deputy head of the Shanxi Department of Emergency Management, said the reconstruction work on all rural residences is required to be completed before the end of January, ensuring residents can spend Spring Festival in their own homes.

Wang Pei contributed to this story.



Pengfei Group, a company in the Shanxi city of Xiaoyi, donates 60 million yuan to disaster relief. WANG PEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Hopes of bright future for Keda after its debut on Beijing Stock Exchange

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The newly established Beijing Stock Exchange started trading on Monday, with the first batch of 81 companies debuting on the bourse.

The listed companies include 10 that were newly approved and 71 that were transferred from the selected tier of China's National Equities Exchange and Quotations, also known as the "new third board".

Shanxi-based Keda Automation Control is among the 10 companies newly listed on the BSE.

"We are very excited to go public on the BSE on its opening day," said Fu Guojun, board chairman of Keda. "It means we can access more funds for our research and innovation capacity improvement with this new platform."

Established in 2000 in an eco-

nomic zone in Taiyuan that is known today as Shanxi Transition and Comprehensive Reform Demonstration Zone, Keda is a high-tech company engaged in the research and development of information technology, smart manufacturing and the industrial internet.

"Focusing on coal mine automation, Keda is one of the pioneers in developing and producing coal-mining robots in China," Fu said. "This makes it possible for miners to work above the shafts while operating mining robots remotely."

The products can help mining companies not only enhance operational efficiency and save labor costs, but also improve safety and security, Fu said.

The company currently owns 140 invention patents and has established close cooperative ties with China's top universities and



Cargo trains at Houma Railway Station are ready to deliver coal to the rest of the country. WANG WENHUA / FOR CHINA DAILY

Shanxi's coal producers step up to tackle power shortages

Several companies sign new deals to provide multiple regions with additional fuel supplies



By YUAN SHENGGAO

Shanxi Coal International Energy Group, a major coal producer in Shanxi province, received a letter of thanks from Datang Henan Power Generation based in Zhengzhou, Henan province, on Nov 1.

In the letter, Datang Henan expressed its gratitude for SCIEG's efforts in ensuring a stable, cost-effective supply of coal for its eight power plants throughout Henan, saying that SCIEG is a trustworthy company with a strong sense of corporate social responsibility.

Since the third quarter of this year, some regions in China, including Henan, have suffered power shortages due to the short supply and rising price of coal.

Shanxi's coal producers reckon the power shortage poses a challenge to economic development and people's lives, especially when there is a need for heating as winter sets in.

To overcome the challenge, the producers collectively signed long- and medium-term agreements on Sept 29 with clients in the power-generation industry across 14 provinces, municipalities and autonomous

regions to ensure their coal supply.

The agreements are an upgrade of the long- and medium-term agreements they signed at the beginning of this year, which involved a total coal supply of 286 million metric tons.

According to the upgraded agreements, Shanxi's coal producers will additionally supply 53 million tons of coal to clients this year, and deliveries will arrive by the end of December.

To meet the demands, coal mines in Shanxi are now operating at full capacity.

According to the Shanxi Energy Administration, 39 coal mines in the province reported an increase of 41 million tons of coal produced by the end of October. The output increase for the fourth quarter is projected at 29 million tons.

Jinneng Holding Group is another major coal producer that signed upgraded agreements to increase coal supply and was among the earliest in China to deliver additional coal.

Its first train loaded with "supply-assuring coal" departed from Shanxi on Oct 5, six days after the agreements were signed. By Oct 26, it had delivered 3.3 million tons of supply-assuring coal to six regions in China, according to company executives.

Shanxi Coking Coal Group is another major supplier of additional coal. To ensure supplies, the company's coal mines have increased their production to full capacity.

"While ensuring safe production, we are going all out to produce as

much coal as possible," said Hu Xiuming, a manager at Ximing Coal Mine affiliated to SCCG. He added that the daily output had surpassed 10,000 tons.

Statistics from the Shanxi Energy Administration show the daily output of Shanxi's coal mines reached 3.54 million tons on average during the first seven days of November. That represents a daily increase of 170,000 tons from the same period of last year.

By Nov 9, Shanxi had delivered 15.19 million tons of supply-assuring coal to the 14 regions.

To ensure the smooth transportation of coal, railway operators in Shanxi have made great efforts to improve efficiency.

At the loading area of Tashan Railway Station in the city of Datong, a train wagon that can carry 80 tons of coal can be filled in 50 seconds. Datong is the starting point of the Datong-Qinhuangdao Railway.

According to Li Shu, a manager of Taiyuan Railway Bureau responsible for the Datong-Qinhuangdao Railway cargo shipment, such efficiency is made possible with a highly automated pipeline transport system.

Li said the cargo transportation volume on the railway is about 1.3 million tons a day at present. That is a daily increase of nearly 150,000 tons compared with September's figures.

Linking Datong and the port city of Qinhuangdao in Hebei province, the rail line is largely dedicated to coal transportation.

The electricity sector in Shanxi is playing an important role in addressing the nationwide power shortage.

Shanxi is a major part of the State Grid's nationwide power supply network, with its electricity from local power plants being transmitted to the rest of the country through high-voltage electricity lines.

However, Shanxi's power industry has also been affected by the short supply of coal and the undercapacity of new-energy power generation sites due to rainy weather since this summer.

In early October, the inventory of coal at power plants in Shanxi was about 4 million tons, a volume for about 10 days' consumption, according to the Shanxi Energy Administration.

Hopefully, the administration said, the situation is changing for the better. As coal prices dropped from 2,000 yuan (\$312) to 1,000 yuan a ton recently, the inventory at power plants increased to 6.4 million tons.

Thanks to the growing output of power plants, Shanxi's electricity supply to other regions has been increasing steadily this month.

According to Bao Lei, an executive of the Shanxi branch of State Grid, Shanxi's outbound electricity supply is expected to have a 40 percent year-on-year increase this month. The growth rate in December is projected at 46 percent.

Guo Yanjie contributed to this story.



Executives of Keda Automation Control celebrate its initial public offering at the Beijing Stock Exchange. SUN RUISENG / CHINA DAILY



Executives from Huawei and Jinneng Holding announce the operation of the computing center at the Shanxi Smart Mining Innovation Laboratory on Oct 19. GUO YANJIE / FOR CHINA DAILY

Smart mining laboratory aiming to boost industry's high-quality growth

By YUAN SHENGGAO

After more than eight months of operation, the Shanxi Smart Mining Innovation Laboratory has begun to yield results.

The lab held a conference in the southeastern Shanxi city of Jincheng on Oct 19, to announce the opening of its artificial intelligence computing center and the release of new research results.

The lab was founded on Feb 9 as a joint program among the Shanxi provincial government, Huawei Technologies, Shanxi's coal-mining giant Jinneng Holding Group and Shanxi-based Cloud Era Technology.

The lab's computing center is China's first for the coal-mining industry. It aims to boost the industry's high-quality development with cutting-edge digital technologies, according to Xuan Hongbin, deputy general manager of Jinneng Holding who is responsible

for the lab's operations.

"The computing center will focus on collecting technological data and information from coal mines in Shanxi and research new solutions for digitalizing these mines after processing and analyzing such data and information," Xuan said.

He added that the center's big-data-based computing platform can help enterprises optimize their production processes, leading to substantial improvement in efficiency and conservation of resources.

The lab also released research results in the fields of information networking for coal mining, applications for automation, intelligent sensing technologies, coal mine big data and environmental protection.

One of the solutions for smart mining the lab released is an intelligent operational system for whole-process mining scenarios.

The system is on trial at Xinggao Group based in Jincheng city.

"We are digitalizing the whole production process from coal mining to coking through an operational center empowered by the system," said Wang Dong, an executive of Xinggao Group.

"Every scenario of production is shown on the displays at the center, giving us real-time information for safety monitoring and procedure optimization."

The Shanxi Smart Mining Innovation Laboratory is one of the examples of Shanxi's efforts to foster the digital economy for its high-quality development.

Statistics from the Shanxi Department of Industry and Information Technology show that the province's digital industries reached a scale of more than 100 billion yuan (\$15.62 billion) last year, becoming a new engine for local growth.

Guo Yanjie contributed to this story.