

????????????????47??????????

The National Seismic Intensity Rapid Reporting and Early Warning project is the largest of its kind in the world, he said.

????????????????????

"We are expected to be able to alert people within seconds following a destructive earthquake measuring 5 or above on the Richter scale, and to release within minutes its intensity distribution," said Zheng, who previously was administrator of the China Meteorological Administration.

????????????????????"????????????????????5????????????????????"

It is much more challenging to try to forecast earthquakes, he said. At least 33 percent of the world's continental earthquakes have occurred in China.

????????????????????33%????????????

Completion of the mammoth project, with startup investment of 2 billion yuan (\$290 million), will make it easy to rapidly pinpoint earthquake-afflicted areas, assess disaster situations and implement contingency plans, he said.

????????????????20????????2.9????????????????????????????????????

Zheng said the country's earthquake preparedness and disaster relief efforts should serve public security and national strategies, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, coordinated development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, and building of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, all of which include development of city clusters.

????????????????????"????"????????????????????????????????

This year, to help with the Belt and Road Initiative — an infrastructure and trade network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes — Zheng's agency will help Nepal and Laos build seismic stations and begin construction of the China-ASEAN Earthquake and Tsunami Monitoring and Early Warning System.

????????"????"?? - ?????????????

Meanwhile, Zheng, citing the Earthquake Prevention and Disaster Mitigation Plan (2016-20), also disclosed that in the next five years, earthquakes measuring magnitude-7 or above on the Richter scale are likely to continue in the country's vast western regions, while quakes measuring magnitude-6 or above are likely to strike the country's eastern parts.

????????????????2016-2020????????????????????????????????7????????6????????

The policy document, part of the country's 13th Five-Year Plan, was released by the China Earthquake

Administration and the National Development and Reform Commission in November.

11??

It warns that some city clusters are located near where strong earthquakes are likely to occur, and seismic risks exist in some key areas where the national strategies are being carried out.

??

"It could be extremely hazardous if earthquakes hit areas with supporting infrastructure and projects, such as nuclear and gigantic petrochemical projects and high-rise dams," the policy document says.

??????“??”

Zheng said that during the planning phase, for city clusters in the risk areas, anti-seismic design has been "fully factored in" and anti-seismic design standards have been set for the construction of nuclear, power and other major projects.

????????????????“????”????????????????????????????????????

After a decade of preparation, a new national seismic hazard map went into use in June as part of setting mandatory national standards for safer structures, according to Zheng.

????????????????6????????????????????????????????????