

[Deep-sea robot sets new underwater gliding depth record](#)

China's domestic underwater glider reached a depth of 6,329 meters during a mission in the Mariana Trench, breaking the previous record of 6,000 meters held by a U.S. vessel, according to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Codenamed Haiyi, which means sea wings in Chinese, the underwater glider was developed by the Shenyang Institute of Automation under CAS, and is used to monitor the deep-sea environment in vast areas.

The Haiyi, carried by deep-sea submersible mother ship Tansuo-1, dived down 12 times and traveled over 130 kilometers during its four-day mission, collecting high-resolution data for scientific research.

[Tour bus accident in Taiwan injures 4](#)

A tour bus lost control and ran into a house in Taiwan, injuring the driver and three passengers.

The bus was carrying 23 tourists from the Chinese mainland and a guide when the accident happened in New Taipei City at about 10 a.m. Monday, according to local fire-fighting authorities.

The driver lost consciousness in the accident and was sent to a hospital for treatment. Three mainland tourists suffered minor injuries.

The tour group will carry on its journey in Taiwan and is scheduled to leave the island on Sunday.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

[China's 2017 defense budget to grow 7%: finance official](#)

China's defense budget for 2017 will grow 7 percent from the actual figure in 2016, an official with the Ministry of Finance said Monday.

The country's military spending this year will stand at 1.04 trillion yuan (about 152 billion U.S. dollars), with 1.02 trillion yuan from the central budget.

Rainbow solar UAV to make maiden flight soon

A large-scale solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), latest in the "Caihong" (rainbow in English) series produced by the China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics (CAAA), will make its maiden flight by midyear, China.org.cn has learnt.

The UAV will seek to reach near-space, an altitude above where commercial airliners fly, but below orbiting satellites.

Such a vehicle is commonly referred to as an "atmospheric satellite" in that it can function as a low-orbit satellite to a certain extent. A solar UAV can perform sustained surveillance and information-relay over a region.

It usually features longer hovering time, higher communication capacity and higher image resolution than a usual reconnaissance satellite that can only visit a designated region periodically. Besides, the price of a solar UAV's price and its launch cost is far lower than a satellite.

The Chinese vehicle has a wingspan of more than 40 meters. It has eight propellers installed on the front of the wings fully covered by solar panels. Its designer, CAAA's chief UAV engineer Shi Wen, calls it the world's largest solar-powered drone, even dwarfing the U.S. NASA Pathfinder series that never made it into mass production.

Shi said his UAV is among the world's top three in terms of its overall performance indicators and technical capabilities.

Super-high service ceiling, super-long endurance and easy maintenance are the three key aspects to ensure solar drones to perform a leading role in such fields as extensive aerial reconnaissance, disaster monitoring and communication relay.

The Chinese vehicle can easily stay airborne for months. "If we don't consider the life span of the parts, this kind of aerial vehicle could theoretically fly forever," said its designer.

The challenges in designing a solar drone mainly involve its aerodynamic layout and wing configuration, because there was no established template to follow. Shi said that a higher lift-to-drag ratio, to optimize the drone's aerodynamic layout, was essential, and this was something the CAAA had built

its reputation upon.

CAAA is a subsidiary of the NASA-like China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation. Its principal mission is to test the aerodynamic performance of China's aerial and aerospace vehicles, including rockets, space modules and atmospheric reentry-vehicles of long-range projectiles.

CAAA started to develop the Rainbow drones to break the monopoly of the U.S. drones such as Global Hawk and Reaper in the global arms market. CH-3 and CH-4 are the star products of the Rainbow series. They have already displayed their capabilities in geological and maritime surveillance at home as well as anti-terrorism activities in the Middle East and Africa.

At the International Defense Exhibition (IDEX) 2017 held in Abu Dhabi last month, Saudi Arabia announced it would manufacture certain types of Rainbow UAVs, after inking deals with CAAA. Military insiders claim the CH-4 has a strong possibility for mass manufacture, but no comment was available from CAAA.

Couples divorce for relocation compensation

A wave of divorces recently swept a small village in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, with more than 160 couples rushing to the local marriage and divorce registration office within a short space of time, the Nanjing Morning Post reported.

Unlike the usual case when a couple split due to a disharmonious relationship, these couples, in ages ranging from the 20s to 80s, divorced for an ulterior motive – to get more relocation compensation.

Marriage and interests in the eyes of villagers

Located in Gaoxin District, Jiangbei Village was included in the provincial capital's urban land requisition project long time ago. After large-scale demolition, the village was left in ruins, with only a few shops left scattered along the main streets.

Interviewed by the Nanjing Morning Post on the reason for their divorce, villagers were not at all shy. "This is indeed the case, and we do it because we want to get more relocation compensation out of it," many said.

According to local land acquisition and relocation policy, compensation is measured in terms of household size, and each family group can receive an additional 70-square-meter of housing and 131,000 yuan (about US\$19,070).

The compensation proved very tempting. So far, most of the 160-plus households in the village have completed their divorce formalities, according to a shop owner, who used the term “fake divorce” to describe the act.

Many divorced couples still live together. A man in his 80s said that he and his wife had a very good relationship, but they divorced for financial reasons. He said that their “fake divorce” was aimed at getting more compensation for the future relocation.

Asked what might happen if they couldn't remarry, a villager explained that nobody cared about it for the time being. “Everybody is doing it and we'll deal with other things later. Just wait and see,” the villager said, adding that the divorce is worthwhile if it could help them get more compensation.

Loopholes in land requisition and relocation policies

According to the house demolition policy, only consensual divorces occurring at least five years before could be used to determine household size for demolition and relocation compensation. So, why did so many couples still rush to register for divorce and therefore get benefits?

Things always sort themselves out. A local legal service agency sent staff workers to the village to help villagers handle the business. The workers were familiar with helping villagers seeking the “fake divorce” approach to avoid the limits on relocation cases.

This time, they explained to the villagers, there were no clauses in the demolition and relocation policy stipulating that a court-approved divorce couldn't enjoy the compensation policy.

Villagers followed the staff's advice to use this loophole and, as a result, divorce service fees subsequently surged from 5,000 yuan to 15,000 yuan.

Later, an official from local house demolition office said that the office did receive complaints that some villagers had taken the advantage of the policy loophole; however, he said, the office had yet to determine whether the demolition and relocation project will continue to be implemented without any change in the policy document.

Experts warn of severe consequences of ‘fake divorce’

A similar case happened in a village in the province's Changzhou City seven years ago when 84 couples rushed to register their divorce within the space of a few days in order to get more relocation compensation. Similar cases also happened recently in the province's Jiangxizhou, Jiangning and Pukou areas.

So, the “fake divorce” cases reveal one of the anomalies emerging amid rapid urbanization in China.

Legal experts argue “fake divorce” for such a purpose can bring about potential legal consequences, so it is a “dangerous game.” People who use loopholes existing in State policies for their personal benefits not only

damage family harmony, but also undermine social stability.

Zhou Haiwang, vice-director of the Institute of Population and Development at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, said that when so many people decide to divorce against their wish for family stability, policy makers should consider an adjustment, China Daily reported.

Legal experts suggest that the key to curb this phenomenon at source lies in the government departments, who must carefully check and carry out relevant policies and even set up a remedial mechanism.