

China

## Chinese university chosen to compete in Solar Decathlon 2012

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MADRID, Jan. 10 (Xinhua) -- The University of Tongji is among the 20 teams that have been selected to take part in the solar Decathlon Europe 2012 competition to be held in the Spanish capital city of Madrid, it was announced this Monday.

The 20 finalists were chosen from a group of 33 teams from 47 different universities which passed the first cut in November last year.

Tongji, from the city of Shanghai thus repeats its participation in the competition, in which it also competed last summer along with a team from the University of Tianjin.

The aim of Solar Decathlon Europe, which is organized by the Spanish Ministry of Public Works and has the support of the United States Department of Energy, is to build a house that works purely on solar energy and in doing that to help raise public consciousness on the intelligent use of energy.

The 2010, edition was eventually won by the team from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University after their house performed best in a series of tests.

The 2012 edition will see 20 teams from 15 different countries and four continents again compete to build a full scale house powered exclusively by solar energy.

The houses will then pass 10 different tests, (which is why the event is known as the Solar Decathlon), which include, architecture, engineering and construction, innovation and sustainability.