

ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

A weekly update of China's environmental news and analysis from PACE
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By CC Huang and Chris Langer

Welcome to *Environmental China*, PACE's electronic newsletter devoted to giving interested readers a comprehensive update of news concerning China's environment. This newsletter will be sorted first with an Opinion section, and then a rundown of news divided into Public/NGOs, Government, and Corporations, with news about each sector's involvement in China's environment. Articles within each section are sorted chronologically. Any comments, suggestions or questions can be directed to cc.huang2@gmail.com.

OPINION

Playing with fire (*China Environmental Law Blog*, 4/23/2009) There have been a number of reports recently about how China is taking the lead in the global green economy. When directed at a US audience, these reports are often designed to spur more action by the government to support the development of renewable energy resources. The argument goes like this: our competitor, the wily China, is producing new green jobs and technology while the US is missing the boat. John Kerry has recently entered the act with talk of China taking a "competitive edge" in greentech. The metaphors always pitch it as a contest: China is beating the US or the US is losing the race.

Food safety at a crossroads (*China Dialogue*, 4/22/2009) In the wake of the melamine scandal in China, attention has turned to food safety issues. But tighter safety standards are of little help without robust moral standards, writes Zhou Li.

Low-carbon living begins at work (*China Dialogue*, 4/21/2009)

Environmental challenges -- including power consumption, electronic waste, radiation, noise and gases -- share our workspaces. It's time for an office revolution, writes Huo Weiya.

PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

Experts want pollution action (*China Daily*, 4/23/2009) Scientists in Guangdong province called for the urgent protection of the Pearl River Delta (PRD) yesterday in response to research that shows more than half the ecosystem is now polluted.

China's environment goes global (*Event, US-China Institute*, 4/22/2009) Elizabeth Economy, Asia Director of the Council on Foreign Relations, will examine the environmental and social impact China has on the world as a result of its economic development on April 29, 2009.

Field Museum paleontologist leads study on two new dinosaurs from China (*Field Museum*, 4/22/2009) During the summers of 2006 and 2007, an international team of researchers from China and the United States excavated a treasure trove of dinosaur skeletons from Early Cretaceous rocks in the southern part of the Gobi Desert near the ancient Silk Road city of Jiayuguan, Gansu Province, China. Two of their discoveries represent new species of theropod dinosaurs, and both are described in technical publications published on-line in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B this week. The papers will appear in print later this year in a special volume entitled "Recent advances in Chinese palaeontology."

Bamboo keyboards expect to bring green life to computer uses (*Xinhua*, 4/19/2009) Eight hours of computer work everyday always makes white collars feel boring, but Zhang Keli has found a welcome respite from office chores -- a bamboo keyboard.

Hefty, ostrich-like dino found in China (*Discovery*, 4/22/2009) Dinosaurs resembling ostriches on steroids ran through Early Cretaceous China around 120 million years ago, according to a new paper that describes one such 1,400-pound beast that had 6-inch-long hand claws and stood 10 feet at the hip. The new dinosaur, *Beishanlong grandis*, could have been the world's largest "ostrich mimic." This was an unusual group of toothless-beaked, strong-legged dinosaurs that looked very similar to modern ostriches and omnivorously ate anything they could get their beaks and claws around.

China's forests have role in soaking up CO2 – study (*Reuters*, 4/22/2009) China's forests and other vegetation absorbed around a third of its greenhouse gases in the late 20th century, but the rate may now be falling because of a surge in industrial emissions, scientists said. A study by Peking University said that increased summer rains, efforts to plant forests, an expansion of shrubland, shifts in crop use and higher bamboo mass soaked up between 28 and 37 percent of industrial emissions in

the 1980s and 1990s.

Nuclear oversight in China inadequate, regulator says (*DPA, 4/21/2009*)

The quick expansion of China's nuclear energy production is far outpacing the regulation of its nuclear reactors, the country's top nuclear watchdog warned. Li Ganjie, director of the National Nuclear Safety Administration, also said in unusually strong terms that China has insufficient capacity to handle nuclear waste.

TV celeb pushes the green life (*China Daily, 4/20/2009*) Jin Yunrong

(Tammy Liu) is one of an increasing number of fashion celebrities across China promoting environmental thinking.

China Should Expand Use of Cleaner-Coal Technology, Says IEA

(*Bloomberg, 4/20/2009*) China, the world's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, should improve and expand the use of technology to clean up pollution from coal, its main energy source, a report from the International Energy Agency said.

China's wild alligators to double in 10 years (*AFP, 4/19/2009*) China's endangered Yangtze alligator population is expected to more than double to 300 in the wild within five to 10 years, state media reported Sunday.

China breeds rapeseeds of record high oil content (*China Daily,*

4/18/2009) Chinese scientists announced Thursday that they have bred rapeseeds with a record high oil content up to 60 percent, which experts said is a "major breakthrough" to increase the country's cooking oil output and farmers' income.

CORPORATIONS

Agricultural park attracts \$2 bln investment in E China fair (*Xinhua,*

4/21/2009) An agricultural park in east China's Jiangsu Province has attracted two billion U.S. dollars worth of investment during the on-going trade fair, organizers said Tuesday.

Everbright discusses JV with Covanta (*China Daily, 4/21/2009*) China Everbright International Ltd, a sewage treatment and waste-to-energy project developer, said it is in talks with US firm Covanta Holding Corp to develop a waste management project on the mainland.

China's efforts to be the largest renewable energy market in the world provides vast opportunities for investors (*Investorideas.com, 4/21/2009*)

China's unprecedented economic growth over the past 30 years has come at a huge cost to the environment and this is no surprise for most

of you who live in urbanized areas. In fact , 20 of the 30 most polluted cities in the world are in China. 400,000 people die of pollution related diseases each year. One third of Chinese territory is affected by acid rain and approximately 70% of its water supply is polluted.

Cisco establishes green technology lab in China (*ChinaCSR*, 4/21/2009)

Cisco and China's Tsinghua University have jointly set up a laboratory for green technology. The laboratory, which is jointly led by Cisco and the Department of Electronic Engineering at Tsinghua University, will focus on developing network-based smart urbanization technology and solutions in support of China's strategy for the green development of the economy, energy saving, and emission reduction.

Shanghai VW: Green, lean and Chinese machine (*China Daily*, 4/20/2009) With "Art of Innovation" as its theme, Auto Shanghai 2009 will include a powerful lineup from joint venture carmaker Shanghai Volkswagen (SVW) at the New International Expo Center during its nine-day run from April 20-28.

Slump tilts priorities of industry in China (*New York Times*, 4/19/2009)

Less than a year ago, officials were pressing mines and factories along this limestone belt of northern China to shut down or move away to clear the air of dust and smog for the Beijing Olympics. Now, amid the global economic downturn, priorities have shifted.

China starts building 3rd-generation nuclear power reactors using Westinghouse technologies (*Xinhua*, 4/19/2009) China on Sunday started the construction of its first third-generation pressurized water reactors using AP 1000 technologies developed by U.S.-based Westinghouse.

China drug scams challenge pharmaceutical firms (*Reuters*, 4/19/2009)

China's poorly regulated medical market has spawned a new 'Wild West' for untested drugs offered by fly-by-night firms. The medical 'free-for-all' is reminiscent of the era of 'snake-oil salesmen' over a century ago in the United States.

Coal Mine Explosion in China Kills 18

(*AP*, 4/18/2009) A warehouse explosion killed 18 people and injured three at a coal mine in central China, a provincial official said Saturday.

GOVERNMENT

Cities set to jointly fight air pollution (*China Daily*, 4/23/2009) Ensuring clean air will no longer be the task of a single city - it will be the

responsibility of a cluster of cities whose pollutants affect each other, according to a plan being finalized by the government.

E-waste recycling 'Go modern' (*China Daily*, 4/22/2009) The south China province of Guangdong must take effective measures to recycle massive amounts of e-waste generated in the region if it is serious about improving the environment, experts said yesterday.

G8 ministers meet in Italy on environmental issues (*Xinhua*, 4/22/2009) Environment ministers of the Group of Eight (G8) met in Italy Wednesday to discuss climate change and biodiversity aimed at reaching consensus on post-Kyoto situation.

Pollution in Chinese cities 'extremely severe' (*AFP*, 4/22/2009) Air pollution in China's cities remains very serious, state media on Thursday quoted a minister as saying, amid an ongoing battle to clean up the skies in the world's largest coal-consuming nation.

China seeks larger Africa investments, China-Africa's Fung says (*Bloomberg*, 4/22/2009) China-Africa Development Fund will seek larger investments on the continent as it becomes more comfortable with the local environment, said Mark Fung, general counsel of the state-backed company. Critics say China's push into Africa for oil and raw materials to feed its growing economy disregards environmental laws, labor standards and human rights in some cases.

China's NDRC vice director to attend international meetings on climate change (*Xinhua*, 4/21/2009) Xie Zhenhua, vice director of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the chief economic planning agency, will attend two international meetings later this month, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said here Tuesday. Xie is scheduled to attend the G8 environment ministers' meeting in Italy on April 22 and a preparatory session for the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate in Washington on April 27 and 28.

Drought leaves 164,000 people short of drinking water in China (*TajikistanNews.net*, 4/21/2009) A five-month drought has left 164,000 people in northwest China's Ningxia Hui region short of drinking water, an official said Tuesday.

Drive to discard polluting vehicles (*China Daily*, 4/21/2009) It's an idea the city of Shanghai is considering in the run-up to the 2010 World Expo. With a little more than a year before tens of millions of visitors descend on the city, Shanghai is considering a plan to offer consumers a cash incentive to scrap their old cars and buy new ones with higher emission standards, reliable sources have said.

China's draft law on arbitrating land disputes eyes rural stability

(*Xinhua*, 4/20/2009) China's draft law on the arbitration over rural land contract disputes was submitted Monday for the second reading by the lawmakers, stressing the work of reconciliation before moving cases to court.

N. China region strives to build more wind power plants (*Xinhua*,

4/20/2009) The wind power, once used only by herdsman for cooking and lighting, will spread from remote cottages to the vast countryside in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

China to increase reliance on wind power (*MarketWatch*, 4/20/2009)

China plans to increase the amount of electricity it generates from wind power by about 8 times current installed capacity, to about 100 gigawatts, by 2020, a senior government official said Monday.

China warns of longtime regional outbreak of hand-foot-mouth

disease (*Xinhua*, 4/20/2009) Though the incidence and death rates of hand-foot-mouth disease in China is normal compared with overseas regions, the country's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) warns of long-term outbreaks among the large populations in certain regions.

China Confirms Bird Flu Outbreak In Lhasa (*Xinhua*, 4/20/2009) China's Ministry of Agriculture confirmed Sunday a new outbreak of bird flu in Lhasa.

EU sees China unsafe products hitting record high (*AFP*, 4/20/2009)

The European Commission is not satisfied with China's record on dealing with consumer product safety, a commissioner said Monday, unveiling record high levels of dangerous goods.

China's poor hope reforms will fix health care (*AFP*, 4/19/2009) China this month announced plans to dramatically reform an unpopular health care system seen as costly, underfunded and providing shoddy treatment, especially in poor rural regions.

China considers setting targets for carbon emissions (*The Guardian*, 4/19/2009) The Chinese government is for the first time considering setting targets for carbon emissions, a significant development that could help negotiations on a Kyoto successor treaty at Copenhagen later this year, the Guardian has learned.

China to start construction of new panda breeding base in Sichuan

(*Xinhua*, 4/19/2009) China will start construction of a new breeding center for giant pandas around May to replace the former quake-leveled habitat in southwestern Sichuan Province, officials said.

China Announces \$10 Billion Asian Infrastructure Investment (*VOA News, 4/18/2009*) Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has announced a new \$10 billion Asian infrastructure investment fund and said China's stimulus package was already paying off.

Tianjin to focus on aviation, space industries (*China Daily, 4/18/2009*)

The aviation and space sectors are set to become the pillar industries of Tianjin, with a host of new projects in the pipeline, a local official said.

China to build regional airport in largest desert (*Xinhua, 4/18/2009*) An airport for regional flight services will be built in 2015 in the hinterland of China's largest desert, Taklimakan, in the northwestern autonomous region of Xinjiang, a source with Xinjiang Airport (Group) Co., LLC, confirmed Saturday.

China, Vietnam leaders discuss trade and disputed islands (*DPA, 4/18/2009*) Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung Friday to discuss trade, economic cooperation and a territorial dispute in the South China Sea, China's official Xinhua news agency reported. There was dialogue but no sign of a resolution on the three archipelagos that both countries claim ownership to there.

Shanghai district to pilot carbon credit trading plan (*China Daily, 4/17/2009*) Polluters in Shanghai's Pudong district will soon be able to start trading their "carbon credits" as part of a pilot program to help offset emissions. The environmental bureau is to try Pollution Discharge Right Trade this year, with more than 300 companies using the Shanghai Environment and Energy Exchange (SEEE) as a trading platform