



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

*A weekly update of China's environmental news and analysis from
PACE*



www.pacechina.net

Issue 40, December 19th to December 26th, 2009

By CC Huang and Chris Langer

Now in cooperation with
chinadialogue



New!

Environmental China is now available online, you can view the blog [here](http://environmentalchina.blogspot.com) (environmentalchina.blogspot.com) or [subscribe](#) to the RSS feed.

WELCOME to *Environmental China*, PACE's electronic newsletter devoted to giving interested readers a comprehensive update of news concerning China's environment. Any comments, suggestions or questions can be directed to cc.huang2@gmail.com. PACE especially welcomes any input or suggestions for news articles and will give due credit to anyone who contributes to the newsletter. If you know anyone who would like to subscribe, please direct them [here](#).

OPINION

Briefing: The Copenhagen Accord (*China Dialogue*, 12/24/2009) What happened at the COP15 climate talks? Tan Copsey explains the new agreement.

Views on China's role in the Greenhouse (*New York Times*, 12/23/2009) On "PBS NewsHour" Wednesday night, President Obama reflected on China's maneuvers in Copenhagen, as well. I've snipped the take-home excerpt here, and further below I've appended Mr. Lynas's response to a couple of questions I sent him about the outcome of the talks, and next steps.

Copenhagen miscalculation (*Asia Times*, 12/23/2009) The headlines in many Chinese newspapers are about the agreement on climate change reached in Copenhagen. Papers displayed a photo of Premier Wen Jiabao returning from Denmark stating that "China made unremitting efforts at the UN conference" and that China would keep its commitments, no matter what. But the articles conceal embarrassment about the difficulties China faces beyond its expectations in Copenhagen.

How did China fare in Copenhagen? A critical analysis by someone not in the room (*The Green Leap Forward*, 12/23/2009) There's been a bit of bickering between the Brits and Beijing (how's that for alliteration!) following the finalization of the Copenhagen Accord and conclusion of COP15. I'm not interested in discussing that today. Instead, I'm more interested in how the details of the accord measures up to China negotiating stance going into COP15 and as they evolved as the proceedings unfolded. In other words, how did China fare?

Solving the incinerator uproar (*China Dialogue*, 12/22/2009) China faces difficult decisions over waste disposal, as local residents vent their opposition to garbage-burning plants. Ma Jun suggests a way forward.

Copenhagen Accord: Take one (*China Environmental Law*, 12/21/2009) I will have a longer post on the Copenhagen Accord when the dust settles. It is pretty clear from the Chinese press reports that China doesn't know what to make of the Accord or how to spin it yet. One thing is abundantly clear, however, unlike US commentators who have praised the Accord for moving beyond the binary developed/developing nation distinctions, China resolutely contends that these distinctions remain and the principle of "common, but differentiated" continues in full force and effect.

Flat-panel TV industry offers new energy-saving and hi-tech models (*China Daily*, 12/21/2009) With the rising popularity of highly energy-efficient products, competition is increasing throughout the flat-panel TV industry. In October, the Chinese government released a guideline on the introduction of the "energy consumption efficiency rating indication system" for flat-panel televisions. Under the guideline, the government plans to allow only flat panel TVs with high energy-efficiency ratings to be distributed in China beginning in 2010.

PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

Stomach cancer cases rise rapidly in China (*China Daily*, 12/26/2009) One person dies from stomach cancer every two to three minutes in China as the country witnesses the prevalence of the disease rising sharply, experts warned.

Scientists complete sequencing Tibetan antelope genome (*Xinhua*, 12/25/2009)

Chinese scientists said Friday they have completed sequencing the genome of Tibetan antelopes, which will hopefully explain the pathogenesis of chronic plateau sickness.

Green efforts spring from Chinese desert (*USA Today*, 12/23/1009) He has never heard of global warming or Copenhagen, where leaders from 193 countries gathered for a major climate change summit last weekend. But Ulandalai, 43, a farmer in one of China's most isolated desert regions, says he's doing his part to help the environment anyway.

KU researchers find venomous-bird fossil (*The Wichita Eagle*, 12/23/2009) The world's first known venom-fanged bird has been discovered in ancient fossils dug up in northeast China, scientists at the University of Kansas announced Monday.

Feeling blue? Green tea may help, study shows (*IOL*, 12/21/2009) Elderly people who drink several cups of green tea a day are less likely to suffer from depression, probably due to a "feel good" chemical found in this type of tea, Japanese researchers said.

Grassroots groups driving China's green leap forward (*Reuters*, 12/19/2009) With its grey, smog-filled skies and murky rivers, China may appear to hinder rather than further the fight against global warming. "If you ride your bike on a heavily polluted day -- if you clean out your nose, it's black," said Robert Earley, the clean fuels program manager for the Innovation Center for Energy and Transportation, a Beijing-based NGO.

CORPORATIONS

New photovoltaic contracts in China (*ThomasNet News*, 12/26/2009) Air Liquide confirms its leading position in the PV market with the recent signature of thirteen new contracts with crystalline-Silicon (c-Si) solar cell manufacturers in China. The Group expands its supply to Chinese market leaders JA Solar and Yingli Green energy. Air Liquide will invest over 10 million to meet the needs of these customers.

China Huadian gets UN certification for two projects (*Bloomberg*, 12/25/2009) China Huadian Corp., one of the country's five largest power producers, received United Nations certification for two power plants, allowing investors in the projects to generate carbon credits.

Earth-friendly elements, mined destructively (*New York Times*, 12/25/2009) Some of the greenest technologies of the age, from electric cars to efficient light bulbs to very large wind turbines, are made possible by an unusual group of elements called rare earths. The world's dependence on these substances is rising fast. Just one

problem: These elements come almost entirely from China, from some of the most environmentally damaging mines in the country, in an industry dominated by criminal gangs.

China's nuclear power giants ink 5.3 bln yuan contract (*Xinhua, 12/24/2009*) The China Nuclear Engineering Group (CNEG) and the China Guangdong Nuclear Power Holding Corporation (CGNPC) signed on Wednesday a 5.3-billion-yuan (776 million U.S. dollars) nuclear island installation contract, the biggest of its kind in the country.

Petro giants of Brazil, China sign MoU on feasibility of ethanol projects (*Xinhua, 12/23/2009*) Brazil's state-owned oil and gas conglomerate Petrobras on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chinese oil giant PetroChina to assess the technical and economic feasibility of launching ethanol production projects in Brazil.

Venezuela in deal to boost oil sales to China (*AP, 12/23/2009*) Venezuela's government will sell China an additional 130,000 barrels of oil a day beginning next year, raising the daily total to 630,000 barrels, the state news agency said Wednesday.

Five held in toxic pollution probe in east China province (*Xinhua, 12/24/2009*) At least five people have been detained for dumping large amounts of toxic chemical waste in east China's Anhui Province, causing water and soil pollution in two counties, said investigators Thursday.

China new energy announces acquisition of Fuzhou City Lean Zhongran Gas Inc. and Wuyuan County Zhongran Gas Inc. (*PR Newswire, 12/24/2009*) China New Energy Group Company (OTC Bulletin Board: CNER) ("China New Energy" or the "Company"), a vertically integrated natural gas company engaged in the development of natural gas distribution networks, and the distribution of natural gas to residential, industrial, and commercial users in small and medium sized cities in China, announced that on December 16, 2009, Willsky Development, Ltd., the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, entered into an equity purchase agreement to acquire all of the outstanding equity interest of Fuzhou City Lean Zhongran Gas Inc. ("Lean Zhongran") and Wuyuan County Zhongran Gas Inc. ("Wuyuan Zhongran") for RMB 4.8 million (approximately \$0.7 million) and RMB 6.0 million (approximately \$0.9 million), respectively.

Chinese firms ride vertical integration to solar cost leadership (*iSuppli Corporation, 12/23/2009*) Chinese solar firms Trina Solar Ltd. and Yingli Green Energy Holding Company Ltd. have capitalized on their vertical structures--combining the sale of photovoltaic (PV) wafers, cells, panels and installation-to achieve the lowest costs in the industry. But will their success continue as solar market conditions change?

Chinese company gains control of Hawaii-based solar panel material supplier

Hoku Scientific (*Los Angeles Times*, 12/23/2009) A Chinese company is now the majority owner of a Hawaii-based supplier of silicon for solar panels. Hoku Scientific Inc. of Honolulu said Wednesday it has issued more than 33 million shares to Tianwei New Energy Holdings Co. of Chengdu, giving the Chinese company control of 60 percent of Hoku's outstanding shares.

China imports coal, LNG for winter, exports gasoline (*Bloomberg*, 12/23/2009)

China, the world's second-largest energy user, increased overseas purchases of coal and liquefied natural gas last month compared with October to meet winter fuel demand, government data showed.

Hundreds of workers tested for mercury (*China Daily*, 12/22/2009) A month after a total of 23 workers at a lighting manufacturer in Foshan, Guangdong province, were diagnosed with mercury poisoning, the company and a provincial hospital were stepping up efforts to test more than 600 workers.

ADB to loan China \$100 million for development in Shanxi province (*Asian Development Bank*, 12/21/2009) The ADB Board of Directors have approved the loan for the Shanxi Small Cities and Towns Development Demonstration Sector Project. It will fund measures to improve infrastructure, municipal services, and the environment in about seven cities and towns in Shanxi. It is also expected to provide a model for potential replication in other small towns and cities around the country, and mirrors similar projects being undertaken in Hebei and Liaoning provinces, following ADB-financed technical assistance.

GOVERNMENT

China and Norway intensify recycling project (*China Daily*, 12/24/2009) Talking with Kre Helge Karstensen, chief scientist & special advisor of the Norwegian Foundation for Scientific & Industrial Research (SINTEF), you cannot help but be impressed by his enthusiasm for his job. Since 2004, Kre has been heavily involved in the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous and Industrial Wastes in Cement Kilns in China project.

China Ministry: To levy fees on or reclaim idle land (*The Wall Street Journal*, 12/24/2009) China's Ministry of Land and Resources on Wednesday unveiled policies to prevent the hoarding of idle land by developers. Land held idle by developers for more than one year will be subject to a fee of 20% of its initial sale price, and plots held idle for more than two years may be repossessed and put to alternate use, the ministry said in a statement.

China uses Internet to reduce birth defects in migrants (*ChinaCSR*, 12/24/2009) China is trying to reduce the rate of birth defects of newborn children among the

migrant population by making use of the Internet.

China, India, South Africa vital for climate deal (*AP, 12/23/2009*) The emergence of China, India, South Africa and Brazil as a grouping was the most significant outcome of the climate talks in Copenhagen, a U.N. official said Wednesday.

China considers compulsory green energy purchases (*Xinhua, 12/22/2009*)

China's top legislature Tuesday discussed a legal amendment to require electricity grid companies to buy all the power produced by renewable energy generators.

China 'hijacked' climate summit (*AFP, 12/22/2009*) China "hijacked" the Copenhagen summit by blocking a legally-binding treaty, climate change secretary Ed Miliband said Monday.

France, China sign aviation, nuclear deals (*AFP, 12/22/2009*) France and China on Monday hailed their reinvigorated ties, putting a spat over Tibet behind them and sealing a series of economic deals during a visit by French Prime Minister Francois Fillon.

China blasts claim it "hijacked" climate talks (*AP, 12/22/2009*) China dismissed Tuesday a British editorial accusing it of "hijacking" the U.N.-sponsored climate talks in Copenhagen as baseless and politically motivated. British climate change minister Edward Miliband's editorial singled out Beijing as the culprit behind the talks' near collapse.

China to boost imports, reserves of key resources (*Bloomberg, 12/22/2009*) China, the world's biggest metal consumer, should increase imports and reserves of strategic resources in 2010, the commerce ministry said today.

Disputed garbage incinerator project suspended in south China (*Xinhua, 12/21/2009*) A planned garbage incinerator project in south China's Guangzhou City was suspended due to counterinterviews of the public in the process of environment assessment, local authorities said Monday.

China stands by claim of bumper harvest (*Agrimoney.com, 12/21/2009*) China has stood by its view that 2009 was a bumper year for crops, despite concerns raised by Washington staff that harvest data has been inflated by misreporting by provincial authorities.

'Disappointed' Brazil has strong words for Obama, China praise (*Treehugger, 12/20/2009*) The dissatisfaction felt by Brazilian leadership at the close of CO15 wasn't shared by another key player in the negotiations. According to O Estado, China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, felt the US proposal was "significant and positive."