



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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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

[When China said "no"](#) (China Dialogue, 1/07/2010) Some observers say that China wrecked the climate negotiations at Copenhagen. But the reality is more complex, argues Cao Haili.

[Don't blame China, US for Copenhagen](#) (Asia Times, 1/07/2010)

Instead of praise for their rescue effort, the world's two largest carbon emitters drew intense criticism for their deal from many different quarters. Not only was that criticism misdirected, but an issue that nearly derailed the Sino-US talks points directly where the real blame belongs.

[China to deliver global ecological advancement?](#) (The Guardian Weekly, 1/04/2010) To many observers China's record on pollution and apparent reluctance to embrace strict emissions controls make it international environmental enemy number one, [particularly after the Copenhagen conference](#). But environmentalist John D. Liu contends that, despite China's poor domestic environmental record, it is rapidly changing for the better. He also claims that China's successful approach to the ecological restoration of degraded land along the Yellow River could deliver an ecological breakthrough of global importance – and has even helped convince the Rwandan government to adopt the Chinese approach.

[Beijing digs out after major snow](#) (AFP, 1/04/2010) Schools were shut down, flights delayed and traffic snarled in Beijing on Monday following two days of heavy snow in north China, with even more frigid weather forecast.

PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

[China: The world's largest polluter](#) (Irish Times, 1/08/2010) China's remarkable economic rise over the past 30 years has come at an alarming price in environmental terms, but the world's fastest-growing major economy is working hard to clean up the devastating pollution of its rivers, lakes and skies.

[Chinese coal formed during earth's greatest extinction is deadly](#) (Wired, 1/07/2010) A seam of coal formed 250 million years ago during the worst extinction event on record appears to be responsible for the anomalously high lung cancer death rates among women in the rural Chinese county of Xuan Wei in Yunnan Province.

[China Syndrome: the original inconvenient film](#) (Mother Nature Network, 1/07/2010) One of the most influential environmental films ever made proved eerily prophetic and helped kill the U.S. nuclear industry.

Yangtze River drought poses a risk to Three Gorges reservoir and people (Xinhua, 1/06/2010) A severe drought around the Yangtze River has caused the water level in the Three Gorges Reservoir to stay much lower than the anticipated level of 175 meters and that could complicate plans for farmers and millions of others who rely on the river to survive.

Leak hits yellow river (Wall Street Journal, 1/05/2010) A diesel spill has contaminated a stretch of China's Yellow River, officials said Monday, despite frantic efforts to contain its spread into the waterway, which provides drinking water to tens of millions of people.

Hong Kong air pollution: 'life threatening levels' (AFP, 1/05/2010) Hong Kong's roadside air pollution reached life-threatening levels one in every eight days last year, a report said Monday, citing figures obtained from the government.

China fuel spill prompts water use alert (AFP, 1/04/2010) Hundreds of thousands of Chinese have been told to stop using water from the Yellow River after an upstream pipeline leaked 100 tonnes of diesel fuel into a tributary.

Gene rice on its way in China (NewScientist, 1/04/2010) Genetically modified rice cleared for commercial sale could be growing on Chinese farms as early as next year, making China the first country to allow commercial cultivation of GM strains. The field trials required for any new variety are now under way, following official safety clearance November.

CORPORATIONS

China tightens grip on Kazakh gas (Asia Times, 01/08/2010) Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Kazakh counterpart, Nursultan Nazarbayev, were liberal with their profuse eulogies such as a "milestone in Sino-Kazakh relations" and "an epoch-making event" after their talks in Astana on December 12.

Mass mercury poisoning at China factory (AFP, 01/07/2010) Over 150 workers at an electrical factory in southern China have tested positive for suspected mercury poisoning in the latest work-safety scandal to hit the nation.

Malaysian bird's nest traders eye China's vast market (Xinhua, 1/07/2010)

Following the full establishment of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area on Jan. 1 this year, in which tariffs on various products have been brought down to zero, Malaysian bird's nest traders have seen the great potential in China's vast market.

China now controls majority of Canada's Athabasca Oil Sands Corp (Treehugger, 1/07/2010) A huge Chinese tar sands investment has been formally approved by the Canadian Federal government. It's up to Chinese engineers and managers, now, to make the oil extraction and distribution cost-efficient enough to get the desired financial returns. With state-owned China National Petroleum Corp. reporting an investment of up to \$1.7 billion in the tar patch they'll have a good shot at it.

Yanzhou thirsts for more mines (Sydney Morning Herald, 01/07/2010) The new owner of Felix Resources, Yanzhou Coal, is on the prowl for more coal acquisitions in Australia to feed surging demand in China.

Over 100 China factory workers suffer mercury poisoning (Reuters, 1/07/2010) More than 100 workers at a Chinese lighting factory have suffered suspected mass mercury poisoning in a case highlighting the lack of safeguards for China's factory workers, state media reported on Thursday.

Solar power to heat up airline meals (China Daily, 01/06/2010) Solar power will be used to heat the inflight meals of up to 30,000 passengers as part of the Beijing municipal government's 200 million yuan green energy plan.

Qingyuan to boost E-car sales in U.S. this year (Gasgoo.com, 1/06/2010) Chinese electric car maker Tianjin Qingyuan Electric Vehicle Co. hopes to sell 3,000 self-made electric vehicles mostly in the United States in 2010, up 50% from its EV sales there in the past five years, Reuters reported today, citing an industry source.

Sino-Environment post thickens, unsettling questions raised (Asia One, 01/06/2010) Sino -Environment shareholders, who have been treated to a roller-coaster ride with the dramatic unfolding of events last year, are now greeted with the sudden resignations of its executive directors and an unsettling probe conclusion by the Fuzhou Public Security Bureau in China.

Chinese factory blamed for lead poisoning (CNN, 1/06/2010) Fifty-one children in southeast China have been found to have high levels of lead in their blood, and authorities have linked their illnesses to a battery factory, state-run media reported Wednesday.

China pulls out of \$40 billion Australia gas deal (BusinessWeek, 1/05/2010)
Energy giant PetroChina Co. Ltd. has pulled out of a \$40 billion deal to buy natural gas from a project off Australia, leaving Woodside Petroleum Ltd. looking for new customers.

China Industrial Waste: A hidden gem (Seeking Alpha, 1/04/2010) China Industrial Waste (CIWT.OB) is the first industrial waste treatment company based in Dalian, a beautiful coastal city in northeast China.

Kandi rallies on alliance with electric-car technology companies (Wall Street Journal, 1/04/2010) China-based Kandi Technologies Corp. (KNDI) has allied itself with major energy, information- technology and battery companies as it pushes the evolution of electronic-vehicle technology in the country.

GOVERNMENT

UNEP lauds China's contribution to green economic development (Xinhua, 1/08/2010) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has hailed China's contribution to the promotion of bio-diversity and green economic development.

Eco-tourism to be a major focus of Tibet's legislative session (Tibetan Review, 1/08/2010) The third annual session of the 9th Tibet Autonomous Regional People's Congress is to begin on Jan 10 with indications that ecological construction and environment protection will be high on its agenda, according to China's state media reports Jan 7.

Old Maoist policy makes China's chill worse (The Wall Street Journal, 1/07/2010) China's power supply system has been pushed to the brink again amid unusually cold weather. Holdover policies from China's Maoist past aren't helping.

China flags polar resource goals (Sydney Morning Herald, 1/07/2010) A high-powered delegation of Chinese dignitaries, including a senior resources minister, flew into Australia's Antarctic Casey base yesterday, meeting visiting Australian diplomats and officials before being shuttled by helicopter to a research vessel moored in a nearby bay.

Chinese council tenants to be evicted for spitting (Telegraph, 1/07/2010)

According to the scheme, residents will be fined penalty points for a wide range of misdemeanours. Spitting in public carries a three-point penalty, while littering the estate gets five.

Hainan to build low-carbon economy (China.org.cn, 1/07/2010) Hainan, China's southernmost island province, will beef up its low-carbon economic development during the construction of Hainan International Tourism Island, said Wei Liucheng, Party secretary of Hainan provincial committee.

Combined efforts contributes to sound environment in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau (People's Daily, 1/06/2010) The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau has benefited a lot from the ten-year great development in China's western regions in terms of ecological environmental protection, which will mark its 10th anniversary next year. In recent years, China has made great efforts to improve the ecological environment in its west regions, the fragile environment in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in particular.

New toxic milk case in China kept secret for a year, reports say (Guardian, 1/06/2010) A fresh scandal over toxic milk products has shocked Chinese consumers, with state media today reporting claims that officials waited almost a year before warning the public.

China orders citizens to grab their snow shovels (Sphere, 1/06/2010) Snow removal on such a massive scale as what's needed in China -- after its biggest snowfall in six decades -- is really something only a communist mega-state can do.

China to 'actively' join global race for resources (Bloomberg, 1/05/2010) China, the world's second-biggest energy consumer, said it will "actively" participate in the global competition for oil, natural gas and mineral resources as domestic demand rises.

China wakes up, calls for protection of tigers (The Economic Times, 1/04/2010) India's newfound partnership with China on environment issues has yielded results in the area of tiger protection as well. In what could be seen as a new year's gift for the Indian tiger, China's State Forestry Administration has issued a directive calling for the protection of tigers, especially the need to step up action against illegal trade in tiger parts and products.

China revises power law (Biofuels Watch, 1/03/2010) China, being coal-dependant, majority of its electricity gathers from coal-fired baseload plants which pollute the

environment. Recently, the standing committee of the National People's Congress revised the 2006 renewable energy law which demanded that the power grid operators needed to buy all the electricity power which was only generated by renewable energy generators. This step was taken so as to utilize this technology via renewable energy sources, thereby reducing the power usage from coal-fired baseload plants.

[China restricts production of 2 minerals](#) (Xinhua, 1/03/2010) China has begun to restrict the mining and production of refractory clay and fluorite over concerns about reserve decrease and environmental pollution, according to a notice posted on the central government's website Sunday.