

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



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Now in cooperation with chinadialogue



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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

Korean Chinese no longer willing to do dirty work (The Chosun Ilbo, 4/09/2010) Times are changing in Seoul's Yeongdeungpo, which is home to some 38,000 Korean Chinese. Over 80 job agencies cater to them near the Daerim subway station in the district, with jobs offered including

manufacturing or construction work, cattle shed cleaning, kitchen and domestic work.

Asia should stay on green path (China Daily, 4/09/2010) A top United Nations official has urged Asian nations to sustain the momentum of brisk investment in green economic growth and to avoid falling back on old developmental patterns in the post-financial crisis era.

<u>China not to blame for drought alone Mekong: Thailand</u> (China Daily, 4/07/2010) On Thursday, Suwit Khunkitti, Thailand's minister of natural resources and environment, refashioned these lines to highlight the significance of joint efforts in dealing with the drought along the Mekong River.

Why is China's mining industry so dangerous? (Radio Australia, 4/6/2010) Another mining accident in China highlight once again the country's terrible industrial safety record. But while dramatic rescues in the biggest recent disaster are a huge relief, economic priorities are still trampling over workers' safety.

PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

Chinese scientists find glacier tracks from 2 million years ago (Xinhua, 4/8/2010) Chinese scientists said Thursday they had identified a landform left by glacial erosion at least 2 million years ago on mountains in northwestern Gansu Province.

Environmental problems are price of progress in China (Voice of America, 4/07/2010) China's rapid economic growth has pulled millions of the country's residents out of poverty, but a new report says the environmental impacts of this progress is threatening the health of hundreds of millions more.

Rare Yangtze finless porpoises spotted in China lake (People's Daily, 4/6/2010) Scientists and tourists have recently been spotting groups of the rare Yangtze finless porpoise in China's largest freshwater lake, Lake Poyang, raising hopes the endangered mammal is making a comeback. Desalination of sea ice feasible for mass production: Chinese scientists (Xinhua, 4/6/2010) Sea ice seen as a disaster in northeast China's Bohai Bay has been eyed as an important alternative freshwater source by Chinese scientists, as their latest research shows China's desalination technology is feasible for mass production.

Water supply resumes after pollution removed in Chengdu (Xinhua, 4/3/2010) Tap water supply in Chengdu City, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, returned to normal Saturday with polluting garbage in a river removed, local authorities said.

CORPORATIONS

<u>Sparks fly as China's hunger for coal grows</u> (Financial Times, 4/9/2010) Takeover battles rarely invoke Shakespeare, interloping Americans on Gulfstream jets and rotting kangaroo, but that is the reaction Peabody Energy of the US got this week to its A\$3.6bn (\$3.3bn) bid for Macarthur Coal.

Stranded Chinese ship failed to make easterly turn, Owners say (BusinessWeek, 4/8/2010) Shenzhen Energy Transport Co., owner of the Chinese coal carrier that ran aground on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, said the vessel failed to make an easterly turn called for under its planned route.

80 percent of napkins in restaurants unsafe (People's Daily, 4/8/2010) About 80 percent of the paper napkins used in Beijing restaurants have been tainted with poisoned chemicals and are unsafe, according to a foodpackaging expert.

Icon Energy signs LNG deal with China's SinoGas Group (TopNews, 4/2/2010) Icon Energy Ltd., an Australian oil and gas explorer, announced today that it had signed a deal with SinoGas Group of China to supply liquefied natural gas. The value of the deal could be anything between \$A23 billion and \$A 32 billion, depending on oil prices. The shares of Icon rose the most in 15 months today.

China's green agenda shows solar flair (Forbes, 4/8/2010) Solar power manufacturing is moving to Asia, and local companies, especially Chinese and Taiwanese ones, are the beneficiaries thanks to their low cost of production. Now come reports that the Chinese government is extending billions of dollars in loans to domestic firms, making life even tougher for U.S.

'Unwarrantable failure': Deadly mines in China and America (In These Times, 4/8/2010) At a time when U.S.-China trade relations are as tense as ever, the twin tragedies in the mining industry in both countries were a stunning symbol of the shared struggles of Chinese and American labor. As a bulwark of the fossil-fuel- based economy, mining remains one of the most dangerous and dirtiest jobs in both developed and "emerging" economies.

Views on capacity elimination standards in Chinese steel industry (Alibaba, 4/8/2010) On April 6, China's State Council published a notice concerning further elimination of dated production facilitie s, entitled 'Adjustment and Revitalization Plan of Steel Industry.' Accordingly, the State Council requires the elimination in 2010 of blast furnaces with capacities of less than 300 m3 and also of converters or electric furnaces with capacities below 20 mt. Furthermore, by the end of 2011 the State Council seeks the elimination of blast furnaces with capacities below 400 m³ and of converters or electric furnaces with capacities below 30 mt.

<u>Widening horizons for new energy investors</u> (Caixin Online, 4/7/2010) A struggle for dominance in the fast-growing electric-vehicle charging business is pitting some of China's biggest state-owned companies, as a domestic "new energy" movement -- from battery-making to wind power -- gathers steam.

206 billion tons of coal reserves found in Turpan and Kumul basin (People's Daily, 4/6/2010) About 206 billion tons of additional coal reserves were recently found in the Turpan and Kumul basins in Xinjiang by China's geological prospecting departments.

GOVERNMENT

International delegations share green ideas in Macau (Macau Daily Times, 4/092010) Environmental delegations from more than 20 countries and regions across the world are gathering in Macau this week to discuss strategies and cooperation as well as to showcase green products and services as an international attempt towards a low emission economy.

<u>China limits vehicle traffic for World Health Day</u> (ChinaCSR, 4/9/2010) Huang Jiefu, the vice minister of China's Ministry of Health, has disclosed to local media that China will limit vehicle use on 493 streets on 449 cities across the country on April 11, 2010 to facilitate various public health activities to be held on that day.

<u>Suzhou Expo follows green path of Shanghai</u> (CCTV, 4/09/2010) The Green Guidelines for the Shanghai Expo 2010, jointly issued by the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo and UNESCO, detail what participants, operators and visitors can do to ensure that the Expo is an environmentally friendly event.

<u>Kunming Court to fund environmental lawsuits</u> (ChinaCSR, 4/9/2010) The Intermediate Peoples' Court of Kunming has announced that in conjunction with Kunming Municipal Environment Department it will set up a fund to defray the costs of lawsuits over environmental public welfare issues.

China Everbright Bank becomes first domestic bank to go carbon neutral (Xinhua, 4/8/2010) The China Everbright Bank (CEB) signed an agreement with the Beijing Environment Exchange (BEE) Thursday, according to which the bank will buy carbon credits to offset its carbon dioxide emissions generated in daily operation.

<u>China, Nepal and Everest height row in rock and snow</u> (AFP, 4/8/2010) China and Nepal have found an solution to a longstanding dispute over the height of Mount Everest in the giant peak's rock and snow.

Macao to strengthen its commitments in protecting environment (People's Daily, 4/8/2010) Chief Executive of Macao Special Administrative Region Chui Sai On said on Thursday that the Macao SAR government was concerned of our environment and would enforce its capability in protecting the environment.

China to spend \$2.2 billion more in sewage treatment (Xinhua, 4/8/2010) China will spend 15 billion yuan (\$2.2 billion) in the first half of this year to beef up sewage treatment facilities as the nation works to clean up its environment, an official said Wednesday.

China to step up efforts to eliminate outdated industrial capacity (Xinhua, 4/6/2010) China will continue to shut down outdated capacity in major industrial sectors to reduce pollution, save energy, and upgrade industry, the State Council, or Cabinet, said in a statement released Tuesday.

<u>China soya ban angers Argentina</u> (BBC, 4/6/2010) Argentina has complained to the Chinese government about a planned boycott of its soya oil exports amid a growing trade dispute.

<u>China is eager to bring High-Speech rail expertise</u> (New York Times, 4/7/2010) Nearly 150 years after American railroads brought in thousands of Chinese laborers to build rail lines across the West, <u>China</u> is poised once again to play a role in American rail construction. But this time, it would be an entirely different role: supplying the technology, equipment and engineers to build <u>high-speed rail</u> lines.

Three detained for massive tap water pollution in SW China (Sina English, 4/6/2010) Three men were detained Monday for dumping garbage in a river that caused a massive tap water pollution in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, police said.

Boost for U.S.-China clean energy research (New York Times, 4/2/2010) The Department of Energy announced this week the availability of \$37.5 million in financing for Chinese and American researchers working on clean energy projects. The goal is to stimulate joint research between the countries, which are the world's top energy producers and consumers, and greenhouse gas emitters, said David Sandalow, the department's assistant secretary of energy for policy and international affairs.

35 road projects on China border delayed (DNA, 4/1/2010) The army's demand for more roads along the Sino-India border has made the government give forest clearance to 35 strategic road projects in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.