

#### 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 <u>cc.huang2@gmail.com</u>. PACE especiallxy 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 <u>here</u>.

### OPINION

<u>Resisting the urban dinosaurs</u> (Chinadialogue, 4/26/2010) Naive utopian development projects, such as those in drought-stricken Kunming, only exacerbate social and environmental problems, writes Zhu Xiaoyang.

<u>Green car race heats up in China; Are consumers ready?</u> (CNBC, 4/23/2010) Walk through the massive Beijing Auto Show 2010 and you

know immediately that the race for clean energy cars leadership in China is officially on.

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## **PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs**

Hong Kong "Very High" pollution causes health warning (Bloomberg, 4/29/2010) Hong Kong air pollution reached "very high" levels at all three roadside station monitoring stations, prompting the government to advise people with heart or respiratory problems to avoid long stays in heavy traffic.

Naphtha margin narrowing to gasoline on China: Energy markets (Bloomberg, 4/29/2010) The gap between the price of naphtha and gasoline in Asia is narrowing for a fourth straight week, the longest stretch since November, as China's manufacturing economy strengthens.

<u>Giant panda disappointment at the National Zoo</u> (Discovery News, 4/28/2010) For months, staff and visitors at the Smithsonian's National Zoo had been looking forward to a new giant panda birth. It was thought that an adult female giant panda there, Mei Xiang, was expecting.

200,000 children suffer from hand-foot mouth disease (Thaindian News, 4/27/2010) Over 200,000 children in China have been infected by the hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD) in 2010 and 94 of them have died from the illness so far this year. Parents of affected children are, however, citing high costs as affecting their children's treatment, and have called on authorities to step in and cover their medical bills.

<u>China faces water deficit</u> (China Daily, 4/27/2010) China will face a water supply deficit of up to 201 billion cubic meters in the next two decades if the country does not adopt proper water-saving technologies and practices, a report by global management consulting firm McKinsey & Company has found.

<u>China quake leaves 8,000 monks homeless: state media</u> (Bangkok Post, 4/26/2010) The quake in China's remote northwest has left more than 8,000 monks homeless after damaging nearly 90 monasteries, state media said Monday, as the focus of relief work moved onto resettling survivors.

Rain triggers landslides, cuts telecommunications in Tibet (People's Daily, 4/26/2010) Torrential rain has battered southeastern Tibet Autonomous Region since Thursday, triggering landslides and cutting telecommunications links, local authorities said Sunday. <u>Major earthquake hits off Taiwan coast</u> (AP, 4/25/2010) The U.S. Geological Survey says a 6.9 magnitude earthquake has struck off the southeast coast of Taiwan. The agency says the quake hit at 10:59 a.m. local time (0259 GMT) Monday, 195 miles (295 kilometers) off the southern Taiwan city of Taitung.

<u>China debates whether human activity or nature is to blame for drought</u> (Los Angeles Times, 4/26/2010) Reporting from Beijing — The images are heart-rending, farmers kneeling over the cracked earth that looks to be straight out of a post-apocalyptic movie, the dust swirling in the wind. But what underlies China's worst drought in nearly a century is a matter of great debate. Is it Mother Nature or human failure?

<u>A fight to save Hong Kong's pink dolphins</u> (ABC News, 4/25/2010) The triangle of busy, brackish water that separates Hong Kong from the industrial belt of southern <u>China</u> seems an unlikely place to look for rare wildlife. But every week conservationist Janet Walker brings tourists out among the tall ships and container terminals, the refineries and one of the world's busiest airports, to get a glimpse of <u>some unique</u> <u>creatures</u>: bubblegum-pink dolphins.

#### **CORPORATIONS**

<u>China carmakers puts N. American headquarters in LA</u> (AP, 5/1/2010) A rapidly expanding manufacturer of all-electric cars, solar panels and other green products from China announced Friday it will open a North American headquarters in Los Angeles, with plans to begin selling autos in the U.S. by the end of the year.

<u>CNOOC to buy stake in South China Sea oil filed for \$515 m</u> (Xinhua, 5/1/2010) China National Offshore Oil Company Limited (CNOOC) announced late Friday it has agreed to acquire US-based Devon Energy Corporation's 24.5 percent interest in a South China Sea oil block for \$515 million.

<u>China Shenhua profit up on strong coal demand</u> (Bloomberg, 4/30/2010) China Shenhua Energy Co., the country's biggest coal producer, said Friday its quarterly profit jumped 16.5 percent as China's economic rebound drove power demand.

Rare earth metals in China's backyard could stall hybrid cars (Gas 2.0, 4/30/2010) Cars are, without a doubt, much more complicated bits of machinery than they were in the past. Where once the most complicated device in a car was the battery, nowadays they have catalytic converters, computerized fuel injection, and batteries made from rare earth elements in the case of hybrid cars. It is those elements that some have expressed concern about, as these elements are predominantly mined in places like China and Bolivia.

<u>Auto China 2010: Volkswagen's Electric Bike</u> (Product Reviews News, 4/30/2010) With the environment always in the news car manufactures are constantly coming out with new ways to be greener. Volkswagen has just showcased their first ever two wheeler at the AutoChina 2010 show. The VW bike (not a typing error) was rode with ease on the stage by V-Dub research and development Chief Dr. Ulrich Hackenberg.

<u>Company vouches to support sustainable progress in China</u> (People's Daily, 4/30/2010) The Shanghai Expo provides not only a chance for China to show off to the world but also is an opportunity for many businesses, including Veolia Environnement, to promote their messages, according to Veolia CEO Antoine Frerot.

Jeans add to Pearl River's pollution woes (UPI, 4/29/210) Blue jeans are partly to blame for the pollution of China's Pearl River. Xintang, situated in the northeastern part of the Pearl River Delta, is known as the "jeans capital" of the world. Some 200 million pairs of jeans are made there each year for 1,000 different labels, as one of its manufacturer's Web site claims.

<u>China's Nobao renewable energy files for \$300 million IPO</u> (Reuters, 4/28/2010) The company told the U.S Securities and Exchange Commission in a preliminary prospectus that Morgan Stanley, UBS, and Citigroup were underwriting the IPO.

<u>Planned wind turbine gathers gust of energy</u> (Las Vegas Sun, 4/28/2010) An international manufacturer of wind turbines has launched <u>plans to build a plant in</u> <u>Southern Nevada</u>, establishing its first manufacturing effort in the United States. The commitment by <u>A-Power Energy Generation Systems</u>, based in Shenyang, China, was marked in a gathering at UNLV on Tuesday among Chinese and U.S. government leaders and business partners from both nations.

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Honda China Dealers want SUVs, Lose money on hybrids (Bloomberg, 4/27/2010) Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co. dealers in Beijing say they don't have enough sport-utility vehicles in stock to meet demand, while hybrid models are selling at loss-making discounts.

<u>China's meat market grows</u> (WeeklyTimes, 4/26/2010) China is expected to become a dominant force in the world animal feed market. That's what delegates attending the <u>Australasian Milling Conference</u> in Melbourne were told recently.

Rising wealth and a change in diet among the Chinese population has resulted in a rapidly expanding meat and aquaculture market.

<u>China National Nuclear starts building plant in Hainan Province</u> (Bloomberg, 4/26/2010) China National Nuclear Corp., the country's biggest operator of nuclear power plants, started building a 19 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) generator on the southern island province of Hainan.

#### GOVERNMENT

<u>China, EU strengthen green ties</u> (China Daily, 5/1/2010) Chinese and European officials on Friday hailed the important role the clean energy sector is playing in bilateral trade as the two sides step up the fight against climate change.

<u>China's Yellow River project protects residents from floods</u> (Channel NewsAsia, 4/30/2010) The Yellow River is known to be the cradle of Chinese civilisation. But it has been plagued by devastating floods and pollution in the last century, following China's rapid growth.

<u>Shanghai adds pyrotechnic power to Expo</u> (Financial Times, 4/30/2010) Shanghai staged an extravagant display of pyrotechnic power, on Friday, to celebrate the <u>opening of the largest world expo</u> in history, underlining the emergence of China – strong, prosperous and triumphant – from the global financial crisis.

<u>China drafts plan to boost green facilities development</u> (China Daily, 4/30/2010) China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) is drafting a plan to develop environmental protection facility manufacturing, the Shanghai Securities News reported on Friday.

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<u>China to build two nuclear reactors in Pakistan, FT reports</u> (Bloomberg, 4/29/2010) China has agreed to build two civilian nuclear reactors in Pakistan, the Financial Times reported, citing Chinese companies and unnamed government officials in Beijing and Islamabad.

China to strengthen financial support for recycling economy (People's Daily, 4/29/2010) China will strengthen the financial support for the recycling economy development of various regions in order to address issues such as insufficient investment and difficult financing in the development of recycling economy, according to the "Circular on Policy Measures and Opinions of Supporting the Development of Recycling Economy" recently issued by the National Development and Reform Committee, the People's Bank of China, the China Banking Regulatory Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

<u>Shanghai puts on a green face</u> (New York Times, 4/29/2010) At the heart of the Shanghai World Expo, opening this weekend, there is an apparent, and glaring, contradiction.

<u>China seizes millions of toxic containers</u> (AFP, 4/28/2010) Authorities in China have seized more than seven million toxic disposable food containers, state media reported Wednesday, in the latest product safety scare to hit the nation.

BASIC countries want legally binding climate change agreement (Sify, <u>4/26/2010</u>) India, China, Brazil and South Africa Monday called for finalising a legally binding treaty on reduction of carbon emission latest by 2011 and indicated that the world could not wait indefinitely.