



# ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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



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By CC Huang and Chris Langer

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## OPINION

[Lonely workers and suicide: What can responsible companies do? \(CSR Asia, 6/30/2010\)](#) The recent suicides at Foxconn's manufacturing facilities in China were reported widely in the media (both inside and outside China), and there was no shortage of attempts to explain why workers took their lives. One explanatory theme is psychological; such as the feelings of loneliness that workers face in the intensely monotonous and restrictive environments that characterize many factories.

(not only in China). Focusing on the narrower theme of loneliness, one strand of thinking starting to emerge is that what makes isolation particularly unbearable for some workers is that within certain workplaces people feel that they are a burden to others.

[New growth model needed](#) (Xinhua, 6/29/2010) Economic transformation will lay a solid foundation for domestic development and help propel the global economy. After weathering the global financial crisis, both the government as well as the Chinese industry have reached consensus that China's economic development pattern needs to be transformed.

## PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

[Biggest algae bloom expanding off China's east coast](#) (AP, 6/28/2010) A huge bright green algae bloom is blanketing the sea off China's east coast and wind is driving it closer to land, an official said Friday.

[2010 JUCCCE China Energy Forum features stories from China's mayors, state owned enterprises](#) (PRNewswire, 6/30/2010) JUCCCE (Joint US-China Collaboration on Clean Energy) and NAMC (National Academy for Mayors of China) co-organized the 2010 JUCCCE China Energy Forum occurring today at the Shangri-La in Beijing, China. The Forum features the individual stories of China's mayors and SOE executives, who will tell attendees about their efforts to green China's cities. JUCCCE is a leading non-profit organization seeking to accelerate the greening of China. NAMC is run by China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and trains China's mayors on a rotating basis.

[Finless porpoises in China on brink of extinction](#) (BBC, 6/29/2010) Finless porpoises, a rare type of toothed whale, may be even more endangered than previously thought. A survey of finless porpoises in Asia has revealed there are two species, not one, and that they rarely intermingle.

[UM, Chinese University fund renewable biotech projects](#) (WWJ Radio, 6/29/2010) Officials of the University of Michigan and Shanghai Jiao Tong University have announced the first six research teams to win funding for renewable energy and biomedical technology projects in a new joint program that teams up investigators from both schools.

[China is pushing the envelope on science, and sometimes ethics](#) (Washington Post, 6/28/2010) Centuries after it led the world in technological prowess -- think

gunpowder, irrigation and the printed word -- [China](#) has barged back into the ranks of the great powers in science. With the brashness of a teenager, in some cases literally, China's scientists and inventors are driving a resurgence in potentially world-changing research. Unburdened by social and legal constraints common in the West, China's trailblazing scientists are also pushing the limits of ethics and principle as they create a new -- and to many, worrisome -- Wild West in the Far East.

[Low-carbon life contest held in Beijing](#) (People's Daily, 6/28/2010) The "My Low-carbon Life" innovation competition was officially held in Beijing recently. The Chinese Technology Association, CAST science center and China Association for Science Information Center hosted the event.

[The electrifying pace of wind power development in China](#) (Renewable Energy World, 6/28/2010) While President Obama continues to exhort Congress and the American public to move ahead with legislation that will put the U.S. on a path to rapid and sustainable development of renewable energy, China is building a formidable renewable infrastructure. China's wind industry is a case in point.

[Double-whammy: Aging China has fewer children to care for it](#) (McClatchy Newspapers, 6/24/2010) When Qing Zhuren comes to work every day as the manager of the Shanghai Fahua Home for the Aged, he confronts a scene that he once could barely imagine. The tiny rooms off a chilly hallway that smells of cleaning solvents are all full. Three to four residents wrapped in Hello Kitty blankets lie in touching twin beds. There's enough space in the room for only one person to enter at a time.

## CORPORATIONS

[As steel mills sneeze, global shippers catch a cold](#) (China Real Time Report, 6/30/2010) For all its failures at forging a united front to control global iron-ore prices, China still has the heft to remind us that the appetite of the world's biggest steel factory matters, a lot, when it comes to influencing commodity markets.

[Apple under pressure to open up on China supply chain](#) (Time, 6/30/2010) Environmental NGOs in China and the U.S. are trying to redirect the world's

fixation on the new iPhone 4 to the environmental records of the factories where it and other mobile phones and computers are built in China. In particular, the groups have been revving up pressure on Apple to answer questions about pollution regulation across its supply chain, calling for the U.S. company and its peers to be more transparent about potential oversight at its suppliers' factories in China.

[Steel ass'n: China cannot supply global steel industry](#) (People's Daily, 6/30/2010)

The removal of tax rebates on some steel products "reflects China's increasingly prudent attitude towards exports of resources including steel," said Shan Shanghua, secretary general of the China Iron and Steel Association (CISA), on June 29.

[BYD, Changan Vehicles approved for energy subsidies](#) (Bloomberg, 6/30/2010)

BYD Co., backed by billionaire Warren Buffett, and Chongqing Changan Automobile Co. are among 16 Chinese automakers approved for a government energy- efficiency subsidy as China steps up efforts to curb pollution and cut fuel imports.

[Three lead smelters in China Jiyuan phase out capacity sources](#) (Reuters,

6/30/2010) Three lead smelters in Jiyuan city in Henan, China's top lead producing province, phased out 150,000 tonnes a year of capacity in the first half of the year on environment issues, sources at two of the smelters said on Wednesday.

[India scores bio-piracy victory](#) (Asia Times, 6/29/2010) India scored a stunning victory over China on June 10. It did not come in the two Asian rivals' unresolved boundary dispute, nascent cyber-war, or race for influence in international relations. Rather, it occurred in the scientific-technical environs of the European Patent Office (EPO) on a turf that is likely to become a major battleground - bio-piracy or the theft of traditional flora, fauna and knowledge forms.

[China National Nuclear: Plan to build power plant in Sichuan](#) (Dow Jones,

6/28/2010) China National Nuclear Corp. has officially launched preliminary work on a plan to build a nuclear power plant in southwestern China's Sichuan province, the company said on its website.

[After China deal, clean tech firm gets White House invite](#) (ABC News, 6/29/2010)

For [New Jersey entrepreneur Chuck Provini](#), it took a trip to halfway around the world to finally get the attention he wanted here at home.

[Caterpillar to increase excavator production in China](#) (PRNewswire, 6/28/2010) In

support of its long-term global strategy for meeting customer demand for

excavators, and recognizing the rapid expansion of opportunities in the key growth markets of Asia, Caterpillar Inc. (NYSE: [CAT](#)) announced today its expansion plans for the company's excavator facility in Xuzhou, China.

[Yingli Green Energy becomes leading integrated solar panel maker](#) (International Business Times, 6/28/2010) At a time when [China](#) has been criticized for producing massive amounts of pollution, especially in its coal-fired, electricity-generating plants, a little-known green energy company headquartered in Baoding, southwest of Beijing, named Yingli Green Energy Company, has emerged as one of the fastest-growing and greenest companies in the world.

## GOVERNMENT

[China awarded international water prize for Yellow River Management](#) (Xinhua, 6/29/2010) China's Yellow River Conservancy Commission (YRCC) received the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize for its outstanding accomplishments in integrated river basin management on Tuesday evening.

[China and Norway to join hands in environment protection](#) (China Knowledge, 6/28/2010) Cooperation between China and Norway on environmental issue has gone a step forward after a two-day seminar on Sino-Norwegian Environmental Collaboration successfully held in the Norway Pavilion earlier this month at the World Expo Shanghai 2010, source reported.

[China to subsidize early scrapping of old ships, oil tankers](#) (Dow Jones Newspapers, 6/27/2010) China's government said Monday it will offer subsidies to encourage the shipping industry to scrap old ships and single-hull oil tankers before they come to the end of their useful life, a move that will likely give a boost to domestic shipbuilders.

[Hong Kong air pollution blamed on political system](#) (AP, 6/26/2010) Democracy activists are not the only ones unhappy with a slow pace of electoral reform in Hong Kong. Environmentalists blame the city's political setup — which guarantees a strong voice for business — for stymieing efforts to clean up Hong Kong's increasingly dirty air.

[China is pushing water uphill](#) (The Financial Express, 6/25/2010) Floods in China have killed at least 155 people since April and made over a million homeless even though the massive Three Gorges Dam was supposed to prevent such catastrophes. China's latest and even bigger project, to divert water from the south to the north, is not likely to work either: like many countries, China needs more local rights and fewer vainglorious schemes.

China's export economy begins turning inward (New York Times, 6/24/2010) For years, Chinese leaders looked to the millions of poor workers from the country's interior as the engine of a roaring export economy. They would move to coastal provinces, toil in factories and churn out the world's household goods.