

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



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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>Green tax may mean end to polluter's profits</u> (Global Times, 7/23/2010) On July 15, Pan Yue, deputy head of China's Ministry of Environment Protection, confirmed that ministries were collaborating on an environmental tax. It is expected that some local governments in Hubei, Beijing, and Jiangxi will begin to experiment with this new policy instrument soon, but the details are still not made public.

<u>Time to slow down China's breakneck growth</u> (Global Times, 7/22/2010) Latest government statistics show that China's GDP registered a year-on-year growth of 11.1 percent in the first half of 2010. Signs are emerging that the nation's supercharged economic growth may be reaching its limit, The Wall Street Journal pointed out on July 15.

<u>Five ways to cut China energy use</u> (Christian Science Monitor, 7/21/2010) China's voracious appetite for energy doesn't have to keep growing at the rate of this past decade, says Fatih Birol, chief economist of the International Energy Agency (IEA).

<u>Does China's energy appetite make it a great power?</u> (Foreign Policy, 7/21/2010) The Paris-based International Energy Administration, the energy equivalent of the G-20, made a notable announcement on Monday: Last year, China became the biggest energy consumer on the planet. (BP came close to saying so a month ago as well.)

PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

<u>China holds green funeral</u> (Sify, 7/22/2010) In a first-of its-kind, China organized a mass environment- friendly funeral where the ashes of over 250 people were put in bio-degradable urns and buried or immersed in a pool.

<u>The growing impacts of China's oil spill</u> (Mongabay.com, 7/22/2010) Two oil pipelines exploded Friday in the Chinese province of Liaoning beginning China's worst oil spill; nearly a week later 400,000 gallons of oil have spread over 166 square miles, according to China's state media. The pipeline has since been fixed and is operating again. While the spill is small compared to the BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico—which currently covers nearly 3,000 square miles with approximately 100 to 200 million gallons of oil—its impact regionally will likely be very large.

<u>Geological disasters blamed for 464 dead, missing in China in H1</u> (People's Daily, 7/22/2010) Geological disasters have been blamed for 464 people listed as dead or missing in the first half of this year, the most since 2001, according to data from the China Institute of Geo-Environment Monitoring.

<u>Green fury over China's golfing Hawaii</u> (CNN, 7/21/2010) A drive to turn China's only tropical island into a golfing haven is causing uproar among environmental groups. Luxury golf resorts are springing up in all corners of Hainan as the local government steps up its campaign to transform the island into the Hawaii of the east. The biggest project is Mission Hills Hainan, a vast undertaking that when finished will have at least 10 courses and cover an area nearly one and a half times the size of Manhattan.

<u>China wind power priorities offers Europe opportunities, Oxford study says</u> (Bloomberg, 7/16/2010) China's changing priorities for wind power are creating opportunities for European companies as the world's biggest polluter seeks to boost wind-park efficiency, a study by researchers at Oxford University said.

CORPORATIONS

<u>Tesco China and Lenovo in Green IT partnership</u> (ChinaCSR, 7/23/2010) The British retail giant Tesco Plc recently announced that it had established a partnership with Lenovo Group, to develop green IT projects in China.

<u>China's auto production base steers towards "green" future</u> (Xinhua, 7/22/2010) Visitors to an international automobile fair in northeast China this year noticed a change taking place at the event: a greater number of hybrid and all-electric vehicles on display.

<u>China to begin domestic carbon trading</u> (Times of India, 7/22/2010) China will start carbon trading in domestic businesses during the next five-year plan beginning in 2011 with an aim to reduce carbon emission.

<u>China starts up first fourth generation nuclear reactor</u> (Xinhua, 7/22/2010) Chinese scientists have succeeded in testing the country's first experimental fourth generation nuclear reactor, an expert said here on Wednesday.

Rutger's Chinese solar panels show clean-energy economic shift (Bloomberg, 7/22/2010) At Rutgers University in New Jersey, 7,600 panels convert sunlight into electricity, saving some \$200,000 in energy costs this year in the biggest solar-power experiment at a U.S. college.

Zijin mining: Pollution draws Beijing's ire (Bloomberg, 7/22/2010) Until recently, Zijin Mining Group, much like the Chinese economy, was on a roll. Sales have grown 68-fold in the past decade. Zijin became the mainland's largest publicly traded gold producer, a major supplier of copper, and had big international growth plans. Then came a leak of 2.4 million gallons of acidic copper waste from Zijin's flagship mine in Fujian province in early July that resulted in a polluted river, almost 2,000 metric tons of poisoned fish (enough to have fed 72,000 people for a year), and a probe by Chinese regulators into the timing of the disclosure of the mishap.

Zhuhai oil energy plant now operational – increases biofuel production capacity: biomagnetics prepares to file patents (MarketWatch, 7/21/2010) Biomagnetics Diagnostics Corp., (PINK SHEETS:BMGP) a developer of revolutionary diagnostic systems and other innovative technologies, today announced that Zhuhai Oil Energy Science and Technology Ltd. has significantly increased its biofuel production capacity at its Guangdong operation. Biomagnetics recently signed a letter of intent to acquire Zhuhai Oil Energy including all assets, intellectual property, plant, equipment, and a previously signed contract to supply cleaner burning biofuels to a local Guangdong province electric power plant.

<u>China-based AgFeed to buy US hog producer M2P2</u> (AP, 7/20/2010) China-based pork and animal feed manufacturer AgFeed Industries Inc. said Tuesday it will buy U.S. hog producer M2P2 LLC for \$16 million in cash and stock in a move to further modernize its farming methods and nearly triple its hog production by 2015.

Zijin stymied by worst China metal spill in years (Bloomberg, 7/19/2010) Zijin Mining Group Co., China's biggest gold producer, planned for two big foreign acquisitions this year. Chairman Chen Jinghe instead is saddled with regulatory probes and a plunging share price after the industry's worst environmental accident in years.

<u>BP oil spill: failed safety device on Deepwater Horizon rig was modified in Chna</u> (Guardian, 7/18/2010) <u>BP</u> ordered the owner of the Deepwater Horizon rig, whose explosion led to the worst environmental disaster in US history, to overhaul a crucial piece of the rig's safety equipment in China, the *Observer* has learnt. The blow-out preventer – the last line of defence against an out-of-control well – subsequently failed to activate and is at the centre of investigations into what caused the disaster.

<u>China's bamboo industry booms for greener economy</u> (Xinhua, 7/18/2010) China's flourishing bamboo industry is becoming one of the pillar sectors in the country's forestry industry and also a key in the country's efforts to establish a low-carbon economy, an industry leader said in Beijing.

Buffett-backed BYD in Chinese land probe (Brisbane Times, 7/16/2010) BYD Co., the Chinese automaker backed by US billionaire Warren Buffett, fell to its lowest in more than ten months after the nation's government said it will ask local authorities to investigate alleged illegal land usage in Shaanxi province.

<u>China starts 1st nuclear generator since 2007</u> (Reuters, 7/16/2010) China Guangdong Nuclear Power Group, one of China's two leading nuclear power developers, started generating power on Thursday from a new unit that is expected to be commercially operational by October after a ramp-up, the group said.

Zijin says three managers detained for acid spill (Bloomberg, 7/16/2010) Zijin Mining Group Co., China's largest gold producer, said three managers were detained for an

acid leak that poisoned tons of fish, sending its shares to the lowest in almost 18 months.

GOVERNMENT

<u>Chinese Science Minister visits Argonne Laboratory to study alternative fuel</u> (Voice of America, 7/23/2010) In a report recently published by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, China has surpassed the United States as the leading emitter of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Scientists in both China and the United States are working to develop technologies that could replace gasoline as a source of fuel in automobiles and, in turn, reduce the amount of pollution contributing to global warming.

<u>US announces climate change help for Mekong region</u> (AFP, 7/23/2010) The United States on Thursday announced a three-year program to help countries in the Mekong River basin adapt to the impact of climate change on water resources, food security and livelihoods.

<u>Beijing intensifies carbon capture and sequestration work with U.S.</u> (New York Times, 7/21/2010) Last year, directors of the U.S. Energy Department's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and National Energy Technology Laboratory signed a memorandum of understanding with researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences to push research and development efforts in carbon capture and storage technologies.

<u>China may spend \$738 billion on clean energy projects</u> (Bloomberg, 7/20/2010) China, the world' s biggest polluter, may spend about 5 trillion yuan (\$738 billion) in the next decade developing cleaner sources of energy to reduce emissions from burning oil and coal, a government official said.

<u>China uses oil-eating bacteria in Dalian oil spill cleanup</u> (People's Daily, 7/20/2010) Over 23 tonnes of oil-eating bacteria are being used to clean up the oil spill off the coast of northeast China's Dalian City, four days after pipelines exploded near one of China's largest oil reserve bases.

<u>China vows to stop restaurant reuse of cooking oil</u> (CBS, 7/20/2010) Chinese call it "gutter oil" - a foul slop fished up from sewage drains or collected

at restaurant back doors - and it's being used widely in the country's eateries.

<u>Germany, China sign billions of dollars in deals</u> (AP, 7/16/2010) Chinese and German companies signed deals worth billions of dollars to make trucks and power equipment Friday as the prime ministers declared their countries' economies had recovered from last year's global recession.