



# ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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

[China and U.S. will lead the Next-Gen electric vehicle race](#) (Environmental Leader, 8/5/2010) The world's largest automotive markets, U.S. and China, are also the greatest consumers of energy. China consumed the equivalent of 2.3 billion tons of oil in 2009, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), and is expected to demand the equivalent of 2.8 billion tons of oil by 2015. While China consumes roughly half the amount of oil as the U.S., it uses more than three times as much coal.

[Minding the enforcement gap](#) (China Dialogue, 8/5/2010) The dismissal of six environmental- protection officials in Anhui – simply for doing their job – is a sorry reminder of the chasm between central government ambition and local realities, says Ma Jun.

[Talent fleeing big cities can empower the rest of China](#) (Global Times, 8/5/2010) The rush to the big cities is gradually wearing off, and another social wave is hitting China. People who have spent a few years living and working in metropolises such as Beijing and Shanghai are now escaping to second-tier cities. In the 1980s, every kid wanted to go to the big city. And they did. Today, the permanent population of Beijing is over 19 million. With millions of tourists flooding to the capital, the population can reach as high as 21 million at any one point.

[Recent environmental accidents inevitable](#) (Economic Observer, 7/30/2010) During the past half month in China environmental accidents have been on the rise. In the evening of July 28, a severe flood which had begun six days before in northeast China's Jilin City washed 7,000 chemical barrels into the Songhua River, reminding us of a similar heavy chemical pollution spill in this river five years ago.

## PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

[Vast floating islands of rubbish which threaten to block the world's biggest dam \(Daily Mail, 8/5/2010\)](#) It is the world's biggest dam which promised to provide environmentally friendly energy to millions. But China's Three Gorges superstructure is now under threat from vast floating islands of rubbish and debris which have been swept into the Yangtze River by torrential rain and flooding.

[Gigantous bus straddles road, drives above cars](#) (Discovery, 8/5/2010) China is all about the future of transportation. [High-speed trains criss cross the countryside](#), sending people whizzing from Shanghai to Beijing at speeds over 200 miles per hour. And General Motors has even [developed a tiny urban car](#) that's designed just for Chinese urban drivers.

[Chinese environmental crusaders win "Asia's Nobel"](#) (AFP, 8/3/2010) Three Chinese environmental campaigners were on Monday named among the winners of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awards, regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel prize.

[China's farmers mount movement against land grab](#) (Reuters, 8/3/2010) While builders in rapidly growing Gushi township in central China have been feverishly erecting apartments, Meng Xiangmeng has been building barricades to thwart them. A banner nailed to the front of his home at Liulipeng village on the edge of Gushi, where blocks of new housing eat into fields read: "The Constitution grants citizens an inviolable right to private property."

[Over 100 dead, missing in China floods](#) (The Times of India, 8/1/2010) [Floods](#) and rain-triggered landslides have left more than 100 people dead or missing in northeast China's [Jilin](#) province over the last 10 days, officials said on Sunday.

[Group says China's official oil spill figure may be too low](#) (New York Times, 7/30/2010) [Greenpeace](#) is raising questions about whether the Chinese government has been underreporting the size of [one of the country's worst oil spills](#), near the northern port city of Dalian.

[Environmental disclosures should be China pension fund demand](#) (Bloomberg, 7/29/2010) China should ask its 777 billion yuan (\$115 billion) national pension fund to demand more corporate disclosure on the environment as accidents in the past month polluted rivers and the sea, a group said.

## CORPORATIONS

[No gain from rain for Indonesia coal as China demand cools: Energy markets](#) (Bloomberg, 8/5/2010) The heaviest rainfall in seven years in Indonesia, the world's second-biggest coal exporter, is failing to stoke price gains as Chinese demand cools. The price of [coal](#) leaving the port of Newcastle in Australia, the benchmark gauge for Asia, has dropped 1.3 percent this year, according to IHS McCloskey, a Petersfield, U.K.-based provider of coal data. Last year, it rose 8.5 percent.

[Taiwan business furious at court's environment decision](#) (AFP, 8/4/2010) A Taiwanese court decision halting construction of two hi-tech zones on environmental grounds has set off a wave of complaints from businesses increasingly under pressure from Chinese competition.

[China appetite for renewable energy to drive wind power installation capacity finds](#)

[TechSci Research](#) (NewsWire Today, 8/4/2010) According to the research report "China Wind Power Market Outlook 2014" by TechSci Research, The wind power installation in China has been experiencing exponential growth in recent years due to favourable economic and operating environment. The cumulative installed capacity of wind power in China surpassed 25 GW by the end of 2009 as compared to a capacity of around 1.3 GW in 2005. China added more than 13 GW of new wind power installed capacity in 2009, thereby accounting for almost one-third of new capacity additions globally. By dominating the new wind power capacity additions globally in 2009, China has now emerged as the third largest wind power market, just behind U.S and Germany.

[Philippine property giant Ayala Land to invest 220 mln USD in China's eco-city](#)

(People's Daily, 8/3/2010) Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), the Philippines biggest property firm, is venturing in China's property market by investing 220 million U.S. [dollars to develop a 9.78-hectare residential complex in Tianjin Eco-City.](#)

[Two mine accidents in China leave 17 dead, 104 injured and 24 trapped](#) (Xinhua, 8/1/2010) The death toll in an explosion at a coal mine in Linfen City of north China's Shanxi Province early Saturday has risen to 17 after another two bodies were found, local authorities said. The blast at Liugou Coal Mine of Yicheng County also left 104 persons injured, seven of them seriously, as of 11 p.m. Saturday, said Wang Jianshe, head of the county's People's Hospital, where all the injured were admitted.

[Irrational layouts of chemical factories blamed for life-threatening accidents in China](#)

(Xinhua, 7/31/2010) Soldiers and emergency workers are still struggling to retrieve the thousands of chemical-filled barrels that were swept into a major river by rain-triggered floods in northeast China's Jilin Province. Some 3,000 chemical-filled barrels and 4,000 empty ones fell into the Songhua River Wednesday morning after floods swamped the warehouses of two chemical companies in Jilin City, Jilin Province.

[China's industrial accidents quietly on the rise](#) (Time, 7/29/2010) A massive explosion in a southern Chinese city is only the latest in a series of industrial accidents that have hit China in recent weeks. While the country's economic boom has always been dogged by environmental and safety hazards, the frequency of disasters this summer has raised new questions about whether the country can maintain its pace of expansion without doing catastrophic harm to its people and the environment. "These accidents are happening all over China, and the scale ... has become larger and larger," says Wen Bo, a senior fellow with the San Francisco-based NGO Pacific Environment. "You see something you have never seen before, and then you see it again on a larger and larger scale."

## GOVERNMENT

[Future tax could protect environment \(Global Times, 8/6/2010\)](#) China may launch an environmental protection tax in four provinces, China Business News cited an unidentified environmental planning official as saying Thursday. The Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation and the State Environmental Protection Administration will submit a proposal to the State Council soon for collecting an environmental tax in Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi and Gansu provinces, the newspaper reported.

[Hatoyama to head China green pact](#) (The Japan Times, 8/6/2010) The Democratic Party of Japan will launch a group to promote Sino-Japanese cooperation on environmental issues later this month, with former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama serving as chairman, DPJ sources said Thursday.

[China to invest \\$15 billion for green autos](#) (National Post, 8/4/2010) The Chinese government will invest more than 100-billion yuan (\$15.1-billion) to subsidize its fledgling environmentally friendly car industry over the next 10 years, says the Shanghai Securities News. According to a draft plan worked out by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology today, 60-billion yuan will be invested in the development of energy-saving technologies, the newspaper says, citing unnamed sources.

[China develops policies to encourage clean production in pesticide industry](#) (Xinhua, 8/5/2010) China is developing policies to encourage clean production in the pesticide industry, a source with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said on Wednesday.

[Raising a stink](#) (The Economist, 8/5/2010) An oily green algal film slops on the shore of Tai Lake, China's third-largest freshwater body. Its foul odour drifts over nearby villages. By the water's edge it is hard not to retch. Fishermen complain of dizziness. A clean-up campaign launched by the government three years ago has made little progress.

[Tap water supply resumed after manganese contamination in S China town](#) (Xinhua, 8/5/2010) Tap water supply was resumed Wednesday in a south China town after a manganese contamination had led to drinking water shortage for 13,000 people since Monday. Local authorities in Lufeng City, Guangdong Province on Wednesday installed three temporary pipes to be connected to another local tap water plant that was not affected by manganese, amid efforts to ease drinking water shortage for residents.

[China heritage chief says building boom is destroying country's heritage \(Guardian, 8/4/2010\)](#) Frenetic development has been a disaster for conservation, wasted huge amounts of building materials and produced boring city scapes, [China](#)'s top cultural heritage official has said. "Bulldozers have razed many historical blocks," Shan Jixiang said this week. "The protection of cultural heritage in China has entered the most difficult, grave and critical period." The outspoken remarks from Shan, head of the state administration for cultural heritage, echo growing concern about the destruction of buildings which date back centuries.

[China bets future on inland cities](#) (Reuters, 8/3/2010) China has put big money down on a momentous gamble: rush to build new cities in its poor interior, then wait for people to come and help drive the economy to a new stage of growth.

[China's boom hurts energy-saving drive](#) (AP, 8/3/2010) Government efforts to make China's fuel-guzzling economy more efficient suffered a setback this year as surging growth drove a boom in steelmaking and other energy-intensive industries.

[China keen to learn from Malaysia in developing tourist islands](#) (Bernama, 8/3/2010) China is keen to learn from Malaysia's experience in developing its islands into major international tourist destinations while at the same time, preserve the islands' eco-systems. China's Tourism Minister Shao Qiwei said Malaysia's experience in this area was important as China also wished to develop its Hainan Island into a popular tourist destination.

[China leads in outer space pollution](#) (Space Daily, 8/2/2010) China has topped the list of the world's major polluters of the near-Earth space environment, followed by the United States and Russia, the Russian Federal Space Agency Roscosmos said on Friday.

[State-owned bidders fuel China's land boom](#) (New York Times, 8/1/2010) The Anhui Salt Industry Corporation is a state-owned company that has 11,000 employees, access to government salt mines and a Communist Party boss.

[China needs \\$118 billion to build high speed rail lines that cut pollution](#) (Bloomberg, 7/28/2010) China, the world's most populous nation, needs about 800 billion yuan (\$118 billion) to complete high-speed rail projects as the country invests in train services to pare pollution and travel times.