



# ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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



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**Issue 74, August 30th to September 5th, 2010**

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*Now in cooperation with*  
**chinadialogue**



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## OPINION

[Asia's best](#) (Inquirer, 9/5/2010) Last month, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards were all set to recognize seven individuals who had made possible profound changes through their

endeavors and creations in Asia. But when two of the three Chinese awardees suddenly canceled their trips to Manila, the word “boycott” hung in the air. To Filipinos, it was yet another fallout from the botched rescue attempt of tourists held hostage by a dismissed police officer that left eight Hong Kong nationals dead. It was China striking back. It would have been a shame if it were true, because the Aug. 23 tragedy was all about death, but this year’s RM Awards were all about life and how to change it for the better.

[The greening of China](#) (The Nation, 9/2/2010) In 2004, Elizabeth Economy, director for Asia Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, published a sweeping indictment of China's environmental policy in her book *The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China's Future*. She described how a centuries-old tradition of trashing the earth, exacerbated by China's helter-skelter economic expansion since the late 1970s, had led to devastation: erosion, flooding, desertification, water and food crises, shrinking forests, and air and water pollution. "China's leaders were well aware that they were trading environmental health for economic growth," she wrote.

[Foreign policy: China's traffic jam has heart of coal](#) (NPR, 9/2/2010) Seldom has energy transportation stirred up as much attention as the recent coal-truck-driven [traffic tie-ups](#) outside Beijing. Over the weekend, *The Wall Street Journal's* numbers guru, [Carl Bialik](#), took the latest, long stab at intellectualizing crowded roads, but is there really much more to say about the 60-mile-long, 11-day traffic jam, and its successors?

[Why greening China is a national priority](#) (Earth911, 8/30/2010) It's a 14-hour flight from New York City to Beijing. But despite the distance, the similarities between the two cities are indubitable. Just like New York, Beijing is a thriving mega world of jam-packed architectural wonders, raw talent, cut-throat business and a resilience to overcome its own marked recession.

## PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

[Warmer temperatures to reduce crop yields](#) (lol, 9/2/2010) With the climate set to get warmer from greenhouse gases, Chinese scientists predicted on Thursday that

freshwater for agriculture will shrink further in China, reducing crop yields in the years ahead.

[Global CO2 emissions drop, emissions in China and India rise 9% and 6%](#) (AltTransport, 9/2/2010) For the first time this decade global CO2 emissions decreased 1.3 percent in 2009, [according](#) to a study published in the journal Environmental Research Letters. But that drop was offset by a significant rise in emissions in China and India by 9 and 6 percent.

[Hong Kong's pollution above 'very high' for sixth day in central district](#) (Bloomberg, 9/1/2010) Air pollution in Hong Kong's main business district remained "very high" for the sixth straight day as a tropical storm slowed the dispersion of motor-vehicle emissions in the city.

[Environmental lawsuits often become lonely fights](#) (IPS, 8/30/2010) Feng Jun's fight against a local government and the steel mills he believes polluted the water that killed his daughter has cost him nearly everything.

[Cholera outbreak hits eastern China](#) (ChannelNewsAsia, 8/29/2010) At least 30 people in eastern China have been stricken by cholera in recent weeks, with unsanitary food conditions believed to be behind the outbreak, state press said Sunday. Twenty people remain hospitalised with the disease, which has spread in Mengcheng county of Anhui province over the past two weeks, the Beijing Times reported, citing local health officials.

## CORPORATIONS

[Smoke-free scenes in films, TV growing in China](#) (China Daily, 9/4/2010) Although smoking scenes are still widespread in Chinese films and TV programs, the number of tobacco-free works showed a marked increase from 2008, according to 2009 statistics recently announced by the Chinese Association on Tobacco Control at a press conference in Beijing.

[A burning debate over natural gas drilling](#) (CBS, 9/4/2010) The natural gas-producing shale that lies under 34 states is now being seen as a game-changer in helping meet the nation's energy needs for decades to come. But the process of extracting that natural gas, dubbed "fracking," is fueling environmental fears. CBS News chief investigative correspondent Armen Keteyian has more.

[China coal miner digs down to dodge high housing costs](#) (Telegraph, 9/2/2010) Needing more room for his family but priced out of a soaring property market, Chen Xinnian, 64, spent four years digging out the subterranean chamber under his tiny house in the city of Zhengzhou, the China Youth Daily said.

[Low prices stoke coal sales, despite pollution concerns](#) (Boston.com, 8/30/2010) Coal trading is poised to rise to a record high this year as prices at less than half their 2008 peak stoke demand, defying governments' efforts to phase out the most-polluting fossil fuel.

[China: Rare earth export cuts protect environment](#) (Reuters, 8/29/2010) China's decision to slash export quotas of rare earth elements was a necessary step to protect the country's environment, commerce minister Chen Deming said following criticism from Japanese officials.

## GOVERNMENT

[Sri Lankan waters run deep with China](#) (Asia Times, 8/13/2010) The first phase of Sri Lanka's Hambantota [project](#), a showpiece of the country's significant and growing cooperation with China, is almost complete. Filling the harbor basin with

China to help India in protecting its big cats (Press Trust of India, 9/5/2010) Under attack for not cracking down on use of tiger bones and body parts in Chinese traditional medicine, China today agreed to share "actionable intelligence" with India. An Indian Environment and Forests delegation, which held talks with their Chinese counterparts for the past five days, came back today on an optimistic note on Chinese seriousness in cracking down to end trafficking of tiger parts.

[China to block loans to firms on environment blacklist – paper](#) (Reuters, 9/4/2010)

China's central bank has set up a databank on companies' environmental records and banks were told not to approve loans to companies that have violated environmental rules, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

[China-aided development projects benefiting Ethiopian communities](#) (Xinhua, 9/4/2010)

Development projects being carried out with the aid of the Chinese government have significantly benefited Ethiopians while creating significant number of local jobs. The projects are being undertaken in various sectors mainly in health, education, and infrastructure programs.

[US and China invest \\$100 million in energy research partnership](#) (Inhabitat, 9/3/2010)

As it turns out, the United States and China are going to walk hand in hand into the [renewable energy](#) future. Yesterday, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu [announced](#) that the two countries have formed the *U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center* and will both provide a total of \$100 million dollars in funding to research to get both energy hungry countries on the path to a greener future. While the plan sounds like a green dream come true, there's a twist — the problem with the new initiative is that a half of the cash is going to clean coal technology, something we know doesn't exist.

[China's renewed effort to clean up its act](#) (Independent, 9/3/2010) When it comes to environmental issues, China tends to generate negative headlines – its badly polluted skies, its dirty rivers, and its melting glaciers are all images we associate with China's remarkable economic rise. What is less well known is that China is leading the world in adopting key green technologies to help to fuel the country's economic boom. The central government in Beijing has set a target of generating 15 per cent of all electricity from renewable sources by 2020, and the effects of China going green will be felt all around the world.

[China sustains blunt “You first” message on CO2](#) (New York Times, 9/2/2010) Yu Qingtai, China's lead negotiator in climate talks from 2007 through the [tumultuous conference](#) in Copenhagen last December, recently gave a blunt speech at the Beijing University [School of International Studies](#) on climate, diplomacy and the balance of national and global interests in limiting global warming.

[Authorities to tackle 50-year smoldering coalfield fires in north China](#) (Global Times, 9/2/2010) North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region launched an initiative Wednesday to extinguish fires which have been smoldering for nearly 50 years at Wuda coalfields in Wuhai city and have caused serious air pollution, according to China National Radio.

[Floods, landslides leave 3,185 dead in China this year: MCA](#) (China Daily, 9/2/2010) Floods and landslides have left 3,185 people dead and more than 1,060 missing in China this year, China's Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) said Tuesday.

[HIV discrimination case filed in China](#) (AP, 8/31/2010) A municipal court in central China has accepted the country's first lawsuit alleging work discrimination because of HIV status, state media reported Tuesday.

[China, Russia boost efforts to save tigers](#) (AFP, 8/30/2010) China and Russia have agreed to set up the first cross-border protection zone for Siberian tigers, as they try to boost efforts to save the endangered species, state media reported Monday.

[China boosts, boasts hydroelectric power](#) (UPI, 8/30/2010) China, whose latest hydropower station came on line last week, has laid claim to having the world's largest hydropower capacity, authorities said.

[China asks C.E.O. to work for state](#) (New York Times, 8/30/2010) The Chinese government ran an enormous help-wanted advertisement on Monday seeking professional managers for some of its biggest state-controlled companies, a novel but not unprecedented move that apparently reflected unhappiness with [the companies' current performance](#).