



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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



环球中国环境专家协会
Professional Association for China's Environment

www.pacechina.net

Issue 89, December 12th to December 18th, 2010

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Now in cooperation with
chinadialogue



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 cc.huang2@gmail.com. PACE especially 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 [here](#).

OPINION

[Is it time to drop Beijing as capital?](#) (Global Times, 12/17/2010) Is Beijing too modern to remain a livable town? Traffic jams and environmental problems in Beijing are leading some experts to revisit a decades-long proposal for China to relocate its capital to Central China or another part of the country.

[Who spends the most energy on research, development, and deployment?](#) (The Atlantic, 12/17/2010) I've been swamped with other duties lately, but wanted to quickly point out [this report](#) from Harvard's Belfer Center. It's a comparison of energy-related RD&D across Brazil, Russia, India, Mexico, China, and South Africa, or the "BRIMCS".

[Africa: Is China greening continent?](#) (AllAfrica.com, 12/16/2010) Is China smartening up its environmental and social act in Africa? It certainly wants to be seen as doing just that. One telling example was the recent Chinese government-sponsored 'top Chinese enterprises in Africa' competition, won by China Road and Bridge Corporation [CRBC].

[China and India's growing energy rivalry](#) (Bloomberg, 12/16/2010) Competition for oil and gas resources will be the most likely cause of serious tension between the two Asian giants in the years ahead, say columnists John Lee and Charles Cull.

[Relic of a planned economy](#) (China Dialogue, 12/16/2010) Chinese business is paying the price for inefficient and unfair green policies. It's time for the government to re-think its role in environmental protection, writes Tang Hao.

[What's more toxic, China or India?](#) (The Washington Post, 12/14/2010) Politicians opposed to unilateral reductions in U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions often claim that China and India are the real problem. Some have even supported legislation barring federal regulation of carbon dioxide emissions until the world's most populous nations do the same. China and India are always lumped together. But which of the two countries is more dangerous to the environment?

[Does China face a 'peak coal' threat?](#) (New York Times, 12/14/2010) China's ravenous appetite for energy puts the country at risk of reaching a point of "peak coal," when demand for coal will outstrip domestic production capacity, a growing number of experts believe.

PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

[Researcher's back Chinese farmer's energy efficient house](#) (SciDev.net, 12/17/2010) A farmer in China is partnering with scientists to promote his design for low-carbon households.

His concept, developed over the past 30 years on his farm in northeast China, is a combination of existing green technologies. Now the country's scientists want to scale up the design to make it affordable.

[WikiLeaks cables: the Dalai Lama is right to put climate change first](#) (Guardian, 12/17/2010) The Dalai Lama, according to the latest release of [WikiLeaks cables](#), told US diplomats that, for Tibet, [climate change](#) is a more urgent issue than a political settlement. This will certainly dismay some of the more radical elements of the region's independence movement. Many of the younger Tibetans in exile are already frustrated with their spiritual leader's moderate and non-violent approach. For them, independence will always trump the environment.

[US port to send coal to China hits snag](#) (Forbes, 12/16/2010) A coalition of environmental groups and clean energy advocates are delaying construction of a huge port to be used for shipping coal to Asia.

[Burma activists say China's dam harms economy downriver](#) (Voice of America, 12/14/2010) A group of Burma activists say a dam in China has dropped the water level of an eastern tributary to Burma's Irrawaddy River to a historic low, making water flows

erratic and damaging the economy in the area. China has been criticized before for not sharing enough information on its upstream dams

CORPORATIONS

[China Datang Corp. raises \\$642 million for wind energy projects](#) (Renewable Energy Magazine, 12/17/2010) China Datang Corp Renewable Power Co, the renewable energy unit of China Datang Corp., has raised \$642 million (€485.7 million) from an initial public offering in Hong Kong, much of it intended to pay for wind energy projects in Inner Mongolia.

[Uranium investors enriched by China](#) (Wall Street Journal, 12/17/2010) A tiny event in a nuclear reactor—the collision of a neutron with an atom of nuclear fuel—triggers enormous energy through a powerful chain reaction. Something similar happened in the uranium markets last month.

[Fisker Automotive to sell electric cars in China](#) (Xinhua, 12/16/2010) The California-based premium electric vehicle manufacturer Fisker Automotive is ready to sell its environment-friendly low carbon-emission cars in China next fall, the company announced on Wednesday. Executives from the Fisker Automotive and China Grand Auto(CGA) formalized the non-exclusive agreement during a ceremony near the CGA headquarters in Shanghai, the company said in a press release.

[Chinese giant strides into renewable technologies](#) (Euractiv, 12/16/2010) A perfect storm of environmental deterioration, economic opportunism and geopolitical jockeying for position is fuelling a rapid Chinese move into renewable technologies such as wind, solar and wave power, according to Miranda Schreurs, director of the Environmental Policy Research Institute at the Freie Universität Berlin.

[Walt Disney Company makes significant commitment to aid China's reforestation efforts in Inner Mongolia](#) (PR Web, 12/15/2010) Building on its long history of conservation and environmental stewardship, The Walt Disney Company today announced a US \$2 million (RMB 13.36 million) investment in the reforestation of ecologically degraded lands in the Heling'er region of Inner [Mongolia](#).

[China Coal Energy's raw output up 40% in November](#) (Capital Value, 12/14/2010) China Coal Energy (601898, 1898. HK), China's second-largest listed coal company, posted a 40-percent year-on-year increase in output to 10.88 million tons in November, reports China Business News, citing a company filing.

['Perverse' CO2 payments send flood of money to China](#) (Reuters, 12/13/2010) To offset their own carbon emissions, European companies have been wildly overpaying China to incinerate a powerful greenhouse gas known as hfc 23. And in a bizarre twist, those

payments have spurred the manufacture of a harmful refrigerant that is being smuggled into the U.S. and used illegally.

GOVERNMENT

[China to step up efforts to control Mother Nature](#) (AFP, 12/17/2010) China plans to step up a weather-manipulation programme that has stirred debate about tinkering with Mother Nature, state media said on Friday.

Zheng Guoguang, director of the China Meteorological Administration, said chronic water shortages in parts of the country will worsen in the decades ahead and "thus we need to control the weather," Xinhua news agency reported.

[Israel, China discuss cooperation in search for renewable energy](#) (People's Daily, 12/17/2010) Israeli and Chinese experts on Thursday wrapped up a three-day conference at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU) that focused on the prospects of joining forces in the search for affordable, efficient renewable energy.

[India, China sign MoU on green tech](#) (Indian Express, 12/17/2010) In keeping with their close camaraderie on the issue of climate change, India and China on Thursday signed an MoU on green technology that will enable them to jointly explore low-carbon technology solutions to drive their fast-growing economies. The MoU was one of the six agreements signed by the two countries after talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

[China, India to reduce November coal purchases from South Africa](#) (Business Week, 12/16/2010) China and India imported less coal from South Africa in November as shipments from Richards Bay terminal declined from a record, said mjunction Services Ltd., a web-based trader.

[China to further promote green energy](#) (Xinhua, 12/15/2010) China will increasingly promote the use of clean energy, since the country's energy needs are expected to increase by an equivalent of 2 billion tonnes of coal in the next decade, said Dai Yande, an official of the National Development and Reform Commission Tuesday during the 2010 Asia Energy Forum in Guangzhou City.

[E Timor counts costs of Chinese power plants](#) (Sydney Morning Herald, 12/15/2010) The construction of two second-hand Chinese power plants in East Timor is an escalating environmental and safety disaster that has been hit by delays and cost blow-outs, the project's supervisors say.

[China makes an eco-friendly step in the right direction](#) (Mail & Guardian, 12/15/2010) China, cast as the wrecker of the United Nations climate negotiations last year, went

some way towards rehabilitation at the Cancun summit recently amid reports that it is prepared to compromise on a core United States demand.

[Chaos in China over saving energy](#) (Newsweek, 12/13/2010) Shortages of diesel at gas stations, factories forced to suspend production, homes left without electricity. Hard to imagine that these could be the results of a government campaign, but that's recently been the case in some parts of [China](#). It's the result of a last-minute effort to meet targets for reducing the country's energy intensity—the amount of power consumed per unit of GDP produced.