

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 cc.huang2@gmail.com.

OPINION

How China can advance sustainable development globally (The Energy Collective, 6/8/2011) Nearly two decades ago, I helped advise China on a blueprint for national sustainability in the 21st century. The blueprint – known as Agenda 21 – was prepared jointly by more than fifty different government agencies, state-owned enterprises and other organizations, led by the then-State Planning Commission and State Science and Technology Commission.

<u>Debate: Hydropower</u> (China Daily, 6/7/2011) Should China go ahead with its plan to develop the hydropower sector? It definitely should, says an expert, while a professor of ecology and microbiology disagrees.

The New Frontier in Environmental Finance (World Resources Institute, 6/7/2011) China's overseas presence has brought a new way of doing business to the world. By 2030, China

may become the largest economy in the world. Less than one decade from now, emerging markets including Brazil, China, India, Mexico and Russia, will comprise half of world's top 10 GDP list.

PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs

Cycling: a way to make a contribution and help the environment (China Daily, 6/9/2011) Government officials in Yanqing county have been getting on the bandwagon and trying to boost their county's image as a cycling center.

WWF Russia protects Far East deforestation plans (Ria Novosti, 6/8/2011) The World Wildlife Fund in Russia is taking a stand against plans by a private firm in Russia's Far East to launch lumber production in an area inhabited by the endangered Amur tiger, a senior WWF Russia official said on Wednesday. The forest forms a bridge between the Amur tiger populations in Russia and China.

China Yangtze Finless Propoise faces 80 percent decrease in 30 years (Scientific American, 6/8/2011) The already rare Yangtze finless porpoise (Neophocaena phocaenoides asiaeorientalis) faces an 80 percent drop in its population over the next 30 years, according to research by the Institute of Hydrobiology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

<u>Pollution leads to run on bottled water</u> (China Daily, 6/7/2011) A recent chemical spill into the Xin'an River, an important source of drinking water for east China's Zhejiang Province, has led five water utility companies to stop drawing water from the river, a spokesman with the local environmental protection bureau said on Monday.

CORPORATIONS

<u>Water management firms eye China</u> (China Daily, 6/9/2011) France-based Suez Environment (Suez) and US-based General Electric Co (GE) recently signed an agreement to jointly develop new urban water management technologies, and the first projects will focus on cities in China and France, China Securities Journal reported Thursday.

Major China drug maker latest target in crackdown on pollution (Washington Post, 6/9/2011) Foul waste emitted by one of China's biggest drug makers has become the latest target in a widening campaign to crack down on the country's severe pollution problems.

China wants a piece of Uruguay (Financial Times, 6/9/2011) Government officials on official visits are usually required by protocol to talk of taking bilateral relations to a higher level. But when Xi Jinping, China's vice president, uttered the words during a visit to Uruguay, it smacked of the latest chapter in China's concerted campaign to boost ties with the region's big agricultural, energy and mineral providers.

<u>China's Huaneng renewables raises \$800 million in deferred IPO</u> (New Energy World, 6/9/2011) Chinese wind company Huaneng Renewables Corp has raised approximately

HK\$6.2bn (\$800m), through its IPO ahead of its listing on the Honk Kong Stock Exchange, according to news reports.

<u>China wind energy firms back subsidy move: report</u> (AFP, 6/9/2011) China's wind energy turbine makers have said scrapping subsidies for the domestic sector will have little impact, even as US manufacturers hailed the move as a victory, state media reported Wednesday.

<u>China's Buffett-backed BYD to start IPO roadshow</u> (Business Week, 6/8/2011) BYD Co., a Chinese car and battery maker backed by billionaire investor Warren Buffett, is moving ahead with a share offering meant to raise cash for a major expansion.

China's gas consumption could overtake Russia's by 2020: analysts (Platts, 6/8/2011) China could overtake Russia as the second largest natural gas market by 2020 on the back of demand fueled by a rise in per capita GDP, analysts from Bernstein Research said in a report issued Wednesday.

GOVERNMENT

<u>Electric vehicle batteries 'must improve'</u> (China Daily, 6/10/2011) China's new-energy vehicle production capacity is expected to hit around 300,000 units by 2012, according to the latest research from the Ministry of Science and Technology.

China defines functions of regions to sustain development (China Daily, 6/9/2011) China's top economic planner, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said Wednesday that the central government has carefully defined the functions of regions at local levels with differentiated policies to sustain the country's development.

Choking on the Three Gorges (The Economist, 6/9/2011) Rain along the middle and lower Yangzi River this week has helped alleviate the region's worst drought in 50 years. But it has not doused a storm of criticism of the Three Gorges dam upriver, including allegations that it contributed to the disaster. Opponents of the colossal edifice have been emboldened by rare government admissions of environmental and other "urgent" problems caused by the dam.

Renewable energy subsidies may double: report (Global Times, 6/9/2011) The country could soon double subsidies for renewable energy power generation, a step analysts said was necessary in the short term. However, renewable generators' long-term strategy should be to reduce generating costs, they added.

<u>IEA hails China's new policy for gas usage</u> (China Daily, 6/8/2011) China's new policy for gas usage could usher in a golden era for a greater role of natural gas in the global energy mix, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

China says it will double its solar power output by 2015 (Inhabitat, 6/8/2011) China is already leading the solar energy production market, but it looks like it is going to expand its lead with plans to increase its solar energy output to 10GW by 2015. China is also one of the most attractive countries in the world for renewable energy investors (according to a report from Ernst & Young) and all of these factors have led to a perfect environment for China to double its solar capacity.

China should abandon energy intensive growth mode (People's Daily, 6/7/2011) Data released by the Bureau of Economic Operation Adjustment under the National Development and Reform Committee on June 1 has shown what is behind the tension between supply and demand in regard to coal, electricity, oil and gas. The bureau warns that China should no longer take the road of an "irrational economic structure, extensive growth mode and excessive dependence on resource and energy consumption."

China gives bleak assessment of its battered environment (Reuters, 6/3/2011) More than half of China's cities are affected by acid rain and one-sixth of major rivers are so polluted the water is unfit even for farmland, a senior official said on Friday in a bleak assessment of the environmental price of the country's economic boom.

<u>Central China drought has significant impact on environment</u> (Xinhua, 6/3/2011) A lingering drought in central and east China's provinces has had a devastating impact on the environment there, an environmental official said on Friday at a press conference.

<u>China says addressing pollution in Inner Mongolia</u> (AP, 6/3/2011) A Chinese official says the government and local agencies are addressing pollution concerns that sparked clashes leading to a wave of ethnic protests across Inner Mongolia.

<u>China accelerating legislation against heavy metals pollution</u> (Bloomberg, 6/3/2011) China is accelerating the passage of legislation aimed at preventing heavy metals pollution, said Li Ganije, vice environmental protection minister.

Three Gorges dam is said to hurt areas downstream (New York Times, 6/2/2011) A Chinese official says the planners of the Three Gorges Dam failed to properly gauge its effects on lakes and other bodies of water downstream, according to a report on Thursday in Shanghai Daily, an English-language newspaper.