



# ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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

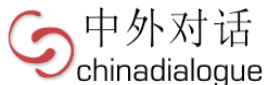


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**By CC Huang, TimQuijano and Chris Langer**

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**WELCOME** to *Environmental China*, PACE's electronic newsletter devoted to giving readers a comprehensive update of news concerning China's environment. Any comments, suggestions or questions can be directed to [cc.huang2@gmail.com](mailto:cc.huang2@gmail.com) and/or [timquijano@gmail.com](mailto:timquijano@gmail.com).

## OPINION

[China may challenge U.S. for shale supremacy](#) (Christopher Swann, Reuters, 9/6/2011) China has a chance of challenging the United States for shale supremacy. So far, only the United States has significantly exploited domestic reserves of shale gas. But China's state oil major Sinopec is now taking shale seriously, and lacks many of the roadblocks that have held developers in other countries back.

## RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[Clashes Over River Pollution](#) (Fung Yat-yiu, Radio Free Asia, 9/7/2011) Fish farmers in southeastern China have blocked a major highway and clashed with police in recent days over

large-scale pollution of the Min river, which they say is behind massive die-offs among their stock.

[Video: Threatened Waters](#) (Sean Gallagher and Michael Zhao, Asia Society's China Green, 9/8/2011) Wetlands are found on every continent on earth, in the form of rivers, shallow lakes, swamps, mangroves, estuaries and floodplains. They are valued for their ability to store flood waters, protect shorelines, improve water quality, and recharge groundwater aquifers. China's wetlands cover some 65 million hectares, ranking first in Asia and representing ten percent of the world's total wetlands. A quiet crisis is occurring however as these important waters are quickly disappearing.

[China's love affair with the car shuns green vehicles](#) (Jonathan Watts, The Guardian, 8/24/2011) Country overtakes the US to become world's largest automobile market, as global sales pass the 1bn mark.

[Public Storm of Dalian](#) (Tang Hao, China Dialogue, 9/6/2011) The triumph of protests against a Chinese chemical plant conceals sinister truths: from officials to activists, everyone is ignoring the rules, says Tang Hao.

[Zhou Xiang: Green Activism in China, 'The Grassroots Way'](#) (Hannah Lincoln and Neha Sakhuja, Asia Society, 8/23/2011) Chinese environmental activist Zhou Xiang is a founder of the non-governmental organization [Green Anhui](#), which was established in 2003 in order to promote environmental awareness and protection in China's Anhui province with a particular focus on the Huai River.

[In Fast-Growing China, a Warning About When Prosperity Isn't Enough](#) (Christina Larson, The Atlantic, 9/7/2011) What happens when the GDP in a Chinese city is still rising, but people begin to feel their quality of life is going down?

[War of the papayas](#) (Kahon Chan, China Daily, 9/8/2011) An alien plant form has invaded Hong Kong and within a few short years has virtually overrun the territory. The invader is a genetically modified form of papayas, which has become so prevalent that a debate is underway as to whether the engineered food should be exempted from the Genetically Modified Food Ordinance, which became law on Sept 1. Local organic farms are mounting vigorous opposition.

## **CORPORATIONS**

[U.S. Business Leaders Gather in China to Address Factory Closures](#) (Marketwire, 9/7/2011) More than 200 U.S. and Chinese business leaders are gathering in Nanjing, China for the Environmental Health and Safety Summit organized by Nepo, Inc. Sept. 7 and 8th to address the closures of more than 70 percent of China's lead-acid battery factories that were abruptly shut down by the Chinese government for environmental and safety reasons earlier this year.

[China seeks Japan tech in rare earth deals: reports](#) (Reuters, 9/7/2011) China told Japanese business leaders that it hoped their companies would bring technology to develop rare-earth products to China, while standing by its controversial decision to limit the metals' exports, Japanese media reported.

[Impact of Chinese Investments in Africa](#) (Oil Price, 9/7/2011) Since the Chinese first began heavily investing in Africa, the continent's citizens have witnessed many changes in the economic, social and cultural spheres of their countries. It is difficult today to say unambiguously whether these changes have been positive or negative overall. One thing is certain, however: Chinese expansion into Africa has raised many questions, especially in areas as environmental protection, respect for human rights, workers' rights and the protection of local labor markets.

[Beijing set to become world's busiest aviation hub with new mega-airport](#) (Jonathan Watts, Guardian, 9/8/2011) Proposals for giant third airport could mean 120 million passengers pass through Chinese capital a year.

[Apple moves to quell pollution row](#) (China Daily, 9/5/2011) Apple has replied via e-mail in response to a report that accused the company of ignoring the pollution caused by its Chinese suppliers.

[Danger all in a day's work](#) (Wang Huazhong, China Daily, 9/8/2011) Zhou, 35, is an environmental and social assessment engineer with the Chinese venture MCC-JCL Aynak Minerals Company Ltd, which is preparing to tap one of the largest copper deposits in Afghanistan's Logar province.

[Exclusive: China curbs Iran energy work](#) (Chen Aizhu and Chris Buckley, Reuters, 9/2/2011) China has put the brakes on oil and gas investments in Iran, drawing ire from Tehran over a pullback that officials and executives said reflected Beijing's efforts to appease Washington and avoid U.S. sanctions on its big energy firms.

[African Energy's New Friends in China](#) (Randall Hackley and Lauren van der Westhuizen, Bloomberg Businessweek, 9/8/2011) From Ethiopia and Sudan to Ghana and South Africa, Chinese companies are pushing big hydro and solar power projects

[China, Kazakhstan Sign Accord to Expand Gas Pipeline Network](#) (Bloomberg, 9/8/2011) China, the world's biggest energy user, signed an accord with Kazakhstan to expand the capacity of a pipeline network delivering natural gas from Central Asia by more than 80 percent.

[Sixteen punished over lead pollution in Southern China](#) (Xinhua, 9/6/2011) Sixteen people have been punished in connection with a lead pollution incident that sickened 241 villagers and students near a battery plant in Guangdong province, local authorities said Tuesday.

[China's latest pollution problem: Nanpan River](#) (9/4/2011) In Sanbao Town, the water isn't safe to drink anymore. After a light rain on June 11, Lu Jicai took his sheep into the mountains, located by the Nanpan River Basin. The sheep drank from a pond and soon began bleating. That

night, Lu's wife made an inventory. Of the 51 sheep on the mountain that day, 38 had died and 13 were on the verge of death. A veterinarian at the local Animal Husbandry Station determined that the sheep had been poisoned.

[Mine games](#) (Pang Qi, Global Times, 9/6/2011) Every summer in the small town of Luhe county children would play and fish in clean water, as the sun would shine upon a healthy and rippling stream. It's a scene that has pleased residents for ages in the hill-surrounded county of South China's Guangdong Province. However, local residents realized those days were over when this past spring a large number of fish and shrimp were found dead not only in their favorite stream, but also in the Xinkeng reservoir, the stream's origin.

[China Aims to Rein In Car Sales](#) (Keith Bradsher, New York Times, 9/4/2011) After a decade of nurturing China's auto industry to become the largest in the world, this country's leaders are having second thoughts.

## GOVERNMENT

[Beijing praises emissions plan](#) (Adam Morton, Sydney Morning Herald, 9/8/2011) Australia's proposed emissions trading scheme has won praise from Beijing, where it will be the model for one of six Chinese pilot schemes to be introduced in 2013.

[Statoil urges Beijing to set aside Norway tension](#) (Andrew Ward, Financial Times, 9/4/2011) Statoil of Norway says it remains keen to develop shale gas resources in China amid signs of a thaw in Beijing's relations with Oslo after a dispute over the Nobel Peace prize.

[China calls for new probe on oil spill](#) (Leslie Hook, Financial Times, 9/7/2011) Wen Jiabao, the Chinese premier, has called for a fresh probe into the offshore oil spill at Penglai 19-3, the clearest sign yet of Beijing's displeasure over the incident that has forced ConocoPhillips to shut down its largest oilfield in China.

[China targets hazardous waste dumping, stockpiles](#) (AP, 9/3/2011) China's environmental regulators say they plan to crack down on dumping and improper storage of hazardous materials, with special attention to heavy metals and electronic waste.

[Tibet's Mining Menace](#) (Gabriel Lafitte, China Dialogue, 9/5/2011) The Tibetan Plateau holds the key to China's accelerating demand for heavy metals, say authorities. But this plan is driven by resource nationalism rather than market logic, argues Gabriel Lafitte.

["Traders will be prosecuted"](#) (Jenny Johnson, China Dialogue, 9/7/2011) US justice officials are taking their fight against illicit timber to China and Russia, where they want to boost awareness of the risks of breaking import laws.

[Beijing Plays Blame the Foreigners](#) (9/8/2011) In the Soviet Union, citizens guessed that a disaster had occurred when Communist Party-controlled media started running stories about

disasters abroad. When the news was released, the public was primed for the message that such things also happen in the West. In today's China something similar is happening with a somewhat different twist.

[Opening Doors To U.S.-China Cooperation On Energy And Environment](#) (Manish Bapna, WRI Insights, 9/6/2011) Vice President Joe Biden had it right in his recent visit to China. Global stability, he [declared in an August 18 speech](#) in Beijing "rests in no small part on the cooperation between the United States and China."

[Planning to Protect the Environment](#) (Lan Xinzhen, Beijing Review, 9/8/2011) U.S.-headquartered diversified power management company Eaton Corp. announced on August 12 that it would achieve sales revenue of \$2 billion in China by the end of 2015, doubling its 2010 revenue in the country. The goal is not out of the company's reach since China is vigorously developing its environmental protection and energy-saving industries.

[China Restarts Progress On Its Nuclear Energy Program](#) (Dan Yurman, Energy Collective, 9/6/2011) After five months China has mostly completed the safety inspections of its 11 GWe of nuclear energy plants. Work will resume on the start of construction of new nuclear power stations. China temporarily suspended its nuclear new build on March 16, 2011.

[China Issues Work Plan for Increasing Energy Efficiency by 2015](#) (Bloomberg, 9/8/2011) China, the world's biggest polluter, issued a working plan for boosting the efficiency with which the nation uses coal, oil and other energy to fuel its economy.

[Smog readings had China hot and bothered](#) (Michael Wines, Sydney Morning Herald, 9/6/2011) This capital city's skies were clogged with pollution, as is often the case, and China's government was concerned. So it summoned officials of the US embassy to a meeting. But the session had nothing to do with hazy skies. Rather, Chinese officials were peeved that the Americans were monitoring pollution themselves, and posting their more precise findings, which usually judged the smog far worse than official Chinese readings, on Twitter for anyone to read.