



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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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 and/or timquijano@gmail.com.

OPINION

[Why is Bill Gates selling nuclear tech to China?](#) (Dominic Basulto, Washington Post, 12/15/2011) TerraPower, a nuclear-power start-up backed by Microsoft founder Bill Gates, former Microsoft chief technology officer Nathan Myhrvold and a handful of top-tier Silicon Valley venture capitalists, has been in negotiations to sell its breakthrough traveling wave reactor technology to China's National Nuclear Corporation.

[All the Hot Air in China](#) (Joseph Sternberg, Wall Street Journal, 12/15/2011) China made ripples earlier this month when its lead climate negotiator suggested that Beijing would be willing to strike a deal on carbon emissions. It hardly matters that this willingness won't kick in until at least 2020, which is one reason the U.N. conference on climate change held in Durban, South Africa, flopped last week. Those who care about such things (we aren't among them) are nonetheless parsing the outcome for signs of whether Beijing really is serious now.

[Has China had a change of heart or just a change of strategy?](#) (Marita Noon, GlobalWarming.org, 12/12/2011) Following the failure in Copenhagen and Cancun, no one expected much from the UN's seventeenth year of climate talks that took place during the past two weeks in South Africa. However, the sluggish conference got a jolt of excitement when China teased that they might agree, after sixteen years of disagreement, to sign a legally binding deal for reducing emissions.

RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[Death-by-air in Beijing exposes untold heart risk](#) (Bloomberg, 12/16/2011) As smog grounded hundreds of flights from Beijing last week, emergency doctors at Peking University People's Hospital faced a rush of patients.

[4 Chinese awarded 'Green Talents' in Germany](#) (Xinhua, 12/16/2011) Four Chinese young researchers were awarded the renowned "Green Talents" sustainability prize on Thursday in Berlin. The prize, launched by German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in 2009, is aimed at exceptional young scientists

active in the field of sustainable development all over the world.

[Durban climate talks: media in China and India cautiously upbeat](#) (Jonathan Watts, The Guardian, 12/12/2011) The China Daily, which is the government's mouthpiece to the English speaking world, was optimistic: "The flexibility all parties have shown to reach an agreement at the end of the Durban climate summit offers a glimmer of hope for our children and grandchildren," one of its commentators said. The article noted that much work still needed to be done but placed the blame firmly on nations that industrialised earlier. "The days of wrangling in Durban have again revealed the lack of political will from some developed countries and their willingness to ignore their

historical responsibilities and the fact that they have shifted the bulk of their manufacturing to developing countries."

[Chinese reindeer wrangler won't be herded into city](#) (LA Times, 12/13/2011)

Ninety-something Maliya Suo decided to let the beasts, not the government, determine her path after members of her tribe were forcibly relocated to a theme-park-like site with the soul of the projects.

[Pollution from China alters weather in US west](#) (CBS News, 12/12/2011) A U.N. conference on climate change ended Sunday without a major deal to cut toxic emissions. No country emits more carbon dioxide than China -- a byproduct of its booming economy. And, as CBS News correspondent John Blackstone reports, those Chinese emissions are having a big impact in the U.S.

CORPORATIONS

[How WalMart is changing China](#) (Orville Schell, The Atlantic, 12/2011) The world's biggest corporation and the world's most populous nation have launched a bold experiment in consumer behavior and environmental stewardship: to set green standards for 20,000 suppliers making several hundred thousand items sold to billions of shoppers worldwide. Will that effort take hold, or will it unravel in a recriminatory tangle of misguided expectations and broken promises?

[China bids in fracking](#) (Wall Street Journal, 12/16/2011) Two of China's biggest oil producers are competing for a stake in a U.S. shale-gas services company—another step in China's effort to tap its huge reserves of a fuel that has helped the U.S. reduce its dependence on energy imports.

[China aviation body urges members not to cooperate with EU CO2 scheme](#) (Reuters, 12/15/2011) Chinese airlines have been urged not to cooperate with a controversial scheme that will force them to buy carbon credits for all flights entering Europe starting on January 1, the head of the country's aviation industry group said.

[China's demand for natural gas to soar with environment concern](#) (Esther Tanquintic-Misa, International Business Times, 12/14/2011) China will definitely raise the bar for natural gas importation as it gets more aware of the impacts of its fuel emission contributions to the environment over the last decade.

[Hong Kong Global Geopark of China opens](#) (7th Space, 12/14/2011) The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, officiated at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China this evening (December 14). Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Tsang said that the designation of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China was worldwide recognition of our significant geological heritage.

[China's Sinopec boosts Australian LNG stake](#) (AFP, 12/13/2011) China's Sinopec raised its stake in a major Australian-US liquefied natural gas (LNG) project and almost doubled its sales contract Monday as Beijing scrambles to secure energy supplies.

GOVERNMENT

[Guangzhou to release PM 2.5 data ahead of schedule](#) (CNTV, 12/16/2011)

Following widespread calls for the government to provide more information on pollution, and particularly air quality in the country's sprawling metropolises, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has vowed to revise its air quality appraisal system by 2016. But it turns out China's third largest city, Guangzhou, capital of the southern Guangdong province, is already steps ahead of the pack.

[China scales up solar power by 50 percent](#) (Reuters, 12/15/2011) China has further revised up its solar power development target for 2015 by 50 percent from its previous plan, state media reported on Thursday.

[China to create its own system to count carbon emissions](#) (Beijing Review, 12/14/2011)

China plans to develop its own new comprehensive system for monitoring and accurately calculating the country's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, a leading Chinese scientist said Tuesday.

[Chinese Government says it will control rainfall to generate 10 percent more precipitation by 2015](#) (Inhabitat, 12/13/2011) China's boom in industry and population has put a strain on its natural resources – not to mention the health of the environment – over the past few decades. In order to alleviate the stress of growing crops for an ever-increasing population, the government is intervening with nature by rolling out four regional programs to artificially increase precipitation across the country by 10 percent before 2015.

[Official says air quality in Beijing is at 'crisis' level](#) (Wall Street Journal, 12/12/2011) Beijing is facing its third air-pollution crisis of recent years and needs to crank up its efforts to cut emissions, a city environmental official said, acknowledging a big metaphorical cloud hanging over the city.

[China's capital plans higher fuel standards next year](#) (Reuters, 12/9/2011) Beijing is planning to set the highest fuel standards in China, levels similar to the Euro V specifications in Europe, in the first half of next year, the local environment watchdog said, as the Chinese capital grapples with worsening air pollution.