



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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



www.pacechina.net

PACE is now in cooperation with

chinadialogue



Issue 140, December 30th, 2011 to January 5th, 2012

By CC Huang, TimQuijano

Environmental China is now online.

WELCOME to Environmental China, PACE's electronic newsletter devoted to giving interested readers a comprehensive update of news concerning China's environment. Environmental China is also available online in [blog format](#). Invite your friends and colleagues to subscribe to the e-mail newsletter [here](#). Any comments, suggestions or questions can be directed to cc.huang2@gmail.com or timquijano@gmail.com.

OPINION

[Learn from EU energy "road map"](#) (Li Yan, Xinhua, 1/4/2011) It is well known that a major part of China's pollution comes from burning coal for power generation. But it doesn't have to be that way.

[On the China-Solar Trade Dispute](#) (CleanTechnica, 1/5/2011) If you're in the solar industry, or care much about it, I'm sure you've heard of the "solar trade war"/solar industry trade dispute going on right now. Basically, a handful of solar manufacturing companies from the U.S. and Germany (led by SolarWorld) contend that china is dumping its solar goods in the U.S. and has submitted a petition to the U.S. International Trade Commission/Department of Commerce (ITC/DOC). Many U.S. solar industry players are not into the move by SolarWorld and friends, however. In the past, I shared the opposition argument to the petition from this group, as

presented by Arno Harris of Recurrent Energy. Below, I'm going to share the perspective of both sides.

RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[China's city dwellers to breathe unhealthy air 'for another 20-30 years'](#) (Jonathan Watts, Guardian, 1/5/2011) Despite recent moves to tighten controls on air pollution dangerous smogs will persist for decades, expert warns.

["Polluted" Marathon Sparks Intense Protest](#) (Xinhua, 1/5/2011) A city in northwest China has come under fire for hosting a mass marathon event during a time of extreme air pollution.

[China's on-grid wind power capacity tops 45 GW](#) (Reuters, 12/29/2011) Wind power generating capacity connected to China's grid networks increased by more than 14 gigawatts, or about 45 percent, from a year earlier to above 45 GW at the end of 2011, state media reported on Thursday.

[Do Chinese consumers care about CSR?](#) (Alicia Ye, CSR Asia, 1/4/2011) During Christmas, New Year and Spring Festival holidays, many businesses in China offer big discounts hoping to entice customers into parting with hard earned money. Not all of those discounted products, however, will be legal or ethically produced; many products sold over the holiday season will be fake or counterfeit and produced in conditions inconsistent with the CSR for which a greater number of locals are now calling.

CORPORATIONS

[China buys Russia, Vietnam oil as Iran supply cut](#) (Florence Tan, Reuters, 1/3/2011) - Chinese trader Unipet paid a record premium for a February cargo of Russian crude and bought Vietnamese oil for the first time in at least a year, traders said, as the world's second-largest oil consumer looks to cover for reduced Iranian supplies.

[Chinese Court Accepts \\$78M Oil Spill-Related Lawsuit against ConocoPhillips](#) (Morgan Zhang, Commodities & Futures, 1/3/2011) A Chinese court is allowing a \$78 million lawsuit brought against ConocoPhillips (NYSE:COP) to move forward, after having dismissed a similar lawsuit in 2011, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported Friday. The legal action was brought by a group of local aquaculture farmers who believe their sea cucumbers were killed off by two June oil spills in the Bohai Sea. ConocoPhillips had previously acknowledged the leaks.

[China Sets New Record For Renewable Energy Storage](#) (Ucilia Wang, Forbes, 1/4/2011) BYD Co., which counts Warren Buffett as an investor, has completed the world's largest lithium-ion battery project to bottle wind and solar electricity in China, which will likely see more large energy storage projects as a result of its ambition to add lots of renewable energy.

[China's Grab For Energy: Softly, Softly](#) (Tom Orlik, Wall Street Journal, 1/5/2011) Sinopec's \$2.5 billion deal to acquire an interest in Devon Energy's shale fields, and PetroChina's \$666 million purchase of Canadian oil sands from Athabasca Oil Sands, have started the year with a bang. It's all a far cry from 2005, when China National Offshore Oil Co.'s failed bid for Unocal threatened to stop China's outbound energy acquisition in its tracks.

[China lights up UAE solar future](#) (Florian Neuhof, National, 1/1/2011) Last January, Ban Ki-Moon, the UN secretary general, graced the stage of the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) in Abu Dhabi. His keynote speech at the world's biggest event focusing on renewables was testament to the importance of clean energy worldwide, a message driven home by a plethora of energy ministers in panel discussions. This year, it is the turn of Wen Jiabao, the Chinese premier, to kick off WFES. And, once again, the choice of keynote speaker is revealing.

[China Gas Flares Up](#) (Tom Orlik And Duncan Mavin, Wall Street Journal, 1/5/2011) A Chinese state giant trying to buy a Hong Kong-listed firm whose biggest shareholder is under arrest sounds like a shoo-in. But a \$2.15 billion offer from state-owned oil giant Sinopec and ENN Energy Holdings for China Gas Holdings is turning into quite the snarl up.

[China's largest offshore wind energy farm now online](#) (China.org.cn, 1/6/2011) Longyuan Power, China's largest wind power developer, connected 99.3 megawatts (MW) of wind turbines to the grid in a pilot intertidal wind farm in Rudong county in eastern province of Jiangsu.

[Top China airlines to ignore EU carbon tax, body says](#) (BBC, 1/5/2011) China's biggest airlines will not pay a new European Union tax aimed at cutting carbon emissions, their trade body has said.

[American Heads in the Shale About China](#) (Alisa Newman Hood, Wall Street Journal, 1/5/2011) China's state-owned oil companies are snapping up large minority stakes in some of the biggest shale gas plays and supporting industries in the United States. On Tuesday, Sinopec announced a \$2.5 billion deal with Devon Energy to extend fracking to five new areas. Yet the U.S. Congress has been silent on the implications of these investments for the country's energy security.

[Overcapacity Threatens China's Solar Energy Sector With Mixed Implications](#) (Ryan Landon Swanson, Sector Selector, 1/4/2011) Overcapacity threatens China's solar energy sector, with a mixed bag of implications for the U.S. and the world.

GOVERNMENT

[China eyes increased coalbed methane output to reduce coal mine deaths](#) (Xinhua, 1/2/2011) China will try to extract 30 billion cubic meters of coalbed methane in 2015 as part of the country's efforts to reduce deadly coal mine accidents and develop a clean energy industry, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

[City with worst air pollution vows change](#) (Xinhua, 12/30/2011) The top official of a northwest China province has pledged to clean up the sky over the provincial capital after it was named China's city with the worst air pollution by a World Health Organization (WHO) survey published in September.

[Interprovincial compensation to curb river pollution](#) (Xinhua, 12/31/2011) Northwest China's Shaanxi province paid 6 million yuan (\$953,000) to two cities in neighboring Gansu province as a reward for their conservation efforts on a shared river.

[Water shortage in Beijing severe](#) (China Daily, 1/5/2011) The available per capita water usage in Beijing has dropped to 100 cubic meters, much lower than the internationally acknowledged warning line of 1,000 cubic meters per capita, according to the Beijing Water Authority. Needless to say that Beijing faces extremely severe water shortage. Beijing authorities have to urgently find ways to deal with such a severe water shortage, says an article in Beijing News. Excerpts:

[State officials visit China to spark interest in LNG export](#) (Tim Bradner, Alaska Journal of Commerce, 1/4/2011) Gov. Sean Parnell has tilted the state's support toward a large liquefied natural gas, or LNG, export project for North Slope gas, and senior state officials are talking up the idea in Asia.

[Officials weighing green benefits of carbon taxation](#) (Wei Tian, China Daily, 1/6/2011) China is considering levying a carbon tax within the next three years to tighten its regulations on polluting industries and put the economy on a greener path.

[China shifts focus to green industry](#) (Rowan Callick, Australian, 1/2/2011) China is opening new areas of its economy to foreign investors and putting more emphasis on emerging sectors such as green energy, while downgrading support for traditional industries such as the automotive industry.

[Cuba and China at odds... over shale gas](#) (Josh Noble, Financial Times, 1/6/2011) China loves shale gas. Just this week a Chinese company spent \$2.5bn on US shale oil and gas assets, in part to help meet the country's voracious appetite for energy. Gas demand is estimated to grow 15 per cent a year.

[China plans Tibetan plateau exploration](#) (UPI, 1/3/2011) China says it will send researchers to a large stretch of uninhabited land on the Tibetan plateau to study a range of issues in the so-called no man's land.

[Beijing Municipality to Monitor Smaller Pollutant Particles, Daily Reports](#) (Bloomberg, 1/1/2011) China's Environment Ministry on Dec. 30 approved new air-quality standards to include pollutants smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, known as PM2.5, the newspaper said, without giving a date when Beijing will begin monitoring.

[China to levy carbon tax before 2015](#) (Economic Times, 1/5/2011) China's biggest energy-consuming companies are likely to face a direct tax on carbon dioxide emissions by 2015, the Xinhua-backed Economic Information Daily reported on Thursday, citing government sources.

[China Rolls Out 12th Five-Year Plan For Solid Waste Industry](#) (Capital Vue, 1/5/2011) The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) released the 12th Five-Year Plan for the industrial solid waste sector, with a goal of raising the utilization rate of industrial solid waste to 50 percent by 2015, reports Shanghai Securities News.