



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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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. 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

["China's courts fail the environment"](#) (Xia Jun, China Dialogue, 1/16/2012) It's been a disappointing decade for environmental litigation in China. Writing from the frontlines, Xia Jun analyses the problems.

["The Zambezi Valley: China's First Agricultural Colony?" Fiction or Fact?](#) (Deborah Brautigam, 1/12/2012) More than four years ago, Loro Horta, then a Ph.D. candidate at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore, posted a series of stories including "The Zambezi Valley: China's First Agricultural Colony?" (1) on the website of the Center for Strategic International Studies (CSIS), repeated in "Food Security in Africa: China's New Rice Bowl," at the Jamestown Foundation China Brief (2) making strong claims about Chinese interests in Mozambique agriculture: "China" wanted to grow rice in Mozambique to ship back to China, use Chinese farmers to do it, and had pledged \$800 million toward this goal.

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[Powering future development](#) (Lin Boqiang, China Daily, 1/20/2012) Promoting clean energy is necessary to meet the growing demand from urbanization and to guarantee supply security

[Boom to Bust: China, the U.S., and the Environment](#) (Jason Czarnezki, Huffington Post, 1/18/2011) Apart from the significant population gap, the United States and China are remarkably similar countries. Their cultures have an air of informality, their land masses are relatively equivalent and both are highly influential civilizations, albeit for very different reasons. From an environmental perspective, the similarities continue. China and the U.S. rank first and second, respectively, for producing greenhouse gas emissions. Both countries have large domestic coal reserves and use coal to generate the majority of their electricity. They are the world's largest auto markets and oil consumers, each importing more than half the oil consumed domestically.

RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[Controversial Chinese chemical plant believed to have resumed production](#) (Jonathan Watts, Guardian, 1/13/2012) Locals report smoke billowing up from the plant's chimney, which was shut down after 10,000 people took to the streets.

[US-China Collaboration on Sustainable Urbanization](#) (Luke Schoen, ChinaFAQs, 1/17/2012) A group of government officials from China traveled on a study tour in the United States last week. The tour, hosted by the World Resources Institute, focused on low carbon development. The delegation was led by Director General Su Wei of the Department of Climate Change from China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), who is China's chief negotiator on climate change and a key decision maker for low-carbon development initiatives.

[China's Reforestation Programs: Big Success or Just an Illusion?](#) (Jon R. Luoma, Yale Environment 360, 1/17/2012) China has undertaken ambitious reforestation initiatives that have increased its forest cover dramatically in the last decade. But scientists are now raising questions about just how effective these grand projects will turn out to be.

[China cancer village tests law against pollution](#) (Sui-Lee Wee, Reuters, 1/16/2012) Nothing in Wu Wenyong's rural childhood hinted he would end up on a hospital bed aged 15, battling two kinds of cancer.

[Study: Urban areas lax on pollution reporting](#) (Li Jing, China Daily, 1/17/2012) Most big cities in China still failed to publish adequate pollution information in 2011 despite the gradual establishment and consolidation of a nationwide environmental protection transparency mechanism, a newly published report found.

[NGOs upbeat over China's environmental transparency progress](#) (Jonathan Watts, Guardian, 1/16/2012) Survey reveals greater pressure on major players such as Apple and the Beijing government to clean up.

[Slideshow: The Smog That Ate Beijing](#) (Sean Gallagher, Foreign Policy, 1/18/2012) What China's capital really looks like.

[IEA lowers forecast for China 2012 oil demand](#) (Wayne Ma, Marketwatch, 1/18/2012) The International Energy Agency said Wednesday that it would slightly lower its 2012 forecast for Chinese oil demand and output due to a slowing domestic economy and the unexpected decline of both onshore and offshore production.

[US Replaces China as Top Clean Energy Investor](#) (Environmental Leader, 1/17/2012) The United States has regained its place as the world's number one investor in clean energy, reclaiming the top spot from China, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

[BP sees China as top oil user in 2027](#) (Alex Lawler, Reuters, 1/18/2012) China will drive the world's growth in oil demand in the next two decades and in 2027 will overtake the United States as the world's top oil consumer, BP Plc said on Wednesday.

[China, Japan take the lead in wind energy development – Russia lags far behind](#) (Bellona, 1/16/2012) China has taken online its largest offshore wind farm yet – another step toward the goal of boosting the share of wind energy in China's total energy production to 17 percent by 2050. While China prefers buying new green technologies, Japan seeks to come up with its own – such as the innovative "wind lens" design that could triple the output of wind turbines and help smooth the transition from nuclear power to cleaner and safer energy sources. Russia, alas, seems in no hurry to realize its own immense wind energy potential.

[Hungry China expands control over foreign farmland](#) (Peter Cai, 1/17/2012) Chinese companies have now acquired about 8000 square kilometres of farmland around the world as the country looks abroad to feed its population, the biggest in the world.

CORPORATIONS

[CDB funding solar plants in US](#) (Ariel Tung, China Daily, 1/18/2012) A total of \$64 million from China Development Bank Corp (CDB) to construct solar power plants in California and New Jersey helps create jobs and benefits the local economy, said a spokesman for Solar Power Inc (SPI).

[Shangri-La hotels take shark fin soup off the menu](#) (Jonathan Watts, Guardian, 1/18/2012) The resort company's move, coming just ahead of the Chinese new year festivities, is a huge boost to the campaign to protect decimated shark stocks by banning the dish.

[Cheap Chinese Panels Spark Solar Power Trade War](#) (Christopher Joyce, NPR, 1/19/2012) There's a solar trade war going on inside the U.S., sparked by an invasion of inexpensive imports from China.

[China's drive for 'green' cars hits roadblocks](#) (Bill Savadove, AFP, 1/17/2012) Foreign and domestic car makers are struggling to sell environmentally friendly vehicles in China, the world's largest auto market, even as Beijing pumps billions into clean energy.

[China's hunger for gas fuels hostile bid](#) (Leslie Hook, Financial Times, 1/16/2012) At first blush China Gas, a small company that distributes natural gas in Chinese cities, would seem unlikely to end up at the centre of a hostile takeover battle that has pitted a large Chinese state-owned oil company against a diverse range of small investors, including energy companies from Korea, India and Oman.

[Obama's Keystone Denial Prompts Canada to Focus on China](#) (Theophilos Argitis and Jeremy Van Loon, Bloomberg, 1/19/2012) President Barack Obama's decision yesterday to reject a permit for TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone XL oil pipeline may prompt Canada to turn to China for oil exports.

[Energy ties benefit both sides](#) (Wang Yan, China Daily, 1/18/2012) Energy cooperation between China and Latin America is based on mutual benefit and will not impair the interests of any third parties, said a senior Chinese diplomat in charge of Latin American affairs.

[Cnooc Targets Assets, Unconventional Energy to Boost Output](#) (Guo Aibing, Bloomberg Businessweek, 1/19/2012) Cnooc Ltd., China's biggest offshore oil and gas producer, plans to increase output by starting new deepwater fields, buying overseas assets and accelerating development of unconventional energy resources.

GOVERNMENT

[Clearing the air?](#) (The Economist, 1/14/2012) It was China's former leader, Deng Xiaoping, who urged his countrymen to "seek truth from facts." But for the many in China who distrust government data, that sage advice can be hard to follow.

[China helps to achieve global energy goals](#): UN (Xinhua, 1/17/2012) China, along with other emerging countries, has been a role model in the UN's campaign for promoting sustainable energy and providing energy for all, UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon said Monday at the ongoing World Future Energy Summit (WFES) in Abu Dhabi.

[China urges hydropower developers to heed environment](#) (Reuters, 1/17/2012) China's hydropower developers must "put ecology first" and pay strict attention to the impact of their projects on local rivers and communities, the country's environment ministry said on Tuesday, as the country embarks on another dam-building boom.

[China Gets Cheaper Iran Oil as U.S. Pays Tab for Hormuz Patrols](#) (Indira A.R. Lakshmanan and Gopal Ratnam, Bloomberg Businessweek, 1/18/2012) China stands to be the biggest beneficiary of U.S. and European plans for sanctions on Iran's oil sales in an effort to pressure the regime to abandon its nuclear program.

[Majority of Chinese Now Live in Cities](#) (Michael Wines, New York Times, 1/17/2012) China's urban population exceeded its rural population in 2011 for the first time in the nation's history, the government's National Bureau of Statistics reported, continuing a trend that has helped drive its rapid economic growth but poses an increasingly difficult social transition for scores of millions of Chinese.

[China report spells out "grim" climate change risks](#) (Chris Buckley, Reuters, 1/17/2012) Global warming threatens China's march to prosperity by cutting crops, shrinking rivers and unleashing more droughts and floods, says the government's latest assessment of climate change, projecting big shifts in how the nation feeds itself.

[How not to discuss water with China](#) (Rohan D'Souza, Hindu Businessline, 1/18/2012) Debating the quantum flow of the Brahmaputra will not foster regional cooperation. Water diplomats should discuss the river's environmental value instead, argues Rohan D'Souza.

[City pledges 10% of buses to be green by end of 2015](#) (Dong Zhen, Shanghai Daily, 1/17/2012) Clean energy vehicles will form one tenth of the buses on the streets of Shanghai by the end of 2015, the city transport bureau pledged yesterday.

[Beijing to put clean-air plan into action](#) (He Dan, China Daily, 1/13/2012) This year, Beijing will focus on air quality through measures such as improving pollution monitoring and reducing the density of major pollutants at construction sites by 2percent on average, Beijing Mayor Guo Jinlong said Thursday.

[Beijing to plant millions of trees against smog](#) (China.org.cn, 1/16/2012) Beijing will start planting trees between its fifth and sixth ring roads from March, covering 200,000 mu (13,333 hectares) of land this year, the city's top official said on Thursday.

[Slideshow: Pollution in China](#) (Washington Post, 1/13/2012) In a bow to public pressure, the Beijing local government has begun using a more stringent measure for air quality, and the first publicly announced readings showed the air was "hazardous" in at least two areas of the polluted capital city.

[Court backs environment group](#) (Zhao Yinan, China Daily, 1/20/2012) A court ruled a local government must disclose information about a company accused of polluting, a verdict seen as a victory toward improving people's right to know.

[China continues to step up investment,co-op in new energy](#) (Xinhua, 1/17/2012) Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Monday addressed the 5th World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi and reaffirmed China's stand on clean and renewable energy.

[China's Wen Visits Middle East Amid Energy Concerns](#) (Philip Walter Wellman, Voice of America, 1/14/2012) Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao is due to arrive in Saudi Arabia Saturday amid fears that tighter international sanctions on Iran's oil industry may affect China's energy imports.

[China helps to achieve global energy goals](#) (Xinhua, 1/17/2012) China, along with other emerging countries, has been a role model in the UN's campaign for promoting sustainable energy and providing energy for all, UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon said Monday at the ongoing World Future Energy Summit (WFES) in Abu Dhabi.

[China targets green energy sales](#) (Florian Neuhofer, National, Jan 16, 2012) Wen Jiabao, the Chinese premier, flies into Abu Dhabi for the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) today. Having emerged as the factory of the world, China is now throwing considerable resources behind clean forms of power. Mr Wen has decreed that 15 per cent of China's energy be generated from alternative sources by 2015 and has developed a programme of incentives and regulations, including preferential prices for alternative producers, to make the sector financially viable.

[China revises policy and pricing to boost shale gas production](#) (Coco Liu, Climatewire, 1/16/2012) China started 2012 with a policy revision and pricing reform on shale gas, as part of an effort to lure more companies into finding and developing this unconventional energy source.