



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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



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chinadialogue



***Note:** We would like to apologize for a junk e-mail that was sent to the list server today. It seems that one of our account manager's e-mails was compensated and the message was automatically accepted because it was from her e-mail account. We are doing everything we can to prevent this from happening again. Thanks very much for your patience and understanding. Again, Tim and I hope that you will e-mail us with any concerns and we are very grateful for your readership and support!

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By CC Huang, TimQuijano

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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 or timquijano@gmail.com.

OPINION

[Rio+20: Nick Clegg blames China for 'disappointing text'](#) (The Telegraph, 6/21/2012) Nick Clegg, the Deputy Prime Minister, has blamed a 'neocolonial world', where China is more powerful than Europe, for a "disappointing" new global deal on saving the environment.

[Guest post: Russia and China – hydropower, cooperation, and the environment](#) (Financial Times, 6/21/2012) World leaders in Brazil for the Rio+20 Summit have a lengthy agenda in front of them and a great responsibility on their shoulders. The first Earth Summit twenty years ago was crucial in raising global awareness of the impact, including through climate change, we were having on our planet.

[20 years of China's public voice](#) (China Dialogue, 6/20/2012) Since the last Rio summit, China's way of doing things has changed: citizens have become players in environmental governance. Chang Cheng reflects on a civil-society journey.

[Two reasons why China and Russia can't replicate America's energy revolution](#) (Business Insider, 6/20/2012) Longtime energy analyst Phil Verleger recently sent us a copy of a paper he just published called "Only in America." In it, he outlines why the shale revolution that's taken place in the country over the past decade can never happen anywhere else — not even China or Russia.

['Chindia' Energy Bloc Rising?](#) (Matthew Hulbert, Forbes, 6/21/2012) Another year, another Chinese-Indian 'memorandum of understanding' on energy agreed this week. The two nations previously penned an agreement on upstream exploration and pipelines in 2006. Neither side took it seriously. Discrete blocs in Sudan, Iran, Ecuador and Syria were the only assets put on the collective table, China had far bigger fish to fry (and buy) elsewhere. So you'd be forgiven for thinking the latest copy/paste 'Memorandum for Enhancing Cooperation in the Field of Oil and Natural Gas' will be another non-starter between India's ONGC and China's CNPC, but 'fundamentals' suggest otherwise. This one might actually have some significance.

[Rio and China's Pollution Information Transparency Index \(PITI\)](#) (NRDC Switchboard, 6/15/2012) Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration affirmed the importance of access to environmental information. Since 2008, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the renowned Chinese NGO, Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs (IPE), have cooperated to promote open environmental information in China. We are happy to report that a system of open environmental information has been established in China, at least in its initial stages.

CIVIL SOCIETY/RESEARCH

[A Glimpse into China's Cancer Villages - Video](#) (Weird Asia News, 6/21/2012) Unknown to some in China, the air they breathe when going to school, work, or even playing outside, is slowly killing them instead of giving them life.

[Photos of rare Amur tiger give hope to NE China's tiger recovery efforts](#) (Phys.org, 6/19/2012) Photos of a rare Amur tiger, caught on film for the first time in Wangqing Nature Reserve in northeast China's Changbai mountains, are giving hope to tiger recovery efforts in the region.

[Poll: Most Chinese adults prioritize environment over economy](#) (Washington Post, 6/12/2012) China's industrialization has famously caused its pollution problems to worsen, but that's not necessarily because the Chinese value industry over air quality.

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[Full text: Situation and Policies of China's Rare Earth Industry](#) (Information Office of the State Council, 6/20/2012) The Information Office of the State Council, or China's cabinet, on Wednesday published the country's first white paper on the rare earth industry.

[China releases captive-bred alligators into wild](#) (Xinhua, 6/12/2012) A nature reserve in east China's Anhui province released six captive-bred Chinese alligators into the wild Tuesday morning as part of an experimental program to boost the population of the endangered animal.

CORPORATIONS

[Oil falls to eight-month low on US stockpiles, China](#) (Bloomberg, 6/21/2012) Oil dropped to the lowest price in eight months in New York after U.S. stockpiles unexpectedly increased and a report signaled China's manufacturing will shrink this month.

[China, Iran oil imports rise as payment dispute resolved](#) (BBC, 6/21/2012) China's imports of crude oil from Iran rebounded in May after the two countries resolved a payment dispute.

[China encourages further private energy investment](#) (China Daily, 6/21/2012) China will further encourage private investment in the energy sector to boost the restructuring and future development of the industry, the National Energy Administration (NEA) said Wednesday.

[Sinopec reportedly shopping for Chesapeake assets](#) (MarketWatch, 6/20/2012) Chesapeake Energy Corp. has repeatedly said it will sell tens of billions of dollars worth of assets to raise cash as it invests to boost its oil production. Now it appears that at least one big buyer is lining up to dive into acreage on the block from the Oklahoma City, Okla., energy firm.

[China's solar thermal market, room for growth](#) (China Daily, 6/20/2012) The National Energy Administration (NEA) will set standards and issue supporting policies for solar thermal utilization in China, an NEA official said on June 20 in Beijing.

[China's 'waste to power' plants burn more coal than trash](#) (Forbes, 6/19/2012) China produces more than a quarter of the world's trash, a burden that the government is attempting to solve by burning some of it for energy. But the incinerators often mix waste with an even greater measure of coal, adding more global-warming gases to the atmosphere and toxic chemicals to the air of China's cities, a recent report says.

[China eyes subsidies to develop energy-saving vehicles: paper](#) (Reuters, 6/18/2012) China is considering tax exemptions and subsidies for buyers of energy-saving vehicles in an attempt to boost its low-emissions auto sector, the Shanghai Securities News reported on Tuesday.

[Beneath a war of words, money paints a different China](#) (Wall Street Journal, 6/14/2012) A new innovation has the U.S. clean-energy business buzzing, one with big political risks and potentially bigger economic and environmental rewards. It isn't a wind turbine, or a solar panel, or an electric car. It's Chinese cash.

[China biomass tycoon leads deal to buy Saab](#) (Business Week, 6/14/2012) The Asian consortium planning to rescue Swedish automaker Saab Automobile from insolvency is led by a mainland Chinese alternative energy tycoon whose company has close ties with China's State Grid electricity utility.

[China to trial energy-saving electricity price scheme](#) (AFP, 6/14/2012) China said Thursday that from next month people who use a lot of electricity will have to pay more under a trial scheme aimed at encouraging consumers to save energy. The National Development and Reform Commission, the government planner, announced that it would launch a trial, multi-tier pricing system on July 1 for residential users across China -- the world's biggest energy consumer.

GOVERNMENT

[China Says Its Plastic Bag Ban Has Saved 4.8 Million Tonnes Of Oil](#) (Business Insider, 6/21/2012) Figures from China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) regarding the impact the 4-year plastic bag ban came out earlier this week, and frankly they're incredible.

[China has over 100 million people living below poverty line: Wen Jiabao](#) (Economic Times, 6/21/2012) China has over 100 million people living below the poverty line despite its emergence as the world's second largest economy, Premier Wen Jiabao has said.

[Chinese buildings miss energy-efficient standards](#) (China Daily, 6/20/2012) Most buildings in China are not up to the country's energy-efficient standards even though the country is trying to save energy to fulfill emission reduction commitments, an official has said.

[China defends rare earths curb as environmental measure, rejects WTO complaints by US, Europe](#) (Washington Post, 6/19/2012) China on Wednesday defended its export curbs on rare earths used in high-tech products as an environmental measure and rejected a World Trade Organization challenge by the United States, Europe and Japan.

[China says developed nations must lead in Rio](#) (AFP, 6/18/2012) China said Monday wealthy countries should take the lead in tackling climate change, repeating its long-held stance ahead of a global UN summit on poverty and the environment in Rio de Janeiro.

[China creates model for sustainable urban living](#) (Phys.org, 6/17/2012) At first glance, Tianjin Eco-City looks much like any other upscale Chinese urban development, with its rows of identical apartment blocks, wide roads and manicured verges.

[China launches space mission with first woman astronaut](#) (BBC, 6/16/2012) China has launched its latest manned space mission - whose crew includes its first female astronaut, Liu Yang. The Shenzhou-9 capsule rode to orbit atop a Long March rocket from the Jiuquan spaceport on the edge of the Gobi desert.

[The clean-up begins on China's dirty secret – soil pollution](#) (The Guardian, 6/12/2012) Nowhere is the global push to restore degraded land likely to be more important, complex and expensive than in China, where vast swaths of the soil are contaminated by arsenic and heavy metals from mines and factories.