



ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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



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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

[Pulling together for the future](#) (China Daily, 6/26/12) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, known as the Rio+20 Summit, was an important international conference that sought to revive global sustainable development and rally international efforts to deal with long-standing and newly emerging global challenges. It came 20 years after the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, and 10 years after the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

[Air quality leaves China gov't wheezing](#) (Frank Ching, China Post, 6/27/12) Five months ago, Beijing's Environmental Protection Bureau, spurred on by data released by the United States Embassy, adopted tightened standards and began disseminating information on extremely fine particles in the

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air capable of penetrating deeply into the lungs — particles that have been linked to respiratory diseases and lung cancer.

[Earth summit: China 'will set environmental standards'](#) (BBC, 6/21/12) At the end of the three-day meeting, development banks are pledging \$175bn (£110m) towards initiatives for cleaner transportation and another \$150m will be put towards a Latin American renewables fund.

[Why China Has Lost The Rare Earths War: The Power of Markets](#) (Tom Worstall, Forbes, 6/24/12) This will strike some as over-dramatic but I think it's fair to say that recent events in the rare earths market have been the first resource war of the 21st century. And I also think it's fair to say that China has lost this war as a result of really not understanding sufficiently the power of markets.

[After Rio, a new consensus](#) (Xu Nan, China Dialogue, 6/25/12) The text agreed in Brazil may be a compromise, says Ma Jun, but it shows the world is a fairer place than 20 years ago. On the summit sidelines, the campaigner spoke to Xu Nan about global politics, supply chains and China's shifting role.

[7 steps to a greener Chinese supply chain](#) (Greenbiz, 6/26/12) As nongovernmental organizations heighten their monitoring and the Chinese government enforces new laws to increase transparency and accountability, multinational corporations can expect growing pressure to run a clean supply chain.

RESEARCH & CIVIL SOCIETY

[NGOs aim for a bigger role in sustainability](#) (China Radio International, 6/25/12) Chinese environmentalist Zhang Xinsheng thinks the greatest challenges that human beings face today are the depletion of resources and environmental degradation, apart from economic crisis and unbalanced social development.

[China Defends Rare Earths Export Restrictions](#) (6/22/12, International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development) China on Wednesday publicly rejected assertions that the country's export controls on rare earth elements were designed to protect local industry. At a press conference in Beijing, Su Bo, the country's vice-minister of industry and information technology, insisted that the export curbs have been placed to protect the environment and are in line with WTO trade rules.

[The cost of creating a greener future](#) (Xie Yu, China Daily, 6/25/12) Twenty-eight-year-old banker Wang Ning bought an apartment for his parents in Shanghai a year ago. Unlike regular apartments in China, this one boasted "organic" credentials and constant temperature and humidity levels all year round thanks to a "ground source heating pump system."

[China affirms green drive](#) (Chen Weihua, China Daily, 6/21/12) A senior Chinese official warned of significant hurdles his country faces in trying to move to cleaner forms of energy and called for global cooperation in the effort.

[China's sea environment worsening](#) (China Daily, 6/26/12) Increasing discharge of pollutants and booming offshore human activity, such as oil exploration, are worsening China's fragile marine environment, according to an annual report released by the country's ocean watchdog.

[Global carbon emissions rise is far bigger than previous estimates](#) (Simon Rogers and Fiona Harvey, Guardian, 6/21/12) New analysis by the Guardian shows the world emitted a record 31.8bn tonnes of carbon from energy consumption in 2010

[Reports on bad air drive China up the Great Wall](#) (Frank Ching, New Straits Times, 6/28/12) Five months ago, Beijing's Environmental Protection Bureau, spurred on by data released by the American embassy, adopted tightened standards and began disseminating information on extremely fine particles in the air capable of penetrating deeply into the lungs; these particles have been linked to respiratory diseases and lung cancer.

CORPORATIONS

[China's First Wind-Farm Lull Limits Outlook for Sinovel: Energy](#) (Bloomberg, 6/26/12) China, the world's biggest builder of wind farms, is set for its first year of slower growth in almost a decade as plans founder for expanding offshore, hurting domestic turbine makers such as Sinovel Wind Group Co.

[IKEA to Use Rooftop Solar Power Plants in China](#) (Nicholas Brown, CleanTechnica, 6/22/12) In addition to the other announcement I just posted about, IKEA has announced that, as part of its goal to use only renewable energy to power its buildings, it will partner with the Chinese clean energy company Hanergy to install solar panels on IKEA buildings in China.

[Huge market potential for solar thermal energy](#) (Qin Haibo, China Economic Net, 6/21/12) On May 21, Jiangsu Sunrain Solar Energy Co., Ltd. was successfully listed on the A-share market. From the stumbling into existence of the first solar energy water heater to a solar thermal energy industry with an annual output value of about RMB 100 billion Yuan, and from the chaotic competition of thousands of companies to the first solar thermal energy IPO of Sunrain Solar Energy, China's solar thermal energy industry has evolved from a "grass root economy" into an "emerging industry", and has entered the capital market.

[China's CNPC wins approval for LNG storage in Hainan](#) (Reuters, 6/26/12) Top Chinese oil and gas producer China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) has won approval for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage project on Hainan island, a report said.

[Suzlon Energy sells China manufacturing unit for \\$60M](#) (VC Circle, 6/25/12) Wind turbine manufacturer Suzlon Energy Ltd has sold its wholly owned China manufacturing subsidiary for Rs 340 crore (\$60 million). Suzlon has signed a binding term sheet with China Power (Tianjin) New Energy Development Company Ltd (CPNE).

[40 missing in mudslide in SW China](#) (Xinhua, 6/28/12) About 40 workers at a hydropower station went missing in a rain-triggered mudslide Thursday morning in southwest China's Sichuan province, according to local authorities.

[China's First Wind-Farm Lull Limits Outlook For Sinovel: Energy](#) (Bloomberg, 6/26/12) China, the world's biggest builder of wind farms, is set for its first year of slower growth in almost a decade as plans founder for expanding offshore, hurting domestic turbine makers such as Sinovel Wind Group Co. (601558)

[Bohai oil spills worth \\$264m](#) (Xinhua, 6/25/12) US energy giant ConocoPhillips China (COPC), operator of the Penglai 19-3 oilfield in the Bohai Bay, is fully responsible for two major oil spills that occurred since June last year that caused 1.683 billion yuan (\$264.44 million) in ecological damage, according to a report by the State Ocean Administration (SOA).

[China's oil imports from Iran hit records despite sanctions](#) (RT, 6/22/12) A day after Hillary Clinton declared that China appeared to be curbing its oil imports from Iran, new figures show that those imports are actually at record highs this year.

[Solar park to be China's biggest investment in Chile](#) (Reuters, 6/26/12) Chinese renewable energy company Sky Solar, state-backed China Development Bank and Chilean industrial group Sigdo Koppers plan to make a Chinese firm's biggest investment in the Andean country: a \$900 million solar energy park, export promotion agency ProChile said on Tuesday.

GOVERNMENT

[UN chief hails progress in China's sustainable development](#) (Xinhua, 6/27/12) The United Nations commended progress made by the Chinese government in achieving sustainable development, especially in aspects of maintaining human health and protecting environment, said Ban Ki-moon, secretary-general of the UN on Tuesday.

[UN Sustainability Drive Draws China, Bolivia Criticism](#) (Reed Landberg and Alex Morales, Bloomberg, 6/21/12) The United Nations plan to harmonize economic growth with environmental protection drew criticism from Chinese and Bolivian leaders, underscoring a rift that limited the ambition of the Rio+20 summit.

[China morning round-up: Marine pollution](#) (BBC, 6/26/12) No one story dominates Tuesday's newspapers, but two of the national papers look at an annual marine life report released by the government.

[Sansha city set to protect marine environment](#) (Huang Yiming and Wang Qian, China Daily, 6/27/12) The decision to establish Sansha city in South China's Hainan province to administer the Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha islands and their surrounding waters will further protect the South China Sea's marine environment, local authorities said.

[Release of all PM2.5 readings starts in Shanghai](#) (China Radio International, 6/27/12) PM2.5 readings of all of the city's 10 monitoring spots and average density of local PM2.5 will be released starting today at the website of Shanghai Environmental Monitoring Center.

[China defends rare earth export policy adjustment](#) (Xinhua, 6/28/12) A Foreign Ministry spokesman defended China's policy adjustment on rare earth exports on Thursday, stating that setting quotas is aimed at protecting the environment.

[China to adopt progressive water pricing](#) (China Daily, 6/22/12) China will steadily introduce a progressive pricing scheme for water use before 2015, according to a latest government water conservancy plan.

[China pledges green support](#) (Chen Weihua, China Daily, 6/29/12) With its traffic snarl-ups, shantytowns and the breathtaking views from atop Corcovado Mountain with its giant statue of Jesus Christ, the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro – the venue of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20 – is a study in the contrasts and challenges facing sustainable development and a better future.

[China, Brazil play important role in reaching consensus at Rio+20: Brazilian diplomat](#) (Xinhua, 6/22/12) Developing countries like Brazil and China have played an important role in helping achieve consensus on sustainable development at a just wrapped-up UN conference, a Brazilian delegate said here Friday.

[U.S. partners with China on new nuclear](#) (Mark Halper, SmartPlanet, 6/26/12) The U.S. Department of Energy is quietly collaborating with China on an alternative nuclear power design known as a molten salt reactor that could run on thorium fuel rather than on more hazardous uranium, SmartPlanet understands.

[China's Wen offers \\$10 billion Latin America credit line](#) (Reuters, 6/27/12) Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao wrapped up a tour of resource-rich Latin America on Tuesday by offering \$10 billion in credit for infrastructure projects and calling for a joint push to combat protectionism.