



# 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](mailto:cc.huang2@gmail.com) or [timquijano@gmail.com](mailto:timquijano@gmail.com).

**MEDIA** (these aren't from this past week, but they are definitely worth checking out)

[Pictures: China's Rare-Earth Minerals Monopoly](#) (National Geographic) At mines like this one in Jiangxi Province, China produces 95 percent of the world's rare-earth minerals, a key resource for the future of energy.

[Pictures: A Rare Look inside China's Energy Machine](#) (National Geographic) China's energy use, production, and ambitions are best captured by superlatives: The country is the world's largest energy consumer, and leading source of greenhouse gas emissions.

(these great photographs remind me of Lu Guang, who has absolutely fantastic and harrowing pollution photos of China: [link](#))

## OPINION

[China vs. US: Who is leading the natural gas transportation race?](#) (Michael Fitzsimmons, Seeking Alpha, 11/08/2012) Will China lead the U.S. in the adoption of natural gas transportation? Before I answer this question, let's take a look at some background information.

[Chinese role critical to keep world from brink of hunger](#) (Global Times, 11/8/2012) Jose Graziano da Silva, director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, recently called on the international community and all players in the global food system to join together in eradicating hunger from the earth "within our lifetimes." He said meeting the challenge would mean making all food systems sustainable and distribution of food equal, noting that there are 1.5 billion people overweight and 868 million undernourished. What's the state of global food security? How can China's experiences in eliminating hunger help? Global Times reporter Wang Zhaokun talked to two experts on the issues.

## RESEARCH/CIVIL SOCIETY

[China surveys Yangtze dolphin as extinction looms](#) (Times of India, 11/11/2012) Chinese scientists on Sunday began a survey of the dwindling population of an endangered porpoise in the country's longest river, as the animal edges towards extinction from man-made threats.

[Accused Chinese environmentalist Liu Futang "tired and unhappy"](#) (China Dialogue, 10/31/2012) The following article, covering his recent hearing, gives an insight of his predicament. Chinese environmentalists and the public have launched an online campaign in support of Liu, including a petition to have him named the "Hainan Environmental Envoy". Liu and his family are currently waiting for a verdict in his case.

[A rise in Confucianism will make China's leaders more eco-conscious](#) (China Dialogue, 11/8/2012) Concern about the environment is driving a Confucian revival in China, with implications for the new regime, Daniel Bell, professor of philosophy at Tsinghua University, tells chinadialogue.

[China, less impact by CO2, may explain slowing in warming](#) (Reuters, 11/06/2012) Sun-dimming industrial pollution in China or signs that greenhouse gases

trap less heat in the atmosphere than expected may help explain an apparent slowdown in global warming since 2000, experts say.

[Chinese survey reveals widespread coastal pollution](#) (Scientific American, 11/06/2012) The results of China's eight-year national marine survey paint a disturbing picture of its coastal environment.

[China redrawing energy map, IEA says](#) (UPI, 11/05/2012) Commuters across the globe may be filling their tanks with gasoline processed in China as the country moves to expand its refining capacity, the IEA said.

[Burma Road: China's soft power in a new Myanmar](#) (Global Post, 10/29/2012) The Sino-Burmese Pipeline is a massive, \$2.5 billion project intended to ensure China's energy security well into the 21st century. It follows the Burma Road up from the Irrawaddy River plain through the Shan Hills and finally, into China.

[Why are China and Japan sparring over eight, tiny islands?](#) (National Geographic, 10/26/2012) Why are China and Japan locked in a tense face-off, alarming the world and inflicting substantial economic pain on themselves, over a bunch of tiny uninhabited islands in the East China Sea?

## CORPORATIONS

[China's October coal exports fall 44.3%](#) (MarketWatch, 11/11/2012) China's October coal exports fell 44.3% from a year earlier to 440,000 metric tons, according to preliminary data issued Friday by the General Administration of Customs.

[Gas finds give impetus to China sea claim](#) (Financial Times, 11/09/2012) The South China Sea could hold far greater reserves of crude oil and natural gas than previously thought, newly revealed estimates from China's biggest offshore oil and gas company show, making the area a crucial future energy source for the world's biggest energy user.

[Shale gas: India goes China's way](#) (Rigzone, 11/06/2012) India wants to emulate the methodology China has adopted in developing a pool of scholars with academic and technical expertise in shale gas exploitation by engaging with US industry and academia.

[Metso plans biomass plants in China, India as Europe scales back](#) (Bloomberg, 11/08/2012) Metso Oyj (MEO1V), a Finnish engineering company, plans to expand its biomass business in China and India as growing urban populations drive up energy demand, while European governments cut back support for clean power.

## GOVERNMENT

[Beijing mounts push for increased energy from renewables](#) (Financial Times, 11/11/2012) When Danish enzyme maker Novozymes was looking for partners to help it make chemicals out of corn cobs, it came to China. And when German solar-panel maker Q-Cells was trying to sell a subsidiary that had developed a record-breaking technology for thin film solar panels, it found a buyer in China.

[Hunan's first emissions exchange shows promise](#) (China Daily, 11/10/2012) Not long ago, Zhuzhou, a city in Central China's Hunan province, was among the nation's most polluted, but residents of this haven for heavy industry can see a blue sky on the horizon due to the success of the province's first emissions exchange.

[China says threats to harvests grow](#) (Reuters, 11/9/2012) China's food security is under greater threat as its agriculture faces growing land, water and labor shortages over the next decade, the country's agriculture minister said on Friday.

[Trees planted to form a barricade to pollution](#) (China Daily, 11/8/2012) More green plants are standing sentry on the outskirts of Beijing as authorities attempt to reduce pollution and make the city a more pleasant place to live.

[EU steps up solar panels trade battle with China](#) (Reuters, 11/08/2012) The European Union launched an investigation on Thursday into alleged state subsidies for Chinese solar panel manufacturers, intensifying the conflict over the multi-billion dollar solar power equipment market that is straining trade ties.

[China to back bamboo, rattan industry](#) (China Daily, 11/07/2012) China is committed to boost the development of the bamboo and rattan industry, according to Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang. Li held a meeting in Beijing on Tuesday with foreign members of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, who were celebrating the organization's 15th anniversary.

[Hu Jintao tells congress that environment must be a priority](#) (South China Morning Post, 11/9/2012) Communist Party chief Hu Jintao yesterday emphasized the importance of protecting the environment, but some analysts said its increased degradation in the past decade would tarnish his legacy.

[China takes solar power dispute to WTO](#) (Financial Times, 11/05/2012) China on Monday added to a growing global pile of trade disputes over renewable energy, starting a World Trade Organisation case against the EU over solar power generation programmes in Italy and Greece.

[China unveils plan to control hazardous waste](#) (China Daily, 11/02/2012) China's first official plan for hazardous-waste control was released on Thursday. Four ministries, including the Environmental Protection Ministry, published the plan, which aims to determine the exact amount and distribution of hazardous waste nationwide; to increase the level of standardized management; and to reduce the environmental risk it might bring by 2015.

[China to raise environmental bar for mining projects: association](#) (Reuters, 10/30/2012) China is expected to issue new guidelines by the end of the year to encourage metals miners to conserve domestic resources and protect the environment, a director at the China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association said on Tuesday.