

ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

Issue 224, Nov. 10th to Nov. 23rd, 2013

By Hongfu Pan and Kristiene Gong

Invite your friends and colleagues to subscribe to the e-mail newsletter [here](#), or send any e-mail to PACELISTSERVER-subscribe@yahoogroups.com from your e-mail account to subscribe. Any comments, suggestions or questions can be directed to hongfupan@gmail.com or xtiene@gmail.com.

OPINION

[Commentary: Why China can be counted on to cut emissions](#) (Xinhua, 11/11/2013)

Despite all the environmental challenges it has faced, China never shied away from its global responsibilities on the issue of climate change, especially when it comes to cutting emissions. That is because the country is determined to pursue a green development path, and therefore it can be counted on as a faithful partner by the world's nations gathering Monday in Warsaw for the annual two-week UN climate talks.

[Interview: China can help lead world to transform to ecological future, says U.S. scholar](#)

(Xinhua, 11/14/2013) The Chinese government can help lead the world to transform from industrial civilization to an ecological future characterized by sustainable economic growth, U.S. scholar Roy Morrison told Xinhua on Wednesday.

[New climate pact must consider historical emissions: Chinese official](#) (Xinhua,

11/15/2013) A new global pact under discussion at the ongoing UN climate talks should take into account historical carbon emissions by developed countries, a Chinese official said here Thursday. Su Wei, deputy chief of the Chinese delegation, said industrialized countries are mainly responsible for greenhouse gas emissions in the past two hundred years.

[China's children may become the drivers of environmental change](#) (Guardian,

11/16/2013) Last week, an eight-year-old girl from China's Jiangsu province was diagnosed with lung cancer, which was caused, according to doctors, by the tiny particle PM2.5 in air pollution that is most dangerous to health. This case highlighted the reality of exposure to high levels of pollution for vulnerable groups such as children.

[Xinhua Insight: A choking city's road to reform](#) (Xinhua, 11/19/2013) Zhou Fanguo is a

veteran steel plant worker in the northern port city of Tangshan, but he's thinking of becoming a truck driver in the future. Zhou, 43, is preparing to learn a new skill, as the steel production line he has worked on for 15 years is facing closure.

[How China's action on air pollution is slowing its carbon emissions](#) (Guardian,

11/21/2013) It's been a week of mostly bad news for the planet but there may be a small

glimmer of hope as new research shows the growth of emissions from China, the world's biggest emitter, may be slowing due to its efforts to clean up the air pollution problem in many of its cities.

RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

[Nature's call calls clean toilets](#) (Xinhua, 11/18/2013) Although it might be bad for your health, many in China would rather hold on to nature's call than use a public toilet, as so many are, frankly, disgusting. Muddy floors, dirty squat potties and litters of waste paper are common scenes in China's urban public toilets, in drastic contrast to the glitzy streets outside. In the megacity of Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, Huang, a toilet attendant at the Chen Clan Shrine, has to use sulfuric acid every night to clean the 14 squat potties of his overloaded lavatory.

[Inspection uncovers air pollution problems](#) (Xinhua, 11/18/2013) Official inspections in key air pollution areas have revealed various problems including excessive industrial emissions, inadequate waste processing and severe pollution on the land. As part of an air pollution inspection campaign by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, last month's check covered Beijing's suburban Fangshan district, six cities in neighboring Hebei province as well as two cities respectively in north China's Shanxi province and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

[7 sentenced over SW China river pollution](#) (Xinhua, 11/19/2013) Seven people were sentenced on Monday in Southwest China's Yunnan province after they were convicted of polluting a local waterway, which was mocked as "milk river" in April, a court confirmed on Tuesday. Eight people, including the legal representatives and major managers of three ore dressing or mining companies, were convicted of polluting the environment in a court in Xundian county, according to the Intermediate People's Court of Kunming City, capital of Yunnan province.

[Polluters still flouting law: inspection](#) (ChinaDaily, 11/19/2013) Enterprises in suburban Beijing and nearby areas are still illegally discharging airborne pollutants on a large scale, an investigation has found. This is despite government efforts to fight smog, the inspection by the Ministry of Environmental Protection discovered. The ministry carried out the inspection with local environmental protection bureaus in Beijing, Hebei and Shanxi provinces, as well as the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, in October.

[Fresh smog shrouds east, north China](#) (Xinhua, 11/22/2013) Municipalities and provinces of east and north China started seeing a new round of smog on Friday after days with no wind. The National Meteorological Center issued a yellow warning on haze at 2 p.m. on Friday, forecasting medium or serious haze in Beijing, Tianjin, and the provinces of Hebei, Shanxi, Shaanxi, Henan, Shandong, Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

[Beijing won't enforce 'idling engine' rule](#) (ChinaDaily, 11/23/2013) Lawmakers said that a new measure in Beijing's air pollution prevention and treatment draft regulation,

asking drivers to turn off their engines when idling for more than three minutes, is not compulsory but rather a move to raise environmental protection awareness.

COPPORATE SECTOR

[Scotland courts Chinese energy companies](#) (UPI, 11/11/2013) Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond said there was "substantial" interest in the North Sea expressed by Chinese energy companies during his trip to China. Salmond arrived Sunday in Edinburgh to deliver updates about his trip to China. He said energy issues topped the agenda during his visit.

[China to drive world's renewable energy increase](#) (UPI, 11/14/2013) China's increase in renewable energy is on course to surpass the European Union, the United States and Japan combined, says the International Energy Agency. In its annual World Energy Outlook released Tuesday, the IEA said China will be the strongest driver in the worldwide trend in which renewable energy is expected to account for almost half of the increase in global power generation by 2035, China Daily reports.

[China Forecast To Install Even More Solar Than Previously Thought](#) (Clean Technica, 11/18/2013) The amount of solar power forecast to be installed in China in 2014 was recently increased to 12 GW, according to a report released by the Chinese Bureau of Energy on November 14, 2013.

[Seven ways residents in China are fighting pollution with their own inventions](#) (Quartz, 11/18/2013) The latest market opportunity for entrepreneurs in China? Polluted air. For nearly as long as pollution has been a salient, public issue in the country, foreigners and locals have been devising ways to help residents avoid the worst of smog—and in some cases make a little money in the process. Here are some of the most notable ones.

[Fosun to invest in US oil, natural gas sector](#) (ChinaDaily, 11/20/2013) Fosun Group, a broadly diversified, privately held conglomerate, said it will invest in the US oil and natural gas sector, amid growing energy demand in China. Chief Executive Officer Liang Xinjun said the fast development of the US energy industry amid a supportive policy environment could lead to profitable investments. The US plan is the first step into the oil and gas business for the Shanghai-based company formally known as Shanghai Fosun High Technology (Group) Co.

GOVERNMENT

[China's top leaders prescribe eco-civilization for balanced growth](#) (Global Times, 11/14/2013) The Chinese government has vowed to pursue a green and sustainable path to balanced economic, ecological and social development, after the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China Central Committee stressed the significance of building an eco-civilization.

[Chinese official urges EU to raise target for emission cut](#) (Xinhua, 11/15/2013) On the sidelines of the annual United Nations climate negotiations in Warsaw, a Chinese official has urged the European Union to raise its target for 20-percent greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2020 to further combat climate change. The European Environment Agency said last month that the EU had reduced its output of greenhouse gases by nearly 18 percent, thus seeing its 20-percent target within sight by 2020.

[China seeks climate aid timetable](#) (China Daily, 11/15/2013) Developed economies should devise a tangible timetable and roadmap to fulfill promises to provide aid to poor countries, said China's top climate negotiator Su Wei. It is unclear whether developed economies have implemented their plans of granting \$10 billion to developing economies annually during 2010-12. It is also unknown how they plan to stick to their pledged \$100 billion from 2013 to 2020.

[New Zealand-China environment partnership focuses on rural water pollution](#) (Xinhua, 11/15/2013) Chinese and New Zealand scientists have begun work on a New Zealand farm to study ways of reducing nutrient run-off and improving water quality in a series of joint government-sponsored environment projects. New Zealand Minister of Science and Innovation Steven Joyce, who is currently in China, said Friday that reducing rural water pollution was a key priority under the New Zealand-China Environment Cooperation Agreement signed in 2008.

[China eases burden on ecologically fragile areas](#) (Xinhua, 11/15/2013) China's central authorities have decided not to press local governments located in ecologically fragile areas to pursue economic growth regardless of environment deterioration. A key reform roadmap released by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on Friday said governments of some ecologically fragile and poverty-stricken areas will be free from assessment of their economic performance.

[China fines marine polluters](#) (Xinhua, 11/22/2013) Chinese marine authorities have already fined polluters more than 25 million yuan (\$4.07 million) for damaging the marine environment in 2013. Various levels of marine surveillance agencies had dealt with 440 environmental cases by the end of October and settled 385 of them, according to the State Oceanic Administration on Friday.