

ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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OPINION

[Free trade deal threatens jobs, environment](#) (Green Left, 11/29/2014) Australia signed a free trade agreement with China on November 17. The Coalition government and the media praise the agreement, but other groups are concerned about the implications. More than 85% of Australian exports will be tariff free initially, rising to 93% in four years. Some of these goods are subject to tariffs of up to 40%. On full implementation of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement, 95% of Australian exports to China will be tariff free.

[Coal tax reform to ease burden on producers, environment](#) (CCF Group, 12/01/2014) China, the world's leading coal producer and consumer, is to levy resource tax on coal on the basis of sales instead of production from Dec. 1, in a move to shore up the dim industry and improve the deteriorating environment. The key to the reform, however, is to clear out charging fees involving coal. Due to historical reasons, Chinese coal producers pay taxes as well as fees under various names, such as coal price adjustment funds, compensation fees for native minerals, and fees for local economic development.

[CHINA: XI JINPING'S 'DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY UNDER NEW CONDITIONS' – ANALYSIS](#) (Eurasia Review, 12/04/2014) It is natural that the address delivered by Xi Jinping, the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and President of the People's Republic of China (PRC) at the Central Foreign Affairs Work Conference (Beijing, 28-29 November 2014), is receiving world-wide attention; not being missed in this regard is the description of the PRC Premier Li Keqiang that the address “provides an important guidance for conducting China's diplomacy both in the current stage and in time to come”.

[Will China's Fight Against Smog Influence Canada's Environmental Targets?](#) (HUFF Post, 12/06/2014) Citizens of many cities are often frustrated by the challenges of hosting international gatherings of high-level politicians, which often create havoc with local life. In Beijing, however, it is safe to say more than a few people were sad to see the recent APEC summit come to a close. After all, thanks to policy initiatives that reportedly reduced pollution levels by more than 50 per cent, the typically murky skies

over China's capital city were actually clear for a week. Local residents fondly called them "APEC blue."

RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

[The Chinese scientific revolution aims to tackle climate change](#) (The Guardian, 11/28/2014) This article is about the future landscape of science in general, and climate science in particular. Just a few days ago, the Chinese Academy of Sciences hosted a small workshop which involved scientists from around the world that work on a device called the Expendable Bathythermograph, or XBT for short. The obscurity of the conference speaks volumes; it didn't get much, if any, press attention. This fact tells a lot about the host nation.

[China media: Pollution woes](#) (BBC News, 11/28/2014) Papers welcome the government's decision to bring the "toughest environment protection law" from next year to curb pollution. The government has promised a "war" against pollution in "every corner" of the land, according to the Xinhua News Agency. The report adds that the new law requires officers to show "zero tolerance" for those who illegally dispose hazardous waste and fabricate environmental monitoring data.

[Facing environmental crisis, can Buddhist values offer non-religious China a greener path?](#) (PBS, 11/28/2014) In a surprise announcement during the president's visit to Beijing a few weeks ago, the U.S. and China reached a major climate deal. Remarkably, the atheist country, which is also the world's number one polluter, has recently embraced Buddhism to help persuade its citizens to care about the environment.

[Invasive plants threaten environment, health, report says](#) (China Daily, 12/01/2014) More than 500 alien species of plants have been introduced to China, threatening people's health and the environment, a study said. The study, conducted by eight institutions, including Shanghai Chenshan Plant Science Research Center and Beijing Normal University, said that among the alien plants, 34 species are known to be severely harmful.

[China, Japan block Antarctic fisheries regulation as rorts continue](#) (Sydney Morning Herald, 12/03/2014) Despite attempts to crack down on illegal Antarctic fishing, a report has found that there is still rorting and a refusal to tighten rules in the chase for high-priced fish. Korean authorities found a fleet of three ships fabricated catch documents and ship tracks, apparently with Russian help, the preliminary report of the 25-member Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) shows.

[Solar tree design destined for China](#) (CCTV, 12/04/2014) There's an old saying: Money doesn't grow on trees, but in our high tech times what DOES grow on trees is energy. The eTree looks like a real tree but instead of branches solar panels jut out strategically to harvest the sun's energy providing electricity, USB power, WIFI and shade. Captured solar power also operates in reverse fashion, cooling the fountain drinking water.

Modeled after the desert Acacia, the eTree is part social-environment project and ecological sculpture intended to bring solar energy and environmental awareness to the public and link urban centers with the environment.

[Environmental filmmakers have rare impact in China](#) (mySanAntonio, 12/06/2014) One clip shows a girl swatting flies from a younger child among piles of trash. Another has children blowing up used medical gloves like balloons. The footage is on the computer screen of Wang Jiuliang as he edits his second film about waste harming China's environment.

CORPORATE SECTOR

[Environmental Pollution Control Equipment Markets in China](#) (PR Newswire, 12/01/2014) China's demand for Environmental Pollution Control Equipment has grown at a fast pace in the past decade. In the next decade, both production and demand will continue to grow. The Chinese economy maintains a high speed growth which has been stimulated by the consecutive increases of industrial output, import & export, consumer consumption and capital investment for over two decades.

[Expansion of pollution monitoring on the way](#) (China Daily, 12/02/2014) China intends to create a monitoring system to oversee all types of pollutants in all areas and demand more effective action from protection teams, top environmental officials said on Monday. "The focus of reform in ecological and environmental systems will be to build and improve a stringent pollution prevention and control mechanism, environmental evaluation process, administration system and early warning system," said Zhou Shengxian, minister of environmental protection, on Monday afternoon in Beijing.

[Sands China and Clean the World Come Together for "One Project Day"](#) (CNN Money, 12/05/2014) Sands China Ltd. and Clean the World kicked off "One Project Day" Friday at The Venetian® Macao's Cotai Expo Hall D. The initiative aims to build 20,000 hygiene kits which will be donated to charities and community organisations in Macao and other Asian countries. The event is a part of the Sands ECO360° global sustainability strategy and the corporate citizenship program Sands Cares.

[Xinhua Insight: China mobilizes social investment to heal environment](#) (Shanghai Daily, 12/06/2014) China is seeking social investment for environmental protection projects as a shortage of government funds impedes pollution control. In a guideline published by the State Council on Nov. 26, the central government announced it will further ease market access to key industries, promoting environmental protection by offering new forms of investment.

GOVERNMENT

[Chinese vice premier pledges greater environmental protection efforts](#) (Global Times, 12/01/2014) Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli said on Monday that China will continue to advance green development and endeavor to build a beautiful country. Zhang made

the remarks in a speech at the opening ceremony of the annual general meeting of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development.

[Beijing joins neighbors in emissions control](#) (China Daily, 12/03/2014) Beijing will join with its five provincial-level neighbors to build a unified platform that will monitor vehicle exhaust emissions in a bid to protect the environment. It is the first regional joint supervision effort in China, municipal environmental officials said.

[China to launch \\$10.66 billion fund to fight pollution](#) (Straits Times, 12/03/2014) China plans to launch a 50 billion yuan (S\$10.66 billion) environmental protection fund in stepped-up efforts to reduce widespread pollution, the official China Securities Journal reported on Wednesday. The fund would receive investment from the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the Ministry of Finance, the paper said, and would attempt to beef up investment in critical sectors through low or no-interest loans.

[Senior environment official probed in China's polluted](#) (EastDay, 12/05/2014) A graft investigation has been launched into a senior environmental protection official in north China's polluted Hebei Province, the provincial discipline watchdog said on Friday. The probe into Li Bao, deputy head of the provincial environmental protection department, will focus on discipline and law violation accusations.

[China looking to curb fertilizer, pesticide use](#) (Town Hall, 12/05/2014) China, the world's top producer of rice and wheat, is seeking to cap the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides that have helped to contaminate large swathes of its arable land and threaten its ability to keep up with domestic food demand. More than 19 percent of soil samples taken from Chinese farmland have been found to contain excessive levels of heavy metals or chemical waste. In central Hunan province, more than three quarters of the ricefields have been contaminated, government research has shown.