

ENVIRONMENTAL CHINA

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OPINION

[China drafts tougher law to fight air pollution: Xinhua](#) (InterAksyon, 12/26/2014) China plans tougher pollution limits and heavier penalties in a revision of its air pollution law, state-run news agency Xinhua said, as the government battles to reduce smog that takes hundreds of thousands of lives each year. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress is this week considering a draft that would impose fines of up to 1 million yuan (\$160,000) or even shut down factories that exceed emission limits, Xinhua reported late Monday.

[Solving China's water scarcity problem won't be easy](#) (Digital China, 12/28/2014) Trying to fix China's air pollution problems has been difficult, especially with the country's dependence on coal. But with an ongoing drought and massive population boom in its cities, water scarcity is fast replacing pollution as China's major problem. To simply say that China doesn't have enough water for its population would be over-simplifying the issue because the country's other environmental problems are all tied in with water scarcity being seen today.

[The Story of Water, Energy, and Food Lives Here](#) (Circle of Blue, 01/01/2015) There's no pretending that providing secure stores of fresh water, and producing adequate supplies of energy and food is confounding the nations of Earth. In the era of climate change most of the world's prominent energy and food producing regions are either getting dryer or more hydrologically unstable.

RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

[Tiger and wild cat trade from Myanmar to China growing](#) (BBC News, 12/22/2014) The trade in tigers and other wild cat parts from Myanmar into China has grown in recent years, a new study based on two decades of survey data suggests. It reports a surge mainly in Mong La, a Burmese town bordering China, where shops selling such products have more than trebled in the past eight years.

[China cracks down on environmental crimes](#) (Japan Times, 12/24/2014) China's environmental regulators nearly doubled the number of cases they referred to police involving suspected polluters over the first three-quarters of this year compared to all of

last year, amid a larger push by the government to crack down on the country's severe environmental problems, state media reported.

[China expresses concern after protests at Myanmar mine](#) (Yahoo News, 12/24/2014)

China expressed concern on Wednesday about a protest against a Chinese-run copper mine in Myanmar in which a person was killed and some were wounded saying China urged its companies abroad to act responsibly and protect the environment. Myanmar police on Monday fired on protesters near the Letpadaung mine which is at the center of a long-running land dispute, killing one person and wounding 20.

[China imposes record fine in water pollution case](#) (Asian Correspondent, 12/31/2014)

Chinese state media are reporting that a court in eastern China has issued the country's biggest environmental fine resulting from public interest litigation against polluters. The official Xinhua News Agency said late Tuesday that the Jiangsu provincial high court ordered six companies to pay 160 million yuan (\$26 million) for discharging waste chemicals into rivers.

[Cancer often due to 'bad luck', not genes or environment: US scientists](#) (South China

Morning Post, 01/04/2015) Cancer is often caused by the "bad luck" of random mutations that arise when cells divide, not family history or environmental causes, US researchers said on Thursday. The study in the January 2 edition of the journal Science was led by researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and based on a statistical model that includes many types of cancer in a range of human tissues.

CORPORATE SECTOR

[China Everbright Water debuts on SGX following reverse takeover](#) (Shanghai Daily, 12/22/2014) China Everbright Water Ltd, formerly known as Hankore Environment Tech Group, was welcomed to the mainboard of Singapore Exchange on Monday following a reverse takeover. In the reverse takeover, China Everbright Water International transferred its water treatment assets to Hankore, which was listed on the Singapore bourse, in return for shares in the enlarged entity.

[World Bank backs China's urban rail, flood protection projects](#) (China Daily, 12/24/2014)

The World Bank Group (WBG) on Wednesday announced that its Board of Executive Directors has approved two loans totaling \$350 million to support urban rail development and flood protection projects in China. The Zhengzhou Urban Rail Project in central China's Henan province, financed with an International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan of \$250 million, will support construction of the Urban Rail Line 3, which will connect the city center of Zhengzhou with its northwest and southeast development areas.

[Organic farming techniques are closing gap on conventional yields](#) (China Dialogue,

12/30/2014) The unintended consequences of our agricultural food system – polluted air and water, dead zones in coastal seas, soil erosion – have profound implications for human health and the environment. So more sustainable agricultural practices are

needed as soon as possible. Some farmers have turned to less chemically-intensive techniques to reduce the negative impact of agriculture, such as organic farming, which has been shown to outperform conventional farming by many standards of environmental sustainability.

[Chinese Factory Activity Slips in December](#) (Wall Street Journal, 12/30/2014) Analysts said that the final reading of the HSBC Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, though slightly better than a preliminary figure, still pointed to problems ahead for the country's factories amid flagging domestic demand. "It's not a good sign for next year," said Lu Zhengwei, chief economist at Industrial Bank Co. in Shanghai.

[Tesla plays the environmental angle in China](#) (China Daily, 12/30/2014) Electric carmaker Tesla's plan to spur sales in China could be helped by the Chinese government's push for clean energy. Zheng Yuhuang, a marketing professor at Tsinghua University and a member of the Association for Consumer Research, sees a bright future for Tesla's expansion in China, because the Chinese government has developed several policies to encourage consumers to buy clean-energy vehicles.

[China builds world's largest facility using coal mining gas to generate electricity](#) (International Business Times, 01/02/2015) Chinese coal mining firm, Lu'an Group, said it has built the world's largest facility to generate power from methane gas emitted during coal mining, as the country looks to reduce poisonous gas emissions that contribute largely to pollution. The official Xinhua news agency reported that Lu'an Group built the facility, which is capable of utilising 99% of methane gas discharged from the Gaohe Coal Mine in north China's Shanxi Province.

GOVERNMENT

[Last presidential visit to China in 2012 witnessed signing of seven agreements](#) (Daily News Egypt, 12/23/2014) In August 2012, former Islamist President Mohamed Morsi met his Chinese counterpart, Hu Jintao in a move that was deemed fruitful. Both presidents signed seven cooperation agreements for major projects that targeted boosting Chinese investment, including industrial and technological development projects.

[China and Japan find common ground on the environment](#) (South China Morning Post, 12/29/2014) Chinese and Japanese officials agreed yesterday to step up cooperation on energy conservation and the environment during a major governmental meeting - the first since their leaders held talks last month. The forum, attended by a total of 500 government and business officials, came as tensions seemed to be easing between Asia's two biggest economies, particularly in nonpolitical areas.

[Japan, China resume forum on environment after 2 years](#) (Japan News, 12/29/2014) Japan and China held their environmental forum for the first time in two years, in Beijing on Sunday. After a bilateral summit in November, the Japanese side has requested the restart of the forum which has not been held since one in Tokyo in August 2012.

Sunday's forum was attended by about 500 people from the two countries, including government officials and businesspeople.

[China Focus: Law revision on captured animals](#) (Xinhua, 01/01/2015) A revised Chinese law on wildlife protection is expected to regulate the domestication of animals, as some practices have been criticized for being abusive. The draft law revision includes a new guideline that says domestication activities should be "morally acceptable to the public," Prof. Chang Jiwen of the Law Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences told Xinhua. He attended a closed-door discussion on the draft in December.

[New rules on environment take effect on 1st Jan 2015](#) (Xinhua, 01/02/2015) New rules on the environment take effect in China from Jan. 1, 2015. The changes are the first amendments to China's environmental protection law in two decades. They're designed to give more power to environmental authorities and allow for harsher punishments against companies that produce harmful emissions.