



# 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 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).

## **OPINION**

[Beware China's Control Of Rare Earth Minerals](#) (EurasiaReview, 6/29/2011) There was a time several years ago when the Australian business community viewed China in the same way we now see Japan: allopportunity and no real threat.

## **PUBLIC SECTOR/NGOs**

[China told to reduce food production or face 'dire' waterlevels](#) (The Guardian, 6/28/2011) China needs to reduce food production onits dry

northern plains or aquifers will diminish to a "dire" level in 30 years, one of the country's leading groundwater experts has warned.

[China's admission spotlights Three Gorges woes](#) (Agence France Presse, 6/29/2011) Last October, a huge chunk of hillside broke free in this city on the Yangtze River, and the deafening landslide nearly knocked Wang Songlian's home and a dozen others into a deep ravine. But such incidents are hardly news in Badong, where the scars of frequent landslides are sprinkled throughout the city, and local residents blame seismic changes wrought by China's giant and controversial Three Gorges Dam project.

[Green is a popular choice for car buyers](#) (China Daily, 6/30/2011) In the next decade, China will have the largest number of electric car owners than anywhere in the world, even if fuel-powered cars remain the preferred option, said Xavier Mosquet, senior partner of Boston Consulting Group (BCG), a consultancy agency.

[Growing urban population strains Chinese cities](#) (Agence France Presse, 6/26/2011) A forest of buildings and cranes rises through thick fog above roads jammed with cars in a Chinese city the size of Austria and home to more than 32 million people.

## **CORPORATIONS**

[China Opens Oil Field in Iraq](#) (New York Times, 6/28/2011) China's largest oil company has begun operations at Al-Ahdab oil field in Iraq, making the field the first major new area to start production in Iraq in 20 years, according to an official news report on Tuesday.

[Cost of solar power likely to tumble: Suntech](#) (The Nation, 6/29/2011) Electricity generated from solar power will soon be more competitive with that produced from conventional energy resources such as natural gas, as the cost could fall below US\$1 (Bt31) per watt, said Zhengrong Shi, founder and chief executive of China's Suntech Power Holdings, the world's largest provider of solar panels.

[Pharma pollution is out of control in China](#) (Chemistry World, 6/24/2011) Harbin Pharmaceutical Group, a major pharmaceutical company in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province that specialises in antibiotics, has signed an agreement with Acheng District government (a suburb of Harbin) to build a new production plant. The agreement follows a recent pollution

scandal involving the company that resulted in its active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) workshop being closed.

[In Southeast Asia, Big Dams Raise Big Concerns](#) (Council on Foreign Relations, 6/30/2011) These past few weeks have not been good ones for large dam projects in Southeast Asia. Big hydropower projects have been caught in a web of unsafe corporate practices, fierce political violence and simmering regional tensions.

[China's new wastelands](#) (China Dialogue, 6/29/2011) In the middle ground between booming cities and rural villages, rubbish is causing friction. Yang Chuanmin visits a Shanghai family, who blames a plastics-recycling centre for the death of their child.

[BRE reveals master plan for Green Building Park in China](#) (24Dash, 6/27/2011) Green building experts BRE are spearheading an initiative that could be a catalyst for significant growth for UK construction related companies in China.

[Sino-Forest, Chinese Bureaucratic Entrepreneurship And Forestry Corruption](#) (Business Insider, 6/26/2011) Sino-Forest is drowning in the allegation of fraud by Muddy Waters at the moment. However, it was North America's biggest private forestry company long before that. When we look into Sino-Forest's past glory, we see a typical success story of Chinese bureaucratic entrepreneurship.

[New Hydro-Stations on Yangtze Have Twice the Capacity of Three Gorges](#) (The Epoch Times, 6/25/2011) With four more new gigantic hydro plants coming up, the Yangtze River in China will be choked with power plants. Thousands of residents will be displaced and the environment threatened as a result of building the new plants.

[China Looks at Canadian Oil Sands to Help Satisfy Future Energy Demand](#) (China Briefing, 6/30/2011) Chinese energy companies are looking to grab a stake in western Canada's abundant oil sands to support China's growing and developing appetite for oil.

[China kicks off first shale gas tender](#) (Reuters, 6/28/2011) China issued its first shale gas exploration tender with an offer of four blocks to a group of Chinese energy companies, state media reported, as the country kicks off its search for potentially vast reserves of the unconventional resource.

[Kunlun Energy aims to sell 10 million tonnes of LNG per year to China by 2013](#) (Reuters, 6/29/2011) Kunlun Energy Co Ltd aims to sell 10 million

tonnes of liquefied natural gas per year to the Chinese market by 2013 and to expand that volume to 15 million tonnes by 2015, a company official said on Wednesday.

[BYD surges in Shenzhen debut](#) (China Daily, 7/1/2011) BYD Co, the Chinese automaker part-owned by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc, surged on its trading debut in Shenzhen on Thursday amid speculation it may benefit from government funding for electric-vehicle development.

[U.S. company exports unique solar technology to China](#) (Xinhua, 7/1/2011) When Evergreen Solar opened its production site in Marlboro just outside from Boston in 2000, investors were convinced that the business would soon turn into a slam dunk.

[Lead-Acid Battery Output Recovery in China to be Slow Amid Pollution Curbs](#) (Bloomberg, 6/29/2011) Lead-acid battery production in China's Zhejiang province, which accounts for one-fifth of the country's output, will be slow to recover amid tough pollution curbs, keeping demand for the metal low.

[China charged up for electric car revolution to lighten footprint](#) (The National, 7/1/2011) A pioneering electric taxi project in China's southern economic powerhouse of Shenzhen seems a success by most accounts. Passengers are enthusiastic, there have been no accidents and drivers are termed "gracious", not a term usually applied to mainland motorists.

## **GOVERNMENT**

[China may lift nuclear approvals by mid-2012: report](#) (Reuters, 6/24/2011) China's suspension of nuclear project approvals, put in place in the wake of Japan's nuclear crisis, could be lifted by mid-2012, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

[Green Activists Feel Sting of Chinese Government Crackdown](#) (Yale Environment 360, 6/30/2011) Even before this spring's ominous clampdown on China's public-interest lawyers, writers, and activists, the country's fledgling environmental community felt the authorities' noose tightening.

[China placing priority on biotechnology](#) (China Daily, 6/28/2011) China will spend 2 trillion yuan (\$308.5 billion) on science and technology, making biotechnology a major priority, in the next five years, Chinese State

Councilor Liu Yandong said at the ongoing 2011 International Conference for Bio-economy.

[China opens world's longest sea bridge](#) (The Telegraph, 6/30/2011) China has opened the world's longest sea bridge, a 26.4-mile-long structure that could easily span the English Channel.

[Bryson may boost Sino-US energy ties](#) (China Daily, 6/24/2011) United States President Barack Obama's selection of John Bryson, the former Southern California utility executive, as commerce secretary speaks to the White House's push to develop clean and renewable energy industries in the US and develop a stronger partnership with China in the energy sector, experts said.

[Provincial tug-of-war waters down China's Yellow river success story](#) (The Guardian, 6/28/2011) Its digital management system is a 'wonder', but with communities battling over water use there's a long way to go before China's second-largest river is off life-support.

[Herders in China's Inner Mongolia protest over lead mine in latest unrest, some reported hurt](#) (Associated Press, 6/30/2011) Ethnic Mongolian herders protested a lead mine operating on grazing land in the latest tension in a Chinese border region that recently saw its biggest demonstrations in two decades, a rights group and a local resident said Thursday.

[Railway to Tibet stands safety, environment tests](#) (Xinhua, 6/30/2011) The Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the world's highest plateau railway, has stood safety and environmental tests while boosting regional economic growth over the past five years.

[Oil-hungry China welcomes alleged war criminal al-Bashir](#) (MSNBC, 6/28/2011) As the world's largest energy consumer and one of the fastest-growing economies, China needs oil. Since 1995, it has invested heavily in Sudan's oil infrastructure via the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC).

[Monitor food safety at the source](#) (China Daily, 6/30/2011) Pollution at the point where food is produced is a major cause of food safety problems in China, according to a report released on Wednesday after a nationwide food safety check by China's top legislature.