

Weekly News

May 22 - May 29, 2014



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CHINA

Tibet Ranks Second in Wetland Preservation

May 29, 2014

Abstract: Tibet is now home to 6.52 million hectares of wetlands, the second largest in the whole of China. Forestry officials said on Wednesday they discovered an additional 524,000 more hectares of wetlands in the region which were not included in a survey conducted in 2010.

See full article at:

<http://www.eco-business.com/news/tibet-ranks-second-wetland-preservation/>

BMW to Deliver Electric Car in China in September

May 29, 2014

Abstract: BMW will start delivering imported electric cars in China in September, with pre-orders indicating short supplies in a market that could become the world's biggest for green vehicles, China president Karsten Engel said on Wednesday.

See full article at:

<http://www.eco-business.com/news/bmw-deliver-electric-car-china-september/>

US \$ 200m Loan to Boost China Water Quality

May 28, 2014

Abstract: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will help improve water access and quality in China in a 200-million-US dollar deal signed on Tuesday with private water supplier China Water Affairs Group Limited (CWA).

See full article at:

<http://www.eco-business.com/news/us200m-loan-boost-china-water-quality/>

Canadian Solar Announces Joint Venture with GCL-Poly in China

May 28, 2014

Abstract: Canadian Solar Inc., one of the world's largest solar power companies, today announced that it has entered into an agreement (the "JV Agreement") with GCL-Poly Solar System Integration (China) Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of GCL-Poly Energy Holdings Limited ("GCL", stock code: 3800.HK) to establish a joint venture (the "Joint Venture") to build a manufacturing site to produce crystalline silicon solar cells in Funing, Jiangsu Province, China. Under the terms of the agreement, Canadian Solar will own 80% and GCL will own 20% of the equity in the Joint Venture.

See full article at:

<http://www.energychinaforum.com/news/80557.shtml>

China Scraps High-pollution Vehicles in Air Cleanup

May 27, 2014

Abstract: The Chinese government announced on Monday that the country will pull 6 million highly polluting vehicles off the roads and scrap them before the end of 2014 in a move to reduce air pollution.

See full article at:

<http://www.eco-business.com/news/china-scraps-high-pollution-vehicles-air-cleanup/>

US

Energy Department Announces National Geothermal Data System to Accelerate Geothermal Energy Development

May 28, 2014

Abstract: In support of the Obama Administration's Open Data Policy to make data more accessible to the public and entrepreneurs, the Energy Department today officially launched the National Geothermal Data System (NGDS), an online open-source platform that facilitates the discovery and use of geothermal data, enabling researchers to speed geothermal energy development. This innovative online tool will allow academia and industry to access quantifiable, technical data in digital format, breaking down one of the geothermal energy industry's greatest barriers to development and deployment of this promising clean energy source.

See full article at:

<http://energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-announces-national-geothermal-data-system-accelerate-geothermal>

U.S. EPA Awards U.C. Berkeley \$1.5 Million to Evaluate Air Pollution in Developing Nations

May 28, 2014

Abstract: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced it is awarding the University of California, Berkeley, a \$1.5 million grant for work to assess the impact of pollution from household and village-scale stoves on air quality in developing countries. The grant is part of \$9 million awarded nationally to six universities to research cleaner technologies and fuels for cooking, lighting, and heating homes.

See full article at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/596e17d7cac720848525781f0043629e/f428b29d56d1ca0985257ce6007b4082!OpenDocument>

EPA Reducing Air Pollution from Old Diesel Engines; Grants Provide \$1.1 Million to Protect People from Harmful Air Pollution

May 27, 2014

Abstract: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is supporting local efforts to reduce air pollution in the New York City metropolitan area by providing a total of \$1.1 million to help two organizations replace old, dirty diesel engines on boats with less polluting models. The projects will cut emissions of harmful nitrogen oxides and particulate matter among other pollutants. These pollutants are linked to health problems, including asthma, lung and heart disease and premature death.

See full article at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/596e17d7cac720848525781f0043629e/fde9f1e23484107085257ce5005645a7!OpenDocument>

2014: The Year of Concentrating Solar Power

May, 2014

Abstract: A report by the U.S. Department of Energy introduces the three DOE-supported CSP Technologies and DOE Loan Program Office CSP portfolio profile.

See full article at:

http://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/05/f15/2014_csp_report.pdf

EU

Europe: Weaning itself off Russian Energy

May 29, 2014

Abstract: The G7 recently met in Rome to discuss the challenges of energy security following Russia's invasion of the Crimean peninsula, and reaffirmed its commitment to pursuing collective energy security.

See full article at: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/05/europe-weaning-itself-off-russian-energy-20145259341979617.html>

95% of Europe's Beaches Meet EU Agency Standards

May 27, 2014

Abstract: Europe's beaches are increasingly meeting minimum quality standards, according to a report released by the European Environment Agency (EEA) on Tuesday. According to the agency, 94.7% met its standards and 82.6% of them were of "excellent" quality in 2013. Italy comes in eighth place in the rankings, which are led by Cyprus and Luxembourg followed by Malta (98.9%), Croatia (94.9%), Greece (93.2%), Germany (89.8%), and Austria (87.6%). Italy has about a third of European beaches (32%), followed by Greece (14%), France (13%), and Spain (14%).

See full article at: http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/sections/environment/2014/05/27/95-of-europes-beaches-meet-eu-agency-standards_ef593a9f-b351-41ac-85e5-78fe7bb6547b.html

EU Agrees Biofuels Compromise in an Attempt to Restore Policy Certainty

May 29, 2014

Abstract: EU diplomats look to have brokered a compromise on biofuels policy in a behind closed doors meeting in Brussels yesterday. It has emerged that representatives of the 28 member states have agreed to cap the use of crop-based biofuels at seven per cent of the EU's 10 per cent renewable energy target for the transport sector, while including a 0.5 per cent "indicative" sub target for advanced biofuels.

See full article at: <http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/analysis/2347097/eu-agrees-biofuels-compromise-in-an-attempt-to-restore-policy-certainty>

EU Must End Landfilling, Says Top Environment Official

May 27, 2014

Abstract: The European Union's lead civil servant for the environment has called for a ban on landfilling and warned that separate collection is not enough if the EU is to improve its environmental performance.

See full article at: <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/plastics-recycling/eu-must-end-landfilling-says-top-environment-official-301880>

EU-India FTA: Crucial to a More Favorable Business Environment

May 27, 2014

Abstract: The EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is under negotiation. Its conclusion will represent a major achievement in the economic relations, as the agreement has enormous potential in fostering the growth of the European and Indian markets.

See full article at: <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/global-europe/eu-india-fta-crucial-more-favourable-business-environment-302457>

OTHERS

Singapore: Companies Must Accept Responsibility in Addressing Haze Crisis

May 29, 2014

Abstract: The Singapore Minister for the Environment and Water Resources addressed that corporations would have to step up as better stewards of the environment if Southeast Asia's haze crisis during a meeting held last week to discuss regional sustainability efforts.

See full article at: <http://news.mongabay.com/2014/0529-singapore-haze-summit.html#8MjHSIOoYUiLoYKk.99>

Indonesia's Haze from Forest Fires Kills 110,000 People per Year

May 28, 2014

Abstract: Haze caused by burning peat forests in Indonesia kills an average of 110,000 people per year and up to 300,000 during el Niño events, while releasing hundreds of millions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, warns a new report from Greenpeace.

See full article at <http://news.mongabay.com/2014/0528-riau-fires.html#GLC7PVMtaDr5SELU.99>

Brunei to Limit Agricultural Land Use to 1 Percent

May 25, 2014

Abstract: The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) reports that Brunei which is a forest-dense country will limit agricultural conversion to one percent of its land mass, preserving much of the rest for biodiversity and other services afforded by healthy forest ecosystems,

See full article at: <http://news.mongabay.com/2014/0525-brunei-forest-pledge.html#fm2fj7lWFfbccq0.99>

Malaysian Palm Oil Giant Loses PNG Case, Plantations Declared Illegal

May 24, 2014

Abstract: Papua New Guinea's National Court has declared two leases held by Malaysia-based Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad (KLK) null and void, and ordered the government to cancel the licenses to convert nearly 40,000 hectares of rainforest and community forest for oil palm plantations, reports the Rainforest Action Network (RAN).

See full article at: <http://news.mongabay.com/2014/0524-klk-png-conflict.html#DbR6eQuw48siHUGu.99>

Australian Environmentalists Welcome Bank Wariness on Reef Port

May 24, 2014

Abstract: Environmentalists on Saturday welcomed Deutsche Bank to invest in a major port expansion near Australia's Great Barrier Reef, saying it reflected global concern about the project.

See full article at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/developmental-issues/Australian-environmentalists-welcome-bank-wariness-on-reef-port/articleshow/35566613.cms>

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Since 1999, IFCE's NGO capacity training program has helped hundreds of grassroots environmental groups develop stronger policy agendas and launch and manage effective public education campaigns and conservation programs. IFCE also provides the Chinese government with constructive suggestions on environment, energy, climate and natural resource policies and regulations. In addition, IFCE organizes missions to and from China to promote professional and technological exchanges between the two countries.

For A Better World

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