

Weekly News

May 16 -May 22, 2014



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International Fund for China's Environment
2421 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037
Tel: (202)-822-2141 Fax: (202)-457-0908 <http://www.ifce.org>



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CHINA

China and Russia Reach 30-Year Gas Deal

May 22, 2014

Abstract: China and Russia signed a \$400 billion gas deal on Wednesday, giving Moscow a mega market for its leading export and linking two major powers that, despite a rocky history of alliances and rivalries, have drawn closer to counter the clout of the United States and Europe.

See full article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/22/world/asia/china-russia-gas-deal.html? r=1>

China to Triple Solar Power Capacity to Fight Pollution

May 21, 2014

Abstract: A statement released on the National Development and Reform Commission's website describes the goal as a doubling of the previous 2015 target. The country currently has 20GW of installed solar capacity. In a bid to shift its reliance on fossil fuels, the world's biggest polluter is also planning to install 150GW of wind power by 2017, as well as 11GW of biomass power and 330GW of hydropower. The ultimate target is for 13% of the nation's energy to come from non-fossil fuels, according to Bloomberg.

See full article at: <http://www.energychinaforum.com/news/80369.shtml>

Johnson Controls Teams up with Chinese Firm to Form Car Parts Company

May 19, 2014

Abstract: Johnson Controls and an affiliate of China's biggest car manufacturer will form the world's largest auto interiors company, with \$7.5 billion in annual sales, through a Shanghai-based joint venture announced Sunday. Under an agreement signed Sunday in Shanghai, Yanfeng Automotive Trim Systems will have a controlling 70% stake in the globally focused auto parts company, which will supply instrument panels, door panels and a variety of other car interior components and will include employees from both Yanfeng and Johnson Controls.

See full article at: <http://www.energychinaforum.com/news/80301.shtml>

China Fast Tracks Targets for Higher Clean Energy Use

May 19, 2014

Abstract: Beijing has set targets for faster growth in installed wind power generation capacity and higher levels of solar power usage up to 2017, though analysts say more financing and subsidies will be needed for them to be realized. In a circular issued yesterday providing guidance for the expansion of renewable energy and more use of cleaner-burning fossil fuels to rein in pollution-prone coal burning, the National Development and Reform Commission set a goal of 150 gigawatts (GW) for wind power capacity and 70 GW for solar capacity by 2017.

See full article at: <http://www.energychinaforum.com/news/80289.shtml>

Carnage on China Roads Shows Dark Side of Electric Bikes

May 16, 2014

Abstract: Electric bicycles are China's answer to the Prius because they're green, they're zippy and they're cheap. They're also emerging as a safety hazard in a country where road accidents are the biggest killer of young people.

See full article at:

<http://www.eco-business.com/news/carnage-china-roads-shows-dark-side-electric-bikes/>

U.S.

Better Buildings Neighborhood Initiative Upgrades 100,000 Buildings, Saves \$730 Million on Energy Bills

May 21, 2014

Abstract: Building on President Obama's Climate Action Plan and the Administration's Better Buildings Initiative, the Energy Department announced today that the Department's Better Buildings Neighborhood Program has helped more than 40 state and local governments upgrade more than 100,000 buildings and save families and businesses over \$730 million on utility bills. The Better Buildings Residential Network launched by the Energy Department provides technical assistance and facilitates peer sharing for a wide range of stakeholders, who share best practices on home energy efficiency program strategies. Membership is open to all organizations interested in expanding the market for residential energy efficiency.

See full article: http://energy.gov/articles/better-buildings-neighborhood-initiative-upgrades-100000-buildings-saves-730-million-energy?utm_source=PA934&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ProgressAlerts

Energy Department Announces \$2 Million to Develop Supply Chain, Manufacturing Competitiveness Analysis for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies

May 21, 2014

Abstract: The Energy Department today announced up to \$2 million to develop the domestic supply chain for hydrogen and fuel cell technologies and study the competitiveness of U.S. hydrogen and fuel cell system and component manufacturing. As a part of the Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative, this funding opportunity supports the Department's broader effort to boost U.S. competitiveness in the manufacturing sector.

See full article: <http://energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-announces-2-million-develop-supply-chain-manufacturing>

Energy Department Announces Projects to Advance Cost-Effective Concentrating Solar Power Systems

May 21, 2014

Abstract: The Energy Department today announced \$10 million for six new research and development projects that will advance innovative concentrating solar power (CSP) technologies. The projects will develop thermochemical energy storage systems to enable more efficient storage of solar energy while using less storage material, cutting the cost for utility-scale CSP electricity generation as a result.

See full article: <http://energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-projects-advance-cost-effective-concentrating-solar-power>

Energy Department Announces New Prize Challenge to Drive down Solar Costs

May 20, 2014

Abstract: The Energy Department today announced SunShot Catalyst, a new prize competition to spur the rapid creation and development of products and solutions that address near-term challenges in the U.S. solar marketplace. The competition will also enable American entrepreneurs to launch cutting-edge solar companies that can address some of the most relevant and time-sensitive market challenges by encouraging teams to engage and forge partnerships across the nation's growing networks of technology mentors, incubators, and accelerators.

See full article: <http://energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-announces-new-prize-challenge-drive-down-solar-costs>

Energy Department Awards \$7 Million to Advance Hydrogen Storage Systems

May 19, 2014

Abstract: The Energy Department today announced \$7 million for six projects to develop lightweight, compact, and inexpensive advanced hydrogen storage systems that will enable longer driving ranges and help make fuel cell systems competitive for different platforms and sizes of vehicles. These advances in hydrogen storage will be critical to the widespread commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

See full article: http://energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-awards-7-million-advance-hydrogen-storage-systems?utm_source=PA934&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ProgressAlerts

EU

EU Releases Strategy to Curb Lorry CO2 Emissions, Fuel Consumption

May 22, 2014

Abstract: While CO2 emissions from cars and vans have fallen over the past few decades, they have remained stagnant for heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs). The EU strategy focuses on measurement and reporting mechanisms for HDV emissions, including a long-awaited computer simulation tool, VECTO, which is still in its pilot phase.

See full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/transport/eu-releases-strategy-curb-lorry-co2-emissions-fuel-consumption-302286>

British Fracking Support Falls Below 50%

May 19, 2014

Abstract: Public support for fracking for shale gas in the UK has fallen below 50% for the first time, new polling suggests. Just 49.7% of people now say they think the controversial process should be allowed in the UK, marking the third fall in support since high-profile protests last summer in West Sussex which saw dozens of arrests including that of Green MP, Caroline Lucas and ongoing protests at a site in Salford.

See full article at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/may/19/fracking-uk-shale-gas>

Doubling of Antarctic Ice Loss Revealed by European Satellite

May 19, 2014

Abstract: Antarctica is shedding 160 billion tonnes a year of ice into the ocean, twice the amount of a few years ago, according to new satellite observations. The ice loss is adding to the rising sea levels driven by climate change and even east Antarctica is now losing ice. The new revelations follow the announcement last week that the collapse of the western Antarctica ice sheet has already begun and is unstoppable, although it may take many centuries to complete.

See full article at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/may/19/doubling-of-antarctic-ice-loss-revealed-by-european-satellite>

OECD Study Reveals Health Cost of Road Transport Emissions

May 22, 2014

Abstract: A study estimates the cost of air pollution to the OECD member countries and China and India, at \$3.5 trillion (€2.6 trillion). The cost to the OECD's club of 34 "advanced" economies, which includes the majority of EU countries, is an estimated \$1.7 trillion (€1.2 trillion). Road transport accounts for an estimated 50% of the economic cost of air pollution in its member countries, according to a review of literature presented in the study. This was also the figure for the 24 EU countries included in the study.

See full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/sustainable-dev/oecd-study-reveals-health-cost-road-transport-emissions-302292>

OTHERS

Govt Has to Balance Environmental Laws Right: Balakrishnan

May 21, 2014

Abstract: The Singapore government has to get its balance right in implementing environmental legislation, said Environment and Water Resources Minister Vivian Balakrishnan at a dialogue session on sustainable world resources on Tuesday. He added that Singapore's draft bill on transboundary haze pollution does not interfere with the laws of other regions, but has been crafted to illustrate a global challenge. Panellists and speakers engaged the crowd of almost 300 people at the first Sustainable World Resources dialogue, which was organised by the Singapore Institute of International Affairs.

See full article at: <http://www.eco-business.com/news/govt-has-balance-environmental-laws-right-balakrishnan>

Asian Agri Stops Using 'Illegal' Oil Palm Fruits

May 19, 2014

Abstract: Asian Agri, one of Indonesia's major crude palm oil (CPO) producers, has promised it will stop receiving a supply of freshly harvested fruits from "illegal" oil palm plantations in line with its commitment to become a truly sustainable and environmentally friendly CPO producer. The company announced that beginning Friday, it would implement a policy that requires all suppliers of its oil palm fruits including independent farmers, (not including its plasma farmers) and other third-party oil palm fruit suppliers to include legal documents of their freshly harvested fruits. The policy is part of the company's effort to prevent encroachment of natural and protected forests, stop illegal oil palm plantations and build a sustainable supply chain.

See full article at: <http://www.eco-business.com/news/asian-agri-stops-using-illegal-oil-palm-fruits/>

Indonesia Approves Blue Swimming Crab Harvest Control Rule

May 19, 2014

Abstract: Indonesia's blue swimming crab stakeholders have approved an adaptive harvest control rule to ensure a sustainable fishery in the country, an Indonesian Blue Swimming Crab Processing Association (APRI) official said. The harvest control rule has regulated the minimum harvest size, fishing gear restriction and habitat protection for nursery and spawning ground, APRI Executive Director Arie Prabawa said in his written statement made available to Antara here Saturday.

See full article at: <http://www.eco-business.com/news/indonesia-approves-blue-swimming-crab-harvest-control-rule/>

Naia Congestion Worsens Air Quality

May 21, 2014

Abstract: Aircraft using the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) unnecessarily emit copious amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere due to congestion at the country's main international gateway, an airline report revealed. More importantly, the carbon emission of aircraft operating out of Naia—or circling overhead for prolonged periods pending landing clearance—aggravates the already poor air quality of Metro Manila.

See full article at: <http://www.eco-business.com/news/naia-congestion-worsens-air-quality/>

Haze May Return in Coming Months: Balakrishnan

May 19, 2014

Abstract: Transboundary haze may return in the coming months, but Singapore will be better prepared this time. Environment and Water Resources Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said this on the sidelines of a community event on Sunday. Dr Balakrishnan said the fact that Singapore was hit by the haze earlier this year is a warning sign that there could be another one coming. It could be exacerbated by the El Nino effect — a weather phenomenon which causes severely dry weather and high temperatures.

See full article at: <http://www.eco-business.com/news/haze-may-return-coming-months-balakrishnan/>

CONTRIBUTORS:

CHINA (Chen Liu)

U.S. (Xuan Zhu)

EU (Chuli Duan)

OTHERS (Yuanming Wang)

Editor (Yao Chong)



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.



International Fund for China's Environment

2421 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20037

Tel: (202)-822-2141 Fax: (202)-457-0908

Website: <http://www.ifce.org>

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/the-international-fund-for-china's-environment

Facebook: www.facebook.com/InternationalFundForChinasEnvironment

Twitter: www.twitter.com/IFCE_DC

Sina Weibo: www.weibo.com/ifce