



International Fund for China's Environment

IFCE Weekly News (September 23 – 29, 2013)

2421 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20037-1718 USA

Tel: 202-822-2141, Email: ifce-adm@ifce.org

Website: www.ifce.org

Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/InternationalFundForChinasEnvironment>

Table of Contents

CHINA

Berkeley Lab Releases Most Comprehensive Databook on China's Energy and Environment.....	3
China's Environment Index Measures Green Growth	3
China's Environmental Crisis Through the Lens: Interview With Photojournalist Sean Gallagher	3
China's Newest Environmental Disaster	4
Hong Kong Environment Minister Urges Early Submission of Waste-Disposal Charge Report	4
Britain and China Sign Carbon Capture Agreement	5
Garbage Islands Cause Havoc for Boats on the Yangtze	5
Dangerous and Dirty Water in China: Examples From the First Half of 2013	5
Chinese Concern about Environment Grows.....	6
More Hongkongers Worried About Mainland's Environmental Woes.....	6

U.S.

After the Floods in Colorado, a Deluge of Worry About Leaking Oil	7
Evidence Shows Steroid Used in Livestock Can Impact Waterways	7
Massachusetts: Fishery Group Limits Herring Catch.....	7
311.4 metric tons of river herring and shad.	7
In BP Trial, the Amount of Oil Lost Is at Issue	8

OTHERS

Russia Seizes Greenpeace Ship and Crew for Investigation	8
South Africa Comes Last in Sustainable Development Index.....	8
Surge in Tourism Impacts Glaciers in Northern Indian State	9
The Maldives, a Fledgling Democracy at the Vanguard of Climate Change.....	9
Climate Change will Hit Poor Countries Hardest, Study Shows.....	10
Global Agriculture System Favors Rich Countries.....	10
Latin America: Facing off Climate Change with Green Innovation.....	10
Environment Expert Calls to Promote Biosphere Reserves	11
Earth Talk: Sugar, Sweeteners Come with Own Problems.....	11
Latin America Most Dangerous Place for Environmentalists	12

China

Berkeley Lab Releases Most Comprehensive Databook on China's Energy and Environment

September 23, 2013

Abstract: In the five years since the China Energy Group of the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) released its last edition of the China Energy Databook, China has achieved two dubious distinctions: it surpassed the United States in energy consumption and it surpassed the United States in energy-related emissions of carbon dioxide, becoming the world leader on both scores.

See the full article at:

<http://phys.org/news/2013-09-berkeley-lab-comprehensive-databook-china.html#jCp>

China's Environment Index Measures Green Growth

September 24, 2013

Abstract: China's Green Development Index Report for 2013, measuring green development in 30 regions and 100 cities was released on Sunday .The top 10 areas in green development include Beijing, Fujian, Hainan, Inner Mongolia, Jiangsu, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shanghai, Tianjin and Zhejiang.

See the full article at: http://www.china.org.cn/environment/2013-09/23/content_30103204.htm

China's Environmental Crisis Through the Lens: Interview With Photojournalist Sean Gallagher

September 24, 2013

Abstract: China is one of the world's 12 "mega-biodiversity" countries, but its incredible natural landscapes, from Sichuan's sparkling, turquoise-colored lakes to Guilin's dramatic karst topography, are bearing the cost of rapid economic development, writes British environmental photojournalist and videographer Sean Gallagher in a new multimedia e-book.

See the full article at:

<http://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2013/09/chinas-environmental-crisis-lens-interview-photojournalist-sean-gallagher/#.UkL1T1uglzo>

China's Newest Environmental Disaster

September 26, 2013

Abstract: The Chinese government recently approved construction on nine of 40 large-scale plants that will convert coal into synthetic natural gas — a process that produces seven times more greenhouse gas emissions than regular natural gas production, and uses as much as 100 times the water as shale gas extraction, according to a new study by Duke University.

See the full article at:

<http://theweek.com/article/index/250284/chinas-newest-environmental-disaster>

Hong Kong Environment Minister Urges Early Submission of Waste-Disposal Charge Report

September 27, 2013

Abstract: The Hong Kong environment minister has urged the Council for Sustainable Development to submit its report on a waste-disposal charge by next summer so that he can start to prepare for its implementation. It seems that the government is facing some conflicts upon the efficiency in amending and implementing environment report.

See the full article at:

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1318462/environment-minister-urges-early-submission-waste-disposal-charge>

Britain and China Sign Carbon Capture Agreement

September 27, 2013

Abstract: Scientists and engineers from China and the United Kingdom have formed an initiative designed to advance the research, development and demonstration of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) technologies. The agreement is expected to lead to the establishment of an international CCUS network, which will promote joint research and development, provide advice for local and regional governments and develop ways to exchange knowledge.

See the full article at:

<http://www.theengineer.co.uk/energy-and-environment/britain-and-china-sign-carbon-capture-agreement/1017188.article#ixzz2gJtkWGfv>

Garbage Islands Cause Havoc for Boats on the Yangtze

September 28, 2013

Abstract: Thousands of tonnes of garbage and debris are clogging a section of the Yangtze — China's longest and the world's third longest river — near the Three Gorges Dam, forcing vessels to cut into each other's lanes in order to avoid crashing into it, according to the state-run China National Radio. The floating debris is a danger to vessels traveling along the river as it can damage the propellers and bottoms of passing boats. The situation is also causing jams as the boats are moving into each other's lanes to avoid the debris patches, raising safety concerns.

See the full article at:

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20130929000077&cid>

Dangerous and Dirty Water in China: Examples From the First Half of 2013

September 28, 2013

Abstract: In China, pollution has been discovered in all of its water bodies, with serious pollution occurring in the watersheds of the Yangtze, Pearl, Yellow, Huai, Hai, Liao, and Songua Rivers. One third of the Yellow River's native fish have become extinct.

Half of China's people are forced to drink water contaminated with human waste and industrial chemicals. Scientific reports have shown that liver cancer and birth defect rates are four to eight times greater in areas where water is heavily polluted.

See the full article at:

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/301787-301787/?photo=2>

Chinese Concern about Environment Grows

September 29, 2013

Abstract: Though people in China are optimistic about their country's economic prospects, they are increasingly concerned about the quality of the environment, food safety and inflation, a new survey on Chinese attitudes shows. The Pew Research Center's findings illustrate that as "the country's wealth grows and millions move into the middle class, issues such as the environment and consumer safety are moving to the forefront".

See the full article at:

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/epaper/2013-09/26/content_16996191.htm

More Hongkongers Worried About Mainland's Environmental Woes

September 29, 2013

Abstract: More Hongkongers today are anxious about the mainland's environmental problems and fret about landfill space in the city than 12 years ago, a survey shows. environmental degradation on the mainland hit 33 per cent, more than double the figure in a 2001 survey, according to a study by the think tank Civic Exchange.

See the full article at:

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1317013/more-hongkongers-worried-about-mainlands-environmental-woes>

U.S.

After the Floods in Colorado, a Deluge of Worry About Leaking Oil

September 26, 2013

Abstract: When floodwaters surged into Colorado's drilling center, they swamped wells, broke pipes and swept huge oil tanks off their foundations. The state has counted a dozen "notable" spills stemming from the catastrophic floods this month.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/us/after-the-floods-a-deluge-of-worry-about-oil.html?ref=earth&r=0>

Evidence Shows Steroid Used in Livestock Can Impact Waterways

September 26, 2013

Abstract: Steroids used to boost growth in cattle may endure in water longer than expected. It does not fully break down in water as previously believed, the journal Science finds.

<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/news/articles/2013/09/26/evidence-shows-steroid-used-in-livestock-can-impact-waterways>

Massachusetts: Fishery Group Limits Herring Catch

September 26, 2013

Abstract: The New England Fishery Management Council on Thursday approved the region's first cap on the amount of river herring that can be caught by industrial trawlers. According to the rules, the Atlantic herring fleet can incidentally catch no more than

311.4 metric tons of river herring and shad.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/us/massachusetts-fishery-group-limits-herring-catch.html?ref=earth>

In BP Trial, the Amount of Oil Lost Is at Issue

September 29, 2013

Abstract: With billions of dollars in penalties at stake, the civil trial of the British oil company BP begins its second phase on Monday in Huston, which will set the amount of oil that spilled into the Gulf of Mexico from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon rig explosion that killed 11 workers and soiled hundreds of miles of beaches.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/30/business/energy-environment/bp-trial-in-2nd-phase-to-set-amount-of-oil-spilled.html?ref=earth&r=0>

OTHERS

Russia Seizes Greenpeace Ship and Crew for Investigation

September 20, 2013

Abstract: Russia's Federal Security Service announced on Friday that it had seized a Greenpeace International ship and its crew after a series of protests at an offshore oil rig in the Arctic Ocean and that it would tow the ship to port in Murmansk to conduct an investigation. The ship was seized in international waters near the Prirazlomnaya platform in the Pechora Sea and it was sent by Greenpeace to protest the pumping oil activities by a state-controlled energy giant Gazprom.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/21/world/europe/russia-seizes-greenpeace-ship-for-investigation.html?ref=earth&r=0>

South Africa Comes Last in Sustainable Development Index

September 22, 2013

Abstract: South Africa has been given last place in a study measuring the long-term sustainable development of 31 countries, despite three African countries making it into the top 10. South Africa received the lowest score overall, based largely on a fall in life expectancy over the review period 2000-2012 and the long-term sustainability of its environment. Saudi Arabia was in 30th place and Russia came 29th, based on its human-health rating. China, which was buoyed somewhat by its GDP scores and its investment in education, was brought down by other categories

like declining life expectancy and environmental health (which includes air pollution and the availability of fresh water), taking it to 22nd place.

See the full article:

<http://mg.co.za/article/2013-09-20-00-south-africa-comes-last-in-sustainable-development-index>

Surge in Tourism Impacts Glaciers in Northern Indian State

September 26, 2013

Abstract: Environmentalists say retreating glaciers and melting snows on high Himalayan peaks could impact millions of people in the Indian subcontinent who rely on rivers fed by the massive ice sheets on the mountains. A surge in tourism is impacting the mountains in India's northern Himachal Pradesh state.

See the full article at:

<http://www.voanews.com/content/surge-in-tourism-impacts-glaciers-in-northern-indian-state/1758255.html>

The Maldives, a Fledgling Democracy at the Vanguard of Climate Change

September 26, 2013

Abstract: On Friday 27 September, the low-lying island nation of the Maldives will be given the date of its extinction; notice of a death by drowning. It will come in the form of a prediction for future sea-level rise in a landmark report on global warming by the world's climate scientists. On current trends, anything more than three generations will feel like a reprieve.

See the full article at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/sep/26/maldives-democracy-climate-change-ipcc>

Climate Change will Hit Poor Countries Hardest, Study Shows

September 27, 2013

Abstract: Low-income countries will remain on the frontline of human-induced climate change over the next century, experiencing gradual sea-level rises, stronger cyclones, warmer days and nights, more unpredictable rains, and larger and longer heat waves, according to the most thorough assessment of the issue yet. As temperatures climb and oceans warm, tropical and subtropical regions will face sharp changes in annual rainfall, says the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.

See the full article at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/sep/27/climate-change-poor-countries-ipcc>

Global Agriculture System Favors Rich Countries

September 27, 2013

Abstract: A fight taking place in the World Trade Organization (WTO) shows how the rules on agriculture allow rich countries to continue huge subsidies whilst penalizing developing countries' farmers. Food is one of the most important and emotive of all issues. As consumers, we can't survive without it. Agriculture also employs the most people in most developing countries. Ensuring farmers have enough income is key to development and social stability. Some countries that have not achieved this have faced rural disgruntlement and then upheaval. Food security became a high priority after global food prices shot up to record highs in 2008, and there was a near-scramble for food items, including rice, because of potential shortages.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/Global-agriculture-system-favours-rich-countries-30215788.html>

Latin America: Facing off Climate Change with Green Innovation

September 28, 2013

Abstract: Latin America is likely to see more floods like those wreaking havoc in Mexico, as the effects of climate change make themselves felt. Already highly

vulnerable to natural hazards, the region will be one of the most affected by increased flooding and droughts, reduced arable lands and the possible loss of low lying regions caused by climate change. And since the vast majority – over 80% - of Latin Americans live in cities, everyone will be affected, although the region’s poorest communities are likely to suffer the most.

See the full article at:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/09/25/latin-america-climate-change-environment-green-innovation>

Environment Expert Calls to Promote Biosphere Reserves

September 28, 2013

Abstract: Experts on Thursday stressed the need for promoting biosphere reserves for biodiversity and wildlife protection and sustainable livelihoods for tribal communities living around protected areas (PAs). In India, there are 18 biosphere reserves (BRs), which protect larger areas of natural habitat (than a national park or sanctuary), and often include parks along buffer zones that are open to some economic uses.

See the full article at:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/the-good-earth/Environment-expert-calls-to-promote-biosphere-reserves/articleshow/23202238.cms>

Earth Talk: Sugar, Sweeteners Come with Own Problems

September 29, 2013

Abstract: The production of sugar has indeed taken a huge environmental toll. “Sugar has arguably had as great an impact on the environment as any other agricultural commodity,” reports the World Wildlife Fund, citing biodiversity loss as a result of the “wholesale conversion of habitat on tropical islands and on coastal areas” to grow sugar. The cultivation of sugar has also resulted in considerable soil erosion and degradation and the use of large amounts of chemicals across the tropics and beyond.

See the full article at:

http://azdailysun.com/lifestyles/columnists/earthtalk-sugar-sweeteners-come-with-own-problems/article_396173f4-27fa-11e3-a6a7-001a4bcf887a.html

Latin America Most Dangerous Place for Environmentalists

September 29, 2013

Abstract: A quarter century after the shooting of Brazilian rubber-tapper and Amazon conservationist Chico Mendes sparked international outrage, it's still almost routine for environmentalists across Latin America to pay for their activism with their lives. Although there are no definitive statistics, the United Nations has warned that no region in the world experiences as much violence against green campaigners as Latin America.

See the full article at:

http://www.tucsonsentinel.com/nationworld/report/090413_lat_amer_environmentalists/latin-america-most-dangerous-place-environmentalists/