



## **International Fund for China's Environment**

IFCE Weekly News (June 24–28, 2013)

2421 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20037-1718 USA  
Tel: 202-822-2141, Email: [ifce-adm@ifce.org](mailto:ifce-adm@ifce.org)

Website: [www.ifce.org](http://www.ifce.org)

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

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You can find more information about IFCE on our website: [www.ifce.org](http://www.ifce.org)

Or contact [yaochong@ifce.org](mailto:yaochong@ifce.org) for more information. Thank you!

## CHINA

### **Beijing is Trapped in Its Polluted Neighborhood**

June 25, 2013

*Abstract:* A ranking of the most polluted Chinese cities during the first three months of 2013 has been released – Beijing’s neighboring province of Hebei is home to seven of them.

See the full article at: <http://www.chinadialogue.net/blog/6135-Beijing-is-trapped-in-its-polluted-neighbourhood/en>

### **Pesticide Residues Found in Chinese Herbs**

June 25, 2013

*Abstract:* According to a Greenpeace report, while traditional Chinese herbs are believed to help the treatment of many diseases, the level of pesticide residues found in some test samples could prove to be harmful, highlighting the need to phase out the use of industrial agricultural chemicals.

See the full article at: <http://www.chinadialogue.net/blog/6142-Pesticide-residues-found-in-Chinese-herbs/en>

### **Wei Dongying, the “Erin Brockovich” of China, says In Spite of Government Vow to Address Pollution, Her “Cancer Village” Is Still a Killer**

June 27, 2013

*Abstract:* Pollution from chemical and textile factories in Wuli has led a fishing village to become a cancer village. Wuli villagers have made appeals to the Chinese government which has met with unfulfilled promises and continuing pollution. Cancer mortality rates in China, overall, have risen 80 percent in the last 30 years, in part due to the rise in pollution.

See full article at: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202\\_162-57591050/wei-dongying-the-erin-brockovich-of-china-says-in-spite-of-govt-vow-to-address-pollution-her-cancer-village-is-still-a-killer/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202_162-57591050/wei-dongying-the-erin-brockovich-of-china-says-in-spite-of-govt-vow-to-address-pollution-her-cancer-village-is-still-a-killer/)

## **The Story of the Xiaonanhai Dam**

June 27, 2013

*Abstract:* Although the China's Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment is against the Xiaonanhai project, Chongqing local government strongly supports the Xiaonanhai dam construction. This project has huge negative impacts on upstream habitat of rare fishes of the Yangtze River National Nature Reserve.

See the full article at: <http://www.chinadialogue.net/article/show/single/en/6154-The-story-of-the-Xiaonanhai-dam>

## **Chinese Wind-Turbine Firm Charged with Stealing US Trade Secrets**

June 28, 2013

*Abstract:* According to the US Department of Justice, China's largest wind power generation has been accused of illegally stealing commercial secrets from American superconducting software vendors. Presidents of the superconducting software vendors said the behavior of Sinovel Wind Group Seriously violate intellectual property rights and disregard the international law.

See the full article at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jun/28/chinese-wind-turbine-sinovel-trade-secrets>

## **U.S.**

## **Environmental Coalition Alleges State Environmental Agency Not Protecting Coalfields**

June 24, 2013

*Abstract:* A coalition of 18 environmental groups claimed that the state environmental agencies failed to protect its citizens from the environmental pollution from the coalfields in West Virginia. The speaker of coalition listed many evidences about this critical issue.

See the full article at:  
<http://www.statejournal.com/story/22671343/environmental-coalition-alleges-state-environmental-agency-not-protecting-coalfields>

## **Ethanol Increase Survives as U.S. High Court Rejects Challenges**

June 24, 2013

*Abstract:* The U.S. Supreme Court rejected the appeals from the grocery, auto and oil industries and allowed more corn-based ethanol in gasoline. It claimed that the challengers didn't show enough members that would be injured by the rules.

See the full article at:

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-06-24/ethanol-increase-survives-as-u-dot-s-dot-high-court-rejects-challenges>

## **Obama's EPA Gets Supreme Court Hearing on Coal Pollution**

June 24, 2013

*Abstract:* The Supreme Court is considering reviving one of the Obama administration's biggest air-quality efforts; an EPA rule that would curb coal-fired power plant emissions. The administration seeks to instate legislation that would cap emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides in 28 states whose pollution blows into neighboring jurisdictions. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide can cause smog, acid rain, and harm to ecosystems.

See full article at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-24/obama-s-epa-gets-supreme-court-hearing-on-coal-pollution.html>

## **USA: SCPA Finalizes Land Preservation Program**

June 25, 2013

*Abstract:* Three properties are now under the protection of SCPA in North Charleston. This includes an approximate 1000 acres of land. SCPA has already constructed a detailed plan of protection for this land area.

See the full article at:

<http://www.dredgingtoday.com/2013/06/25/usa-scpa-finalizes-land-preservation-program/>

## **Obama Climate Plan Targets Coal, Gas Plants, Bypasses Congress**

June 25, 2013

*Abstract:* The new U.S. climate plan aims to cut carbon emissions at power plants. Obama will use his authority to implement the proposals bypassing the Congress. Obama also wants the Interior Department to permit the new renewable energy projects. The new climate plan is welcomed by most of the environmentalists.

See the full article at:

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2013/06/25/obama-climate-plan-targets-coal-gas-plants-bypasses-congress/>

## **Gas Drilling Taints Groundwater**

June 25, 2013

*Abstract:* U.S. industry officials and environmentalists have been at an impasse over whether or not shale-gas extraction can contaminate groundwater. Recently, however, researches at Duke University have found that methane and chemical contamination rates are tied to gas being siphoned through drilling. The study suggests that people living within 1 kilometer of shale-gas wells probably have groundwater contamination.

See full article at: <http://www.nature.com/news/gas-drilling-taints-groundwater-1.13259>

## **Federal Agencies Awarded for Reducing Environmental Footprint in New England**

June 26, 2013

*Abstract:* Six agencies were awarded by EPA for their lead in reducing the environmental footprints in five New England states. They are good at reducing cost in waster electronics, purchasing, water and so on. Their names are the Vermont Air National Guard, The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, the Veterans Health Administration, Manchester Medical Center, The US Postal Service's Connecticut Valley District and Hanscom Air Force Base.

See the full article at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/a1752e1a4c53679c85257b960061daf2?OpenDocument>

## **Obama Wants Limits on Coal Plants, Says Keystone Can't Boost Pollution**

June 26, 2013

*Abstract:* The U.S. president Obama unveiled a new climate change plan on Tuesday. He insisted that the Keystone would not increase greenhouse gas emission. He said the U.S. should be the leader in preserving the environment in the world. Although most environmentalists embraced the president's plan, activists and the public were still skeptical on this issue.

See the full article at:

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/06/25/politics/obama-climate-change>

## **Coal at Risk as Obama Seeks to Revive Emissions Progress**

June 26, 2013

*Abstract:* In the past year, coal use and carbon emissions have risen in the U.S. and are predicted to continue rising. To address these threats contributing to climate change, Obama outlined policies aimed at curbing the use of coal, improving the efficiency of appliances, and boosting clean-energy investments. He also provided a timeline for the EPA to implement rules that would limit carbon releases.

See full article at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-26/coal-at-risk-as-obama-seeks-to-revive-emissions-progress.html>

## **Kentucky officials recommend keeping people out of toxic Lees Lane landfill property**

June 27, 2013

*Abstract:* State government of Kentucky recommended public to keep distance from the toxic pollution found at the former Lees Lane landfill. This landfill was one of the nation's most polluted places. Officials warned the public and stated that it would be fine to stay on the loop. State officials will discuss with EPA about further solutions.

See the full article at:

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20130627/GREEN/306270091/1002/Kentucky-officials-recommend-keeping-people-out-toxic-Lees-Lane-landfill-property>

## **U.S. Kids Born in Polluted Areas More Likely to Have Autism**

June 27, 2013

*Abstract:* Autistic child are more likely to born in areas with polluted air. This is a result of a new research study which is conducted by the Harvard University. The polluted air has an impact on baby's mother. Through breathing, it would affect kids when pregnancy.

See the full article at:

<http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2013/jun/27/us-kids-born-polluted-areas-more-likely-have-autis/>

## **EPA's Tier 3 Proposal Based on Flawed Analysis, Will Raise Fuel Costs**

June 28, 2013

*Abstract:* EPA's proposal on Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards would decrease the gasoline sulfur average from 30 ppm to 10 ppm, was opposed by the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturer (AFPM) and the American Petroleum Institute (API). This proposal would raise fuel costs and higher petroleum product imports.

See the full article at:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/06/28/5531496/epas-tier-3-proposal-based-on.html>

## **Houston Becomes Largest Municipal Purchaser of Renewable Power in the U.S.**

June 28, 2013

*Abstract:* Houston became the top city that purchased renewable power in the nation. The power it purchased account for half of its annual electricity demand. Mayor of Houston said that purchasing green power would reduce the electricity use of the city and support the development of renewable energy.

See the full article at:

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2013/06/28/houston-becomes-largest-municipal-purchaser-of-renewable-power-in-the-u-s/>

## EUROPE

### **Hollande Urges Talks to Resolve EU-China Trade Row**

June 25, 2013

*Abstract:* French President, Francois Hollande met with a team of Chinese business leaders to discuss the future of Chinese and French investments. The meeting came in the wake of recent escalating trade disputes between China and the EU. The trade disputes began when the EU imposed average tariffs of 11.8% on Chinese solar panels, in response China launched an anti-dumping and subsidy inquiry into sales of European wine.

See full article at: <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/france-china-trade.pen/>

### **Drayson Racing Electric Car Sets New World Speed Record**

June 25, 2013

*Abstract:* Drayson Racing technologies recently set the world land speed record for an electric car. The CEO of the company has said the reason for setting a speed record was to highlight the potential of electronic vehicles. Analysts question whether a speed record signifies efficiency, claiming that it is much harder to enable an electric car to go further and become more practical because of the basic physics of how batteries store and release energy.

See full article at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-23051252>

### **U.K. Wave Energy Needs Strike Price Six Times Higher Than Coal**

June 26, 2013

*Abstract:* The renewable energy technology that makes electricity from waves would need subsidized prices almost six times tariffs paid for coal-fired power if they are to be competitive on the market. While no commercial scale projects are currently operating, industrial companies have started investing in the wave industry. Further support is needed for the wave energy technology for it to proceed without significant additional capital.

See full article at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-26/u-k-wave-energy-needs-strike-price-six-times-higher-than-coal.html>

## **U.K. Risks Missing Carbon Targets without Clearer Signals**

June 26, 2013

*Abstract:* The U.K. must make more headway in reducing its carbon dioxide pollution to meet its carbon budget. The climate-change committee chief executive officer has said the U.K. will fail to achieve its third and fourth carbon budgets if it continues on as it has been. The committee has also called upon the government to strengthen incentives for low-carbon technologies and energy efficiency measures.

See full article at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-25/u-k-risks-missing-carbon-targets-without-clearer-signals.html>

## **Only Four People Sign Up for Flagship Green Deal (Europe)**

June 27, 2013

*Abstract:* The Green Deal is a government initiative that provides measures such as home insulation to make homes more energy-efficient. It has had a slow start, with only four people having signed up for the program in the last six months. Critics have said the figures are proof that the scheme is not working, whereas the government believes the program will take more time to become effective.

See full article at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-23081896>

## **U.K. Says Shale Gas Fields Twice Size of Previous**

June 27, 2013

*Abstract:* The U.K. is pushing for shale exploration to replicate U.S. gas output that has provided economic and energy benefits. Recently, the U.K. said fields of shale gas were twice as large as they previously thought. Based on this data, the U.K.'s reserves put it ahead of Norway as Europe's largest holder of the commodity.

See full article at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-27/u-k-says-shale-gas-resources-twice-size-of-previous-estimates.html>

## **Norilsk to Focus on Arctic Circle Mines as CEO Builds Team**

June 28, 2013

*Abstract:* Norilsk Nickel, a mining company that produces nickel, copper platinum, palladium, cobalt and gold, plans to expand their operations in northern Russia. The company currently has seven mines north of the Arctic Circle, and seeks expansion due to the resource potential of the Polar Division.

See full article at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-28/norilsk-to-focus-on-polar-circle-mines-after-ceo-builds-new-team.html>

## **OTHERS**

### **Malaysia Seeks Summit as Hazardous Haze Hangs Over Region**

June 24, 2013

*Abstract:* Malaysia called for a meeting with Southeast Asian ministers regarding the unhealthy or hazardous levels of air pollution in the western region. The government is awaiting responses from Thailand, Brunei, and Indonesia. Meanwhile, fire-fighting continues on Sumatra with water-bombings and artificial rain.

See full article at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-24/haze-level-hazardous-on-malaysian-coast-as-cloud-seeding-stalls.html>

### **Zimbabwe: Climate Change Revisited**

June 25, 2013

*Abstract:* The weather experts who attended the First Climate Symposium of Zimbabwe appealed to collect local residents' knowledge system to solve weather and climate problems. The participants agreed that local knowledge should be used as a significant tool to tackle problems caused by climate change.

See the full article at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201306250401.html>

## **Nigeria: Alliance for African Climate Change Reporters Launched**

June 26, 2013

*Abstract:* A new network on environment and climate change issues of African reporting has been launched. 30 African journalists come from five regions to attend this meeting. This network aims at pursuing training and improvement of capacity to raise accuracy on report issues.

See the full article at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201306260525.html>

## **Malawi Government for Access to Everyone to Portable Water and Improved Sanitation**

June 27, 2013

*Abstract:* Government said it will ensure that people have access to portable water, improved sanitation services and also increased food security and incomes through implementation of a number of projects.

See the full article at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201306271239.html>