



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

IFCE Weekly News (February 25-March 1, 2013)

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## China

### **Chinese Pollution Study 'Blocked on Grounds of State Secrecy'**

February 26, 2013

*Abstract:* China's leading environmental watchdog has refused to disclose the results of a major national soil pollution study on grounds of state secrecy, according to a lawyer who requested the report's disclosure. The news comes amid growing public concern about the impact of years of turbo-charged growth on the environment and people's health, thanks in large part to the winter's terrible air pollution in Beijing and other areas of the country.

See the full article at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/feb/26/chinese-pollution-study-blocked>

### **Green Politicians Less Likely to Be Promoted in China**

February 26, 2013

*Abstract:* The clamour from the Chinese public at being surrounded by foul air, water and soil has become deafening. But for ambitious Communist party officials, it pays to focus on economic growth rather than environmental concerns, five economists from China, Singapore and Canada found.

See the full article at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/9895100/Green-politicians-less-likely-to-be-promoted-in-China.html>

### **Greenpeace: Coal Exports to China Will Slow**

February 27, 2013

*Abstract:* A Greenpeace report released Wednesday found that U.S. coal exports to China face an uncertain future. The report, "The Myth of China's Endless Coal Demand: A Missing Market for U.S. Exports," echoes a study released earlier this month by research firm IHS Cera, which predicted that Chinese coal imports will peak by the end of the decade and enter a prolonged period of decline.

See the full article at:

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/02/27/greenpeace-coal-exports-to-china-will-slow/>

## **A Fresh Look at China's Long March on Energy and Emissions**

February 27, 2013

*Abstract:* The Rhodium Group consulting firm has released a “report card” on China’s energy trends and policies that describes the country’s intensifying efforts to increase the proportion of renewable sources like wind and hydroelectric dams and boost the efficiency of coal use (essentially the metric called “greenhouse gas intensity” by President George W. Bush). The blunting upward trajectory in the graph above reflects progress, but a long path ahead.

See the full article at:

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/27/a-fresh-look-at-chinas-long-march-on-energy-and-emissions/>

## **Alarming Water Pollution in China**

February 27, 2013

*Abstract:* With the rapid development of economy, water pollution has become a serious problem in China. Expanding construction of cities, over-used fertilizers and toxic chemicals and emissions from industries have worsened the pollution of water resource. More than 50 percent of rivers and lakes in China are severely polluted. Lots of Chinese still live on polluted water. The government has invested heavily in water pollution treatment and control.

See the full article at:

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90882/8145140.html>

## **Chinese Anti-Water Pollution Activist Victim Of Assault Supposedly Orchestrated By Local Officials**

February 27, 2013

*Abstract:* Residents of a Zhejiang, China village have been the focus of a campaign aimed at cleaning up the nation’s heavily polluted rivers and lakes. One photo of the local Ruian River, brimming with garbage, went viral on Weibo, China’s Twitter-like microblogging tool, after a local entrepreneur offered the environmental protection bureau chief 200,000 yuan

(\$32,000) to swim in the polluted waters for 20 minutes. Many other local Zhejiang residents joined in on the challenge, offering up additional sums of money to the official.

See the full article at:

<http://www.ibtimes.com/chinese-anti-water-pollution-activist-victim-assault-supposedly-orchestrated-local-officials-1105966>

## U.S.

### **Chiefs Call for US Energy Policy Shake-up**

Feb 25, 2013

*Abstract:* The US needs a comprehensive energy strategy to boost its economic competitiveness, a group of leading chief executives said on Monday, laying out a plan to become self-sufficient and boost growth.

See the full article at:

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/971cf07c-7f99-11e2-8d96-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2MJjZPUWY>

### **Physicist Tipped for US Energy Post**

Feb 25, 2013

*Abstract:* As the administration of US President Barack Obama prepares for a renewed push towards cleaner energy and reduced greenhouse-gas emissions, the White House appears to have chosen another physicist to head the effort.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nature.com/news/physicist-tipped-for-us-energy-post-1.12500>

## **Lake Tahoe Return**

Feb 27, 2013

*Abstract:* Lake Tahoe's clarity improved in 2012 for the second year in a row, and its waters were the clearest in 10 years, according to University of California, Davis, scientists who study the lake.

See the full article at:

<http://www.enn.com/pollution/article/45661>

## **New Smartphone Technology Reveals US Stream and River Conditions**

Feb 27, 2013

*Abstract:* For the first time, data on current conditions on thousands of rivers and streams across the country, can be accessed from your smartphone, using USGS' latest system WaterNow. WaterNow makes the water conditions monitored by more than 16,000 stream gages and other sites across the country available via text or email.

See the full article at:

<http://www.enn.com/ecosystems/article/45658>

## **Wildlife at the Mercy of International Trade Politics**

Feb 27, 2013

*Abstract:* In a rare reversal of diplomatic relations, the U.S. government has aligned with China on a proposal to ban international trade in rare turtles and against Canada on the polar bear trade. Next week, the proposals go before the 178 countries that are Parties to the world's only treaty that regulates trade in imperiled wildlife.

See the full article at:

<http://ens-newswire.com/2013/02/27/wildlife-at-the-mercy-of-international-trade-politics/>

## **Gas Boom Projected to Grow for Decades**

Feb 27, 2013

*Abstract:* U.S. natural-gas production will accelerate over the next three decades, new research indicates, providing the strongest evidence yet that the energy boom remaking America will last for a generation.

See the full article at:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323293704578330700203397128.html>

## **Report: US Water Supply Contains Unwanted Chemical**

Feb 27, 2013

*Abstract:* Chemicals used to treat our drinking water could lead to health problems, according to a report by the Environmental Working Group. Researchers analyzed 2011 water quality tests from more than two hundred large U.S. municipal water systems. They found toxic chemicals known as trihalomethanes in every system.

See the full article at:

<http://www.myfoxa.com/story/21413775/report-us-water-supply-contains-unwanted-chemical>

## **Sea Shepherd Conservation Group Declared 'Pirates' in US Court Ruling**

Feb 27, 2013

*Abstract:* A US court has declared the conservation group Sea Shepherd to be "pirates" and ordered it to stop its aggressive actions against Japanese whalers. The ruling was issued on Wednesday by chief judge Alex Kozinski of the 9th US circuit court of appeals.

See the full article at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/feb/27/sea-shepherd-pirates-us-court>

## **U.S. Oil Output Hits 20-year High, Led by Energy Boom in Texas, N.D.**

March 1, 2013

*Abstract:* U.S. oil production has soared to heights not seen in 20 years, largely driven by an explosion in crude harvested from Texas shale rock.

See the full article at:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/03/01/5227348/us-oil-output-hits-20-year-high.html>

## **Sierra Club beyond Coal, Campaign Passes Halfway Point in Coal Retirement Goals**

March 1, 2013

*Abstract:* Today the Sierra Club announced that its Beyond Coal campaign is more than halfway toward meeting its goal of responsibly securing the retirement of a third of the nation's coal-fired power.

See the full article at:

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2013/03/sierra-club-beyond-coal-campaign-passes-halfway-point-coal-retirement-goals>

## **EUROPE**

### **Historical Studies Shore up Proof of Indirect Biofuels Emissions**

Feb 25, 2013

*Abstract:* Projections that feedstock-based biofuels will indirectly cause net greenhouse gas emissions in the future have been confirmed by preliminary results from two new studies of past land use change. That report found that nearly half of the expected carbon gains from switching to biofuels would disappear if land use change effects were considered. It was heavily criticized by agricultural and biofuels lobbyists.

See the full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/indirect-biofuels-emissions-scie-news-518023>

## **Energy Revolution Promises to Transform East Africa**

Feb 25, 2013

*Abstract:* An energy revolution is taking place in East Africa as the price of solar technology tumbles and huge resources of geothermal steam beneath the Great Rift Valley start to be exploited, moves which have the potential to lift millions out of poverty and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-21549380>

## **Peterborough's Plans for Solar Farm Held up by Survey**

Feb 26, 2013

*Abstract:* Plans for a 900-acre (364 hectare) renewable energy park in Cambridge shire have been delayed while archaeological work takes place. Peterborough council wants to build solar and wind parks at three sites it owns outside the city. The proposal has attracted opposition from city council tenant farmers who would be displaced if the park goes ahead.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-21588235>

## **Environmental Group Opposes Gedling Solar Farm**

Feb 26, 2013

*Abstract:* Environmental campaigners have said they are unhappy about plans for a solar farm on a former colliery site. The Gedling Colliery has been unused for more than 20 years and plans have now been submitted for a country park plus an area for 23,000 solar panels.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-21592860>

## **British Gas Profits Boosted by Colder Weather**

Feb 27, 2013

*Abstract:* British Gas has reported a rise in profits for 2012 after colder weather led to people using more gas. Profits from its residential energy supply arm rose 11% from a year earlier to £606m. It said gas consumption had risen by 12%. But there has been some criticism that the company increased its prices in November when profits were rising.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-21598504>

## **Hydrogen's Energy Promise Improves**

Feb 28, 2013

*Abstract:* A new process for extracting hydrogen from a liquid fuel could sweep aside one obstacle to a "hydrogen economy". Hydrogen produced from renewable resources is a promising source of clean energy, but the gas is difficult to handle and transport. An international team has now published details of an efficient, low-temperature method for generating it from methanol.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21618350>

## **Wind Farm Future Discussed at British Irish Assembly**

**Feb 28, 2013**

*Abstract:* The future of wind farm developments in the Irish Sea will be discussed at the 46th annual British-Irish assembly. The theme for this year's meeting in County Donegal is Energy across Borders. The British Irish assembly will be held between 3 and 5 March.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-21607651>

## **Wind Farm Approved with Conditions in East Lothian**

March 1, 2013

*Abstract:* An East Lothian wind farm which could provide power for 32,000 homes has been given the go-ahead. However, Energy Minister Fergus Ewing has imposed conditions to limit its impact on the environment, including cutting the number of turbines.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-21633153>

## **Severn Estuary Renewable Energy Ideas to be Discussed**

March 2, 2013

*Abstract:* Environmental groups and businesses against plans to build a Severn barrage are coming together to develop ideas for renewable energy on the estuary. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said it wanted to work with industry to get "the best solution" for sustainable energy from the Severn.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-21607243>

## **OTHER REGIONS**

### **Deforestation, Wetlands Loss in Brazil and Indonesia Generated 45b Tons of CO2 in 20 years/ Brazil and Indonesia**

Feb 22, 2013

According to a recent report from The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), high deforestation countries generated the most emissions from forest loss over the 20-year period. In aggregate, Brazil and Indonesia came out on top in terms of emissions from land use.

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0222-faostat-land-use-emissions.html>

## **Activists Warn of Industrial Palm Oil Expansion in Congo Rainforest/ Congo**

Feb 21, 2013

The Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK) launched a new report, indicated that new palm oil plantations in the Congo rainforest will soon increase fivefold to half a million hectares, an area nearly the size of Delaware. But conservationists warn that by ignoring the lessons of palm oil in Southeast Asia, this trend could be disastrous for the region's forests, wildlife, and people.

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0221-hance-congo-palm-oil.html>

## **Controversial Palm Oil Project Concession in Cameroon is 89 Percent 'Dense Natural Forest' / Cameroon**

Feb 21, 2013

According to a new report by Greenpeace, Satellite mapping and aerial surveys have revealed that a controversial palm oil concession in Cameroon is almost entirely covered by "dense natural forest". The activist group alleges that the concession, owned by Herakles Farms, is under 89 percent forest cover.

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0221-hance-herakles-gp-report.html>

## **Indonesia's East Kalimantan Loses Forest area to New Province in Borneo**

Feb 24, 2013

North Kalimantan, the creation of a new province, has dramatically reduced the primary forest area in Indonesia's East Kalimantan province. With the loss of Malinau and other forested areas, East Kalimantan's intact primary forest area has dropped to just 15 percent of the total area of the province.

[http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0224-dparker-north-kalimantan.html?utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_source=dlvr.it#B4jZD9frqb3sQf0q.99](http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0224-dparker-north-kalimantan.html?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=dlvr.it#B4jZD9frqb3sQf0q.99)

## **A Lifetime with Elephants: an Interview with Iain Douglas-Hamilton/ Africa**

Feb 22, 2013

In this interview with mongabay, Iain Douglas-Hamilton told his story about how he has dedicated his life to elephants. Douglas-Hamilton's dedication extends to protecting the species from harm, and especially the ivory trade.

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/1221-neme-elephants-douglas-hamilton.html#QFcFMAXkfP0zZhcC.99>

## **Egypt: Irrigation Minister Calls for Water Rationalization**

February 25, 2013

*Abstract:* The per-capita share of water in Egypt will decrease because of an ever-increasing pollution. Minister of Irrigation of Egypt strongly suggested citizens to rational use of water and recommended the water-saving technologies and reduction of waste water.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302251493.html>

## **South Africa: North West Priority Committee to Save the Rhino**

February 25, 2013

*Abstract:* In order to fight against the rhino poaching, the North West province of South Africa has established a Rhino Priority Committee. The Premier said that rhino poaching is priority crime. They will do their best to stop and punish rhino poaching.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302251498.html>

## **Nigeria: Oil Spillage - Bayelsa Pledges Support for FG's EIA Project**

February 25, 2013

*Abstract:* The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) project is ready to support the communities which suffered from oil pollution. The EIA project is expected to be conducted under Hydro-Carbon Restoration Project (HYPREP). The set up of HYPREP was timely and would stop the controversies between communities and oil multinationals over spillages and pollution.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302260986.html>

## **Angola: Rain Displaces Over 90 Families in Songo**

February 25, 2013

*Abstract:* Heavy rains destroyed 31 homes in Zulumongo in Songo district, Angola, resulting in displacement of more 93 families. The storm also injured an old woman according to the local chieftain.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302260252.html>

## **Zimbabwe: No Water for Western Suburbs**

February 27, 2013

*Abstract:* Western suburbs will be out of water because two water supply systems were shut down because of the routine maintenance. Water shortages force residents to resort to fetching water from unprotected sources such as drains and shallow wells.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302270223.html>