



International Fund for China's Environment

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CHINA

China's Netizens Tackle Water Pollution Through Weibo

February 18, 2013

Abstract: Chinese government has issued a 10-Year-Plan to tackle the issue of curbing groundwater pollution by 2015. Some illegal underground pumping local factories in Shangdong province are exposed by Chinese netizens. An environmental activist suggests people to take pictures of their hometown's lakes and rivers and upload to Weibo for monitoring.

See the full article at:

<http://www.ibtimes.com/chinas-netizens-tackle-water-pollution-through-weibo-1091456>

Shanghai Passes Law to Limit Excess Packaging

February 18, 2013

Abstract: The Shanghai City Parliament has passed the law The Regulation to Reduce Commercial packaging to limit excess packaging. According to the data from the government, one sixth of household packaging waste is over-packaged, particularly festival gifts and food gifts. A survey conducted on people's attitudes towards excess packaging also indicates a growing public awareness of environmental protection for Chinese citizens.

See the full article at:

<http://eng.greensos.cn/ShowArticle.aspx?articleId=1393>

China to Push for Green Buildings Starting 2014

February 19, 2013

Abstract: According to Xinhua report, the state-owned buildings constructed from 2014 will be required to comply with mandatory green building code, including energy-saving standards. Meanwhile, the total number of green buildings is expected to reach 20% of all new buildings by 2015. This policy might make contribution to China's emissions reduction and energy savings.

See the full article at:

<http://www.ecoseed.org/low-carbon/green-buildings/16147-china-to-push-for-green-buildings-starting-2014>

Beijing's Pollution Alarms Neighbors

February 19, 2013

Abstract: The hell-bent drive towards industrialization has made China's environment worse and worse. The toxic air drifting from China to west Japan made the air threatens an international issue. Beijing's city government has made some emergency measures to solve this problem, including shut down many heavily polluting factories, reduces car use, upgrades fuel quality and reduces fossil fuels consumption.

See the full article at:

<http://www.celsias.com/article/beijings-pollution-alarms-neighbors/>

Can Straw Provide China's Energy Needs?

February 20, 2013

Abstract: A project conducted by Shangqiu Sanli New Energy Ltd. to convert straw to biochar, a cleaner-burning alternative to coal and other eco-friendly pesticides and soil conditioners is expected to solve China's long-standing straw issue. Burning straw is a major cause of smog and lead to respiratory disease. More companies like Sanli New Energy Ltd. is required but how to scale it up remains a daunting challenge.

See the full article at:

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=can-straw-provide-chinas-energy-needs>

China May Soon Get a Carbon Tax. But How Effective will It Be?

February 21, 2013

Abstract: According to the latest news from Xinhua, China is going to set up a tax on carbon emissions to improve the country's environment. Even though the carbon tax is likely to be small and loophole-ridden at first, it is still considered as a significant step. Based on a recent study form the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning, if a bigger and well-designed carbon tax is set up, the carbon emissions would be reduced significantly.

See the full article at:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/02/21/china-may-soon-get-a-carbon-tax-but-will-it-make-any-difference/>

Wind Power in China Leaves Nuclear in Its Dust

February 21, 2013

Abstract: According to the Earth Policy Institute, wind power produced 2% more electricity in 2012 than nuclear energy in China. The Fukushima nuclear disaster prompted Chinese government to re-set its 2015 target for nuclear industry considering more on safety. To the contrary, wind power and solar power are much safer. Chinese government also set 2015 targets for both of the renewable energies.

See the full article at:

http://www.energymatters.com.au/index.php?main_page=news_article&article_id=3605

In China, Being Green Can Kill Your Career

February 22, 2013

Abstract: One group of economists pointed out that the reason why China's environment is lousy is local officials spend heavily on transportation infrastructure in order to get higher GDP growth and career advancement rather than on environmental protection. For a Chinese politician, it is lonely being green.

See the full article at:

<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2013/02/22/in-china-being-green-can-be-bad-for-your-career/>

China Acknowledges 'Cancer Villages'

February 22, 2013

Abstract: Chinese ministry acknowledges the existence of "cancer villages" which is mainly caused by widespread production and consumption of harmful chemicals and rapid development of polluted industry in China.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-21545868>

U.S.

Decline in Coal Takes Toll on American Workers

February 18, 2013

Abstract: Some eastern Kentucky counties already have unemployment rates of 13.5 to 17 percent and are bracing for an expected continued decline in coal jobs. The loss of tax revenue from coal production is creating million-dollar budget shortfalls for county governments struggling to pay their bills.

See the full article at:

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2013/02/18/4628264/decline-in-coal-takes-toll-on.html>

Supreme Court Appears to Defend Patent on Soybean

February 19, 2013

Abstract: A freewheeling and almost entirely one-sided argument at the Supreme Court on Tuesday indicated that the justices would not allow Monsanto's patents for genetically altered soybeans to be threatened by an Indiana farmer who used them without paying the company a fee.

See the full article at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/feb/20/us-supreme-court-monsanto-soybean-patent>

Investigating Fracking Becomes Business of Its Own

February 19, 2013

Abstract: Millions of dollars already have been spent, and much more soon will be dumped into a litany of studies looking at fracking's impact on water and air quality and at possible links to cancer and other diseases.

See the full article at:

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/feb/19/investigating-fracking-becomes-business-of-its-own/>

Government Not to Blame for Coal Industry Ills

February 19, 2013

Abstract: Coal is steadily losing its place in the American energy sector, due to environmental cost, dysfunctional coal plants and plummeting natural gas prices, said a report by SCIENCENOW.

See the full article at:

<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2013/02/coal-industry-analysis/>

Renewables Constitute All New US Electricity Capacity Added in January

February 20, 2013

Abstract: Renewable energy accounted for all new electric capacity added in the United States last month, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

In all, 1,231 megawatts of new generating capacity were installed in January. Of that total, wind provided 958 megawatts, solar chipped in 267 megawatts and biomass contributed 6 megawatts.

See the full article at:

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/284011-renewables-comprise-all-new-us-electricity-capacity-added-in-january>

Surging Crude Output Opens Door for US as Key Products Exporter

February 20, 2013

Abstract: The technological revolution that has seen US crude production climb to 20-year highs has ensured the NYMEX crude contract's position as the global oil benchmark and opened the door for the US to become a key exporter of refined products, according to a senior official with NYMEX parent CME Group.

See the full article at:

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Oil/8163095>

Leaking Nuclear Sludge Could Threaten Columbia River

February 20, 2013

Abstract: News that a storage tank at a shuttered federal nuclear facility in Washington state is leaking radioactive sludge has raised fears that the toxic stew could reach the Columbia River as a U.S. cleanup effort drags on.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-20/leaking-nuclear-sludge-could-threaten-columbia-river.html>

Honda Partners with SolarCity on US\$65m Solar Fund in US

February 20, 2013

Abstract: Honda is teaming up with solar power company SolarCity to create a US\$65m fund so car buyers and dealerships in the US will be able to avail of discounts when installing rooftop solar panels. According to SolarCity, the fund will be available to Honda and Acura customers in the US to help them with the initial cost of installing solar panels.

See the full article at:

<http://www.siliconrepublic.com/clean-tech/item/31559-honda-partners-with/>

Clean Coal Finally a Reality?

February 20, 2013

Abstract: A team of researchers at Ohio State University (OSU) spent the past 2 years developing a clean way of harnessing the power of coal and have recently found great success in their research scale combustion system. The team is now able to harness clean coal energy chemically without combustion with air, while capturing 99% of the carbon dioxide produced from the reaction.

See the full article at:

<http://www.enn.com/pollution/article/45613>

Climate Change Adaptation for Agriculture, Forests

February 20, 2013

Abstract: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on February 5 released "two comprehensive reports that synthesize the scientific literature on climate change effects and adaptation strategies for U.S. agriculture and forests." The effects of climate change will be profound and far-reaching, according to the two reports, which drew on more than 1,000 peer-reviewed studies carried out by scientists in federal service, universities, non-governmental organizations, industry, tribal lands and the private sector.

See the full article at:

<http://www.enn.com/wildlife/article/45616>

EUROPE

Electricity Bills Set Bulgaria on Fire

February 18, 2013

Abstract: Tens of thousands of Bulgarians protested in more than 20 cities on Sunday (17 February) against high electricity bills and called for Prime Minister Boyko Borissov and his Centre-right government to resign. Bulgaria had the lowest average salary in the EU, €387 a month. The average pension stands at €150, and the base pension is €76. They are unable to pay more than €100 monthly electricity bills. The protestors accused three foreign-owned energy companies of raking in windfall profits and didn't buy the explanation that January had been an exceptionally cold month.

See the full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/elections/electricity-bills-set-bulgaria-f-news-517870>

Shale Gas Debate Intensifies in Germany Ahead of Election

February 19, 2013

Abstract: Opposition from Germany's powerful environmental lobby is dimming prospects for shale gas and sparking fears that major industries in Europe's largest economy will lose out to American rivals tapping cheaper energy. Those fears are piling pressure on German Chancellor Angela Merkel from both sides of the debate ahead of an election in September.

See the full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/energy/shale-gas-debate-intensifies-ger-news-517900>

EU Mulls 2030 targets for CO2 and Renewables, but not Energy Efficiency

February 20, 2013

Abstract: The 27 EU Commissioners are meeting in Brussels today (20 February) to consider early proposals for 2030 climate targets covering CO2 emissions and possibly renewables. But the proposals aren't likely to extend to efficiency, despite EU data showing the continent is on track to miss its 2020 goals.

See the full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/energy-efficiency/eu-mulls-2030-targets-co2-renewa-news-517932>

Ukraine Rejects Pre-Conditions for EU Deal

February 20, 2013

Abstract: Ukraine's top diplomat in Brussels says his country rejects any kind of pre-conditions for the signature of its Association Agreement with the EU ahead of the leadership summit to be held on Monday.

See the full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/europes-east/ukraine-rejects-pre-conditions-e-news-517934>

Bulgarian Prime Minister Quits Following Mass Protests over Electricity Bills

February 20, 2013

Abstract: Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov resigned today (20 February) following boisterous public protests in the capital and several other cities over the price of electricity. Borissov also said that the price of electricity would be reduced by 8% from 1 March.

Normally the power regulator is sets the price of electricity. The European Commission has recommended that the regulator in Bulgaria should be fully independent.

See the full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/energy/bulgarian-prime-minister-resigns-news-517946>

Minister: German 'Green Revolution' could Cost €1 Trillion

February 20, 2013

Abstract: Germany's transition to renewable energy may cost up to €1 trillion in the next two decades, the environment minister said on Wednesday (20 February), piling pressure on his opponents to back plans to cap power price rises before the election. With an eye on the September vote, Peter Altmaier, one of conservative Chancellor Angela Merkel's, has outlined plans to rein in subsidies for renewable power which have pushed up consumers' electricity bills. However, his plans may be doomed as the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens have reservations and could block legislation in the Bundesrat upper house.

See the full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/energy/minister-german-green-revolution-news-517963>

Study Claims Solar Panel Tariffs could Trigger 242,000 Job Losses

February 21, 2013

Abstract: A new study for the Alliance for Affordable Solar Energy (AFASE) says that EU tariffs on solar panels from China could lead to 242,000 European job losses in the next three years. The study by the independent German consultancy Prognos, which was published on 11 February, estimates that up to €8 billion and 193,800 jobs could be lost this year alone if the EU implements import tariffs on Chinese solar photovoltaic (PV) panels.

See the full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/energy/dubious-study-claims-solar-panel-news-517967>

Europe to Get Its First EU-Wide Offshore Oil and Gas Law

February 22, 2013

Abstract: The EU proposed yesterday (21 February) its first law to regulate safety in offshore oil and gas drilling across the 27-member bloc and prevent any repeat of BP's catastrophic Gulf of Mexico spill. Some environmental campaigners said the law, which still needs final endorsement from member states and the European Parliament, was not robust enough. Others argued it could help to protect Arctic waters from oil spills.

See the full article at:

<http://www.euractiv.com/energy/europe-get-eu-wide-offshore-oil-news-518002>

West Yorkshire Fuel Buying Scheme 'Saves Residents £250,000'

February 23, 2013

Abstract: A scheme run by a local council which bulk buys energy has saved residents £250,000, according to a councilor. Residents registered online and the council invited bids from energy companies to supply the required electricity and gas. Calderdale Council went into partnership with other local authorities in Greater Manchester to run the project.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-21558185>

OTHER REGIONS

Arctic Area: Arctic Sea Ice Volume Plunges over a Third in Less than 10 Years

February 18, 2013

Abstract: New research finds that the volume of ice is melting away extremely quickly. By influencing the jet stream, the loss in sea ice may be impacting weather systems in the whole world. Arctic should be protected from attempting to plunder the region for more oil and gas.

See the full article at:

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0218-hance-arctic-volume.html>

Nigeria: Benue Demolishes 200 Illegal Structures

February 19, 2013

Abstract: The Benue State government has started tearing down the illegal structures across the 23 local government areas of the state. This action is part of the renewed effort of the board to clean most urban centers of the state of illegal structures and unauthorized land development.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302190480.html>

Nigeria: Country Needs N350 Billion Annually to Meet Water Target - Jonathan

February 19, 2013

Abstract: The president of Nigeria said that the country still need \$1.91 billion dollars every year to meet the nation's water and sanitation targets although the government has spent a large amount of money in the water sanitation project. The water situation in rural and sub-urban about accessing to clean water is still unacceptable.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302190298.html>

Sri Lanka: Biofuel Company Caught Clearing Elephant Habitat in Sri Lanka

February 20, 2013

Abstract: Environmentalists believe that Lanka Orex Leasing Company PLC is illegally destroying Asian elephant habitat. The company never conducted an environmental impact assessment (EIA), violating Sri Lankan law. Environmentalists are still waiting a court date with that company over the habitat clearing.

See the full article at:

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0220-hance-yala-biofuel.html>

Kenya: Taskforce to Look Into Poaching Has Been Set Up

February 20, 2013

Abstract: The government has formed a taskforce to investigate illegal poaching in Kenya. They will look into the government officials' involvement in poaching and efforts to stop poaching. A report on their findings will be submitted in 6 weeks.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302201536.html>

Brazil and Indonesia: Deforestation, Wetlands Loss in Brazil and Indonesia Generated 45b Tons of CO2 in 20 Years

February 22, 2013

Abstract: 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.

See the full article at:

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

Congo: Activists Warn of Industrial Palm Oil Expansion in Congo Rainforest

February 21, 2013

Abstract: 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.

See the full article at:

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

Cameroon: Controversial Palm Oil Project Concession in Cameroon is 89 Percent 'Dense Natural Forest'

February 21, 2013

Abstract: 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.

See the full article at:

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

Africa: A Lifetime with Elephants: An Interview with Iain Douglas-Hamilton

February 22, 2013

Abstract: 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.

See the full article at:

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/1221-neme-elephants-douglas-hamilton.html#QFcFMAXkfP0zZhC.99>

Indonesia: Indonesia's East Kalimantan Loses Forest Area to New Province in Borneo

February 24, 2013

Abstract: 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.

See the full article at:

http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0224-dparker-north-kalimantan.html?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=dlvr.it#B4jZD9frqb3sQf0q.99