



International Fund for China's Environment

IFCE Weekly News (Jan 28 - Feb1, 2013)

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CHINA

China Lacks Quality Environment Assessment Agencies

January 28, 2013

ABSTRACT: According to a report from the Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), compared with developed countries, China lacks environment assessment agencies, even though more than one thousand environmental organizations had been registered by the end of 2012. With the gradual deterioration of ecological environment and the increasingly aware of well-being of public, more professional practices should be taken to balance the economic development and environment protection.

See the full article at:

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2013-01/28/content_16182803.htm

Could China and Its Fellow Brics Nations Lead the Way on Climate Change?

January 28, 2013

ABSTRACT: The latest round of Doha climate negotiations among the BRICS nations stalemated last month due to two contentious issues. A new global climate agency is expected to found by the big emerging market countries in order to foster the cooperation between the developing countries to confront the climate change together. The mainly functions of the new agency should include data collection, policy research, surveillance and arbitration. China will play an important role in such agency and encourage others to join and combat the growing climate threat.

See the full article at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/jan/28/china-brics-lead-climate-change>

Pollution Thick Enough to Cancel Flights Hits Beijing; 'Beyond Index' for 2nd Time in 2 Weeks

January 29, 2013

ABSTRACT: The thick smog in northeast China led to large-scaled flight cancellations, which aggravated the burden of China's transport system in the period near Chinese New Year. Meanwhile, the heavily polluted air increased the incidence of respiratory diseases. Beijing government has conducted some effective measures to promote emission reduction temporarily, but more efforts to fight air pollution are expected.

See the full article at:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/beijings-pollution-goes-off-the-index-again-as-authorities-advise-citizens-to-stay-indoors/2013/01/28/79f16220-69c4-11e2-9a0b-db931670f35d_story.html

China is Burning Nearly as Much Coal as the Rest of the World Combined

January 29, 2013

ABSTRACT: China has become the biggest coal consumer in the world and its total coal consumption almost reaches the rest of the world combined. Therefore, China is considered as the mainly contributor to the global warming. The International Energy Agency is appealing China to reduce their coal use in the five coming years and to shift to use clean energy by 2030, but India is expected to be another potential threat to the global environment due to its rapid and unlimited coal demand.

See the full article at:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/01/29/china-is-burning-nearly-as-much-coal-as-the-rest-of-the-world-combined/>

'Joint effort' Urged to Clear the Air

January 30, 2013

ABSTRACT: Vehicle emission has become the major contributor to airborne pollution in many Chinese cities. A joint effort is expected to unite the individuals as well as government and scholars to cope with the environmental issues together. Driving less, reducing central heating and enjoying low carbon lifestyle are three major methods to improve air quality.

See the full article at:

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-01/30/content_16185787_2.htm

China Uses PM 2.5 in Weather Alert System

January 30, 2013

ABSTRACT: A new weather warning system for smog has been introduced to China by National Meteorological Center in order to measure the density of PM 2.5, the “culprit” of smog. The heavy smog shrouded many cities in northeast China in the past week and most cities are still suffering from the hazy weather. This situation is expected to relieve by rain and snow on Wednesday night.

See the full article at:

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-01/30/content_16185839.htm

Beijing Takes Steps to Fight Pollution as Problem Worsens

January 31, 2013

ABSTRACT: According to a report from an embassy Twitter account, the air quality index of Beijing was labeled “beyond index” in the last week. The Beijing government has come up some emergency measures to curb this pollution issue, including temporarily shutting down hundreds of coal-burning factories, ordering older vehicles off the roads, promoting the use of green energy and growing more trees. However, strict laws are expected and should be made vigorously, or China will pay an extremely high price for its growth-at-any-cost economic development strategy.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/31/world/asia/beijing-takes-emergency-steps-to-fight-smog.html?ref=environment>

Cars are the New Bikes in China and the Love Affair is Choking Air in Cities

January 31, 2013

ABSTRACT: The fast increase of car consumption in China market accelerates the environment degradation over the last 20 years. Car has become a new symbol of prosperity for Chinese middle-class and is considered as the best choice to get rid of the crowded buses or metro rails. Lack of effective public transportation is still a hot potato for Chinese government and it still takes time for China to design a new urban planning and build up a new public transport system.

See the full article at:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/cars-are-the-new-bikes-in-china-and-the-love-affair-is-choking-air-in-cities/2013/01/31/804700fa-6b89-11e2-8f4f-2abd96162ba8_story.html

Pollution-hit Beijing Residents Asked to Cut Back on New Year Fireworks

February 1, 2013

ABSTRACT: Due to the hazardous weather in Beijing in the last two weeks, Beijing government has asked residents to set off fewer or no fireworks to reduce emissions of pollutants around the Chinese New Year. The number of fireworks shops and fireworks stock has dropped dramatically compared with the last year.

See the full article at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/feb/01/pollution-beijin-new-year-fireworks?INTCMP=SRCH>

China's Environmental Protection Racket

February 1, 2013

ABSTRACT: The smog-bound weather in Beijing prompted the Chinese government to take some emergency measures to improve air quality. However, even after addressing the smog issue, Chinese leaders should re-evaluate their current policies. Weak legal systems and the nation's rush to industrialize have nourished official corruption and pollution. A recent scandal in Nantong's Environmental Protection Bureau has pushed the Anti-Corruption Campaign and the Building of Clean Government as top priorities for China's new leadership team.

See the full article at:

<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2013/02/01/chinas-environmental-protection-racket/>

U.S.

Barge Collides with Bridge, Spills Oil into Mississippi River

January 28, 2013

ABSTRACT: Light oil spill in the Mississippi River after barge carrying 80,000 gallon of oil hit a railroad bridge in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Authorities are still investigating the cause of the collision.

See the full article at:

<http://usnews.nbcnews.com/news/2013/01/28/16732409-barge-collides-with-bridge-spills-oil-into-mississippi-river?lite>

Livestock Falling Ill in Fracking Regions, Raising Concerns about Food

January 28, 2013

ABSTRACT: Research published by Cornell University researchers suggest link between fracking and illness in food animals. The research draws on data of twenty-four farmers from six shale gas states, whose livestock suffered various illnesses after being exposed to fracking chemicals. Despite the death toll and it's insignificant to the national livestock population. Environmental advocates believe this is an early warning to the dangers of fracking.

See the full article at:

<http://www.enn.com/wildlife/article/45524>

Cats Killing Billions of Animals in the US

January 29, 2013

ABSTRACT: Study shows cats are the worst offenders in killing wildlife in the United States. It is estimate they are responsible for the deaths of between 1.4 and 3.7 billion birds and 6.9-20.7 billion mammals annually.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21236690>

U.S. Minesweeper Stuck on Reef Will be Cut up, Scrapped

January 29, 2013

ABSTRACT: After weighing all options, U.S. government decide to dismantle damaged minesweeper stuck on the Philippine's Tubbataha Reef, a protected marine sanctuary.

See the full article at:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/01/29/minesweeper-stuck-reef-philippines/1875931/>

US court approves \$4bn BP criminal penalty

January 29, 2013

ABSTRACT: A US judge has approved an agreement for British oil giant BP PLC to plead guilty to manslaughter and other charges and pay a record \$4bn in criminal penalties for the company's role in the 2010 oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Report by Al-Jazeera.

See the full article at:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/01/201312920354252698.html>

US Fish & Wildlife Service Considering Reintroducing Wood Bison to Alaska

January 29, 2013

ABSTRACT: Wood Bison, which once populated the Alaskan wilderness, will return once again if the plan by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is approved. This plan aims to reintroduce Wood Bison back to the Alaskan wilderness as “nonessential experimental population”.

See the full article at:

<http://www.enn.com/wildlife/article/45526>

Spring Leaves Expected to Sprout Sooner in North American Forests

January 30, 2013

ABSTRACT: Using a data and observations collected by the USA National Phenology Network, researchers at Princeton University predict due to warm temperature, spring leaves are expected to sprout sooner in North American forests this year.

See the full article at:

<http://www.enn.com/ecosystems/article/45533>

The Great Stink Bug

January 30, 2013

ABSTRACT: Researchers from Oregon State University are trying to curb Stink Bug infestation with a new bug-on-bug strategy by introducing a species of wasps native to China which destroys Stink Bug eggs.

See the full article at:

<http://www.enn.com/wildlife/article/45532>

Climate Activists Put the Heat on Obama

January 30, 2013

ABSTRACT: Switching to a tougher strategy, environmental activist puts heavy pressure on President Obama to halt the extension of the Keystone pipeline by way of protest marches and renewed petitions.

See the full article at:

<http://www.thenation.com/article/172540/climate-activists-put-heat-obama#>.

Environmental Groups to Sue U.S. over Caribou Habitat Decision

January 31, 2013

ABSTRACT: Environmental groups are planning to sue the U.S. federal government over its decision to cut more than 90 percent of the land originally proposed as critical habitat for the last mountain caribou herd in the Lower 48 states.

See the full article at:

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2013/01/environmental_groups_to_sue_us.html

EUROPE

'Energy efficiency' Green Deal launched by government

January 28, 2013

ABSTRACT: Householders will be offered long-term loans to make their homes more energy efficient and to cut bills under a new government scheme. Although the loan of green deal is relatively higher than the standard home loan rate, the government still encourages people to take advantage of the deal by cash back incentive scheme.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21226042>

Inclusive Innovation in Action: New DuPont Innovation Center Launched in Geneva

January 28, 2013

ABSTRACT: DuPont's 10th Innovation Center is set up today It is the second center in the Europe Middle-East and Africa (EMEA) region. The Geneva Innovation Center is housed in the existing site of the European Technical Center (ETC) in Meyrin, outside of Geneva. It will provide DuPont a unique environment to improve its collaboration with customers, government, academic institutions and business partners in Switzerland and across Europe. More than 2,500 customers are expected to visit the ETC annually.

See the full article at:

<http://news.yahoo.com/inclusive-innovation-action-dupont-innovation-center-launched-geneva-130222001.html; ylt=A2KLOzGiDghRc0MAG0vQtDMD>

Scottish Government to Update Climate Plan

January 29, 2013

ABSTRACT: Scottish Government announced a latest climate change plan to ensure that Scotland can achieve its greenhouse gas reduction targets. The Scottish Government has made a plan to decrease carbon emission from electricity generation by more than 80% by 2030. To meet this goal, Scotland starts to revise their proposal and policies

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-21241644>

New Biomass Energy Makes Third Bulk Shipment of Torrefied Wood Pellets to Europe

January 29, 2013

ABSTRACT: New Biomass energy LLC announced its third transatlantic bulk shipment of over 4000 tons torrefied wood pellets to Europe to be used as fuel in coal-fired power plants. Torrefied pellets contain almost the same energy dense as coal and more energy than regular wood pellets, and combust greener with far less sulfur and ash.

See the full article at:

<http://news.yahoo.com/biomass-energy-makes-third-bulk-shipment-torrefied-wood-110222777.html; ylt=A2KJ3Ccv8AdRUToAuMPQtDMD>

EU Executive Thwarts Canada Lobby on Oil Sands

January 30, 2013

ABSTRACT: Canada's urgent hunt for buyers for its oil is being thwarted as the European Commission sticks to a plan to label fuel from oil sands deposits as highly polluting, deterring refiners bound by environmental rules. Because oil sands are unconventional, such as tar sands-clay-like deposits, extracting processes require more energy and lead to more pollution than conventional oil.

See the full article at:

http://business.financialpost.com/2013/01/30/eu-executive-thwarts-canada-lobby-on-oil-sands/?_lsa=b9b4-459a

Cumbria nuclear project rejected by councilors

January 30, 2013

ABSTRACT: Plans to look for a site for a £12bn underground nuclear waste store in Cumbria have been rejected. Cumbria County Council vetoed an advanced "stage four" search for a site for the radioactive waste facility. The stage includes detailed geological investigations, discussions over the social and economic implications.

See the full article at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-21253673>

European Union: CEER Review of the Renewable Energy Support Schemes in Europe

January 31, 2013

ABSTRACT: The latest Status Review of Renewable and Energy Efficiency Support Schemes in Europe is published by the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), which shows that the support schemes are financed by passing on suppliers' costs to end-users among the most member states.

See the full article at:

<http://www.mondaq.com/x/219082/Renewables/CEER+Review+of+the+Renewable+Energy+Support+Schemes+in+Europe>

Wind Energy Update: Industry First O&M Strategies for Onshore and Offshore Wind Farms Finally Revealed

January 31, 2013

ABSTRACT: Delegates are gearing up to gain exclusive insight into the very latest industry post warranty experience, proven technology and O&M strategies, which will maximize generation and reduce costs in wind farms they are associated with globally. the topics includes the very latest end of warranty options (EOW), data analysis and modeling to improve and enhance performance, major part failure, advanced monitoring technologies for both onshore and offshore facilitates.

See the full article at:

<http://news.yahoo.com/wind-energy-industry-first-o-m-strategies-onshore-080448566.html; ylt=A2KJ3CairwpRRHwAZYHQtdMD>

Thousands of Seabirds May be Harmed by Oil off UK Coast

February 01, 2013

ABSTRACT: Conservationists warned that thousands of seabirds have been killed by a pollutant in the water off the south coast of the UK. Tests conducted by the Environment Agency indicated that the tragedy was caused by refined mineral oil. It is still unknown where the substance came from or exactly what it is, but the number of birds and wide area affected could indicate a spill of oil being transported through the Channel.

See the full article at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/feb/01/thousands-seabirds-harmed-oil-uk-coast>

OTHER REGIONS

Malaysian: 14 Bornean Elephants Found Dead, Likely Poisoned

January 31, 2013

ABSTRACT: 14 Bornean elephants were found dead in the Malaysian state of Sabah. The Wildlife officials believe that the elephants were likely poisoned to death by plantation workers of two palm oil companies and one logging company.

See the full article at: <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0131-hance-bornean-elephant-poison.html#5yWmZJq0JEAqkb1v.99>

The Republic of Congo: Gorilla Paradise: New Park Safeguards 15,000 Western Lowland Gorillas

January 31, 2013

ABSTRACT: The new Ntokou-Polounda National Park has been the new home for some 15,000 lowland western gorillas, which had not been noticed by scientists for years. The new protected area is part of the Republic of Congo's policy of conservation and sustainable management.

See the full article at:

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0131-hance-gorilla-park.html#jjsr61UMBwTJlkmb.99>

Mozambique: Floods Cause Shortages in Massangena

January 31, 2013

ABSTRACT: The road, by which the district of Massangena is reached along, has been blocked by floods. Therefore, this district is suffering a food shortage. The government has decided to use airplane to carry food and medicines to Massangena.

See the full article at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302010208.html>

Australia: Man drove Tasmanian Tiger to Extinction in Australia

February 1, 2013

ABSTRACT: A study showed that the Tasmanian Tiger, which is unique to the Australian island, was driven to extinction by human activities, although a lot of people believe that some kind of unknown disease caused the extinction. The study found that the direct reason for the extinction were bounty hunting and habitat loss, while the indirect reasons were human harvesting and competition from the introduced sheep.

See the full article at:

<http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0201-thylacine-extinction.html#yGFK7zjLVdkGRtv0.99>

Indonesia: Indonesian Province of East Kalimantan Imposes Moratorium on Deforestation

February 2, 2013

ABSTRACT: The Indonesian province of East Kalimantan has decided to stop providing new permits for logging, mining and oil palm. East Kalimantan is rich in the forest resources, but most of its remaining forests have been degraded due to logging.

See the full article at: <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0201-east-kalimantan-moratorium.html>