



International Fund for China's Environment

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**Or contact yaochong@ifce.org for more information. Thank
you!**

CHINA

'Social Risk' Test Ordered by China for Big Projects

November 12, 2012

Abstract: With the goal of mitigating the negative environmental impacts of industrial projects, the Chinese government cabinet has ordered that companies to pass a "social risk" assessment. In addition, all government agencies have been ordered to publish all the environmental impact assessments on the internet.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/13/world/asia/china-mandates-social-risk-reviews-for-big-projects.html>

With China and India Ravenous for Energy, Coal's Future Seems Assured

November 12, 2012

Abstract: Although several international agreements have attempted to limit world use of coal and natural gas in order to decrease overall carbon emissions, India and China are still mining and importing huge quantities of coal to power their economies. Global demand for coal is still rising, indicating that the coal industry will most likely thrive in the coming years.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/13/business/energy-environment/china-leads-the-way-as-demand-for-coal-surges-worldwide.html?pagewanted=all>

China's Endangered Pandas Face Bamboo Shortage Threat

November 13, 2012

Abstract: A recent study published in China predicts that due to global warming, there will be a major decline in the bamboo population within the next one hundred years. Giant pandas are already severely endangered, and will face more troubles when bamboo--their main food source--becomes scarce.

See the full article at:

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/life/environment/2012/11/13/360746/Chinas-endangered.htm>

China Strains to Satisfy Growing Demand for Meat

November 13, 2012

Abstract: Chinese citizens have been buying more and more meat, however due to land and water shortages, farmers are having a difficult time keeping up with the demand. Large-scale agriculture is also causing debilitating water pollution in many regions.

See the full article at:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/2012/11/china-meat.html>

Why Booming China Needs To Learn The Three R's

November 14, 2012

Abstract: China must find a way to use its natural resources to feed nearly 20% of the world's population. The country has been facing severe water scarcity as well as drought, floods, earthquakes that threaten the nation's food security.

See the full article at:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2012/11/13/opinion/china-challenges-water-security-hiscock/index.html>

China's 'Cancer Village' Highlights Toll of Country's Booming Economy

November 14, 2012

Abstract: A small village near Beijing has had a remarkably high percentage of cancer-ridden citizens. All the cancer victims were strangely young and lived near the town's chemical factory.

See the full article at:

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/China+cancer+village+highlights+toll+country+booming+economy/7544398/story.html>

Bayer Welcomes China's Environmental Focus

November 15, 2012

Abstract: Marijn Dekkers, the CEO of pharmaceutical company Bayer lauded the new Chinese leadership's dedication to solving environmental problems, and said he looks forward to continued business with China. Mr. Dekkers noted China's continued focus on sustainable development and said he and his company welcome that approach.

See the full article at:

http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2012-11/15/content_15929694.htm

An Insight Into the Green Vocabulary of the Chinese Communist Party

November 15, 2012

Abstract: Leaders in China have changed the way they talk about environmental problems, suggesting that they are paying more serious attention. For example in the 1990s, the phrase "sustainable development" was the main phrase used by leaders. Now, the Party Congress uses the word "environment" much more frequently.

See the full article at:

<http://www.chinadialogue.net/books/5339/en>

Will China's New Policy Silence Future Protesters?

November 16, 2012

Abstract: The Chinese government's new 'social risk assessment' program is also designed to reduce the number of environmental protests. Although project managers must now take into account the opinions of local populations, whether citizens' voices will actually be heard without political freedom of speech remains to be seen.

See the full article at:

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2012/11/will-china-new-policy-silence-future-protesters-social-risk-assessment>

Environment Priority Spurs 'Green' Stocks

November 16, 2012

Abstract: With the environment at the top of the 18th Communist Party leaders' agenda, stocks in ecologically-friendly businesses and companies are getting a boost. Now, the green movement is being associated with smart economics that can also help the country grow and thrive.

See the full article at:

<http://gulfnews.com/business/opinion/market-watch-environment-priority-spurs-green-stocks-1.1105857>

U.S.

International Energy Agency: US to Be Biggest Oil Producer

November 12, 2012

Abstract: According to International Energy Agency's new forecast, the United States is going to overtake Saudi Arabia to become the biggest oil producer all over the world before 2020. It also points out that the United States will be energy independent 10 years later. This is mainly because of the recent resurgence in oil and gas production and efforts to make the transportation sector more efficient, reported IEA.

See the full article at:

<http://money.cnn.com/2012/11/12/news/economy/us-oil-production-energy/index.html>

U.S. Will Not Be Energy Independent

November 13, 2012

Abstract: Against the International Energy Agency's new report about US is going to world's biggest oil producer and be energy independent, Jordan Weissmann, associate editor at The Atlantic, published an article saying US is not going to be energy independent even if US pumps more oil than Saudi Arabia.

See the full article at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2012/11/the-us-wont-be-energy-independent-even-if-we-pump-more-oil-than-saudi-arabia/265136/>

Oil-shale Revolution Should Be Led by California

November 14, 2012

Abstract: California can lead the energy revolution, oil-shale revolution, if California's governors have the foresight to make it happen, which will ultimately create many tens of thousands of jobs and vast new wealth, reported U-T San Diego.

See the full article at:

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/nov/14/california-should-lead-oil-shale-revolution/>

US Energy Policy Needs Change

November 15, 2012

Abstract: Top Senate Lawmaker, Ron Wyden, said on Thursday's Senate energy committee that he sees opportunities for "transformative energy policy" to both spur jobs created by the newfound wealth of energy while also protecting air and water from pollution. However, he provided few details on the shape new energy legislation would take.

See the full article at:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/16/us-usa-congress-energy-idUSBRE8AF01820121116>

Super-grids

November 16, 2012

Abstract: Environmentalists and governments who want to promote the integration of more renewables into the power supply are keen to the concept of a "super-grid" capable of moving huge amounts of electricity over long distance, Johns Kemp from Reuters reported.

See the full article at:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/16/us-column-kemp-supergrids-idUSBRE8AF0XA20121116>

Gulf Coast Politicians Look for More on Penalties for Oil Spill

November 16, 2012

Abstract: On Thursday, BP pleaded guilty to 14 criminal charges and pay \$4.5 billion in fines and other payments. However, Gulf Coast politicians wanted a much bigger potential windfall from BP: \$20 billion or more in civil pollution penalties for the spill.

See the full article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/17/business/energy-environment/gulf-coast-states-at-odds-on-penalties-for-oil-spill.html?ref=energy-environment>

EUROPE

EU Delays Carbon Tax Laws for Airlines

November 13, 2012

Abstract: EU delays one year to execute the carbon emission tax law for airlines that fly to or from EU, as threatened by international pressures. But flights within the EU still need to pay.

See the full article at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/13/uk-eu-airlines-ets-idUSLNE8AB01G20121113>

EU Reforms Carbon Market

November 14, 2012

Abstract: EU posts new carbon reform rules, planning to postpone 900 million allowance auctions until 2019 and 2020. The report estimates up to 2 billion allowances are not likely to decline before 2020, and proposes several potential steps like increasing emission reduction target and limiting international credits in emission trade.

See the full article at: <http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/eu-reveals-carbon-market-reform-news-516023>

EU Marine Biodiversity Projects

November 13, 2012

Abstract: Scientists from 16 countries started a new EU-funded project exploring marine biodiversity in Europe. It has clinched almost EUR 9 million in funding under the Environment Theme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The targets are the European regional seas, including the Mediterranean, Black and Baltic seas, and the Atlantic Ocean, from 2012 to 2016.

See the full article at: http://enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=30906&id_type=1&lang_id=450

Metal Industry Warns EU Efficiency Laws

November 15, 2012

Abstract: The metal industry worries that EU's considering regulation push them out of Europe, where environmental regulations are less strengthened.

See the full article at: <http://www.euractiv.com/specialreport-recycling-society/industry-eyes-leaving-eu-resourc-news-515906>

EU Recycling Goals Haltered by Chemical Laws

November 16, 2012

Abstract: The REACH chemical Laws, created in 2006 to protect people and environment from chemicals, are now creating headaches for manufacturers who rely on waste as a secondary raw material. The European Commission began to acknowledge the issue, but admitted that it would take time to address.

See the full article at: <http://www.euractiv.com/specialreport-resource-efficienc/eu-recycling-goals-held-back-rea-news-516068>

OTHER REGIONS

Egypt: Government Moves to End Wastewater Crisis in Suez Schools

Nov.12, 2012

Abstract: Egypt's Education Minister has agreed to allocate 300 thousand Egyptian pounds from the ministry's budget to end the wastewater crisis in an educational compound in its Northern state Suez.

See the full article at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201211131241.html>

Bluefin Tuna Quotas Up for Renewal

Nov.12, 2012

Abstract: Hunted to the brink of extinction to feed a sushi market, the Atlantic bluefin tuna was placed on the endangered list. Fishing nations meet in Morocco this week to thrash out tuna quotas as experts urge maintaining bluefin catch limits amid promising signs of the decimated species making a comeback.

See the full article at:

http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/1236674/1/.html

Japan: No Quick Re-start for Biggest Nuclear Plant

Nov.13, 2012

Abstract: Tokyo Electric Power Co sees no imminent resumption of operations at the world's biggest nuclear plant, shut down after last year's Fukushima disaster, further raising its costs as it spends more on fossil fuels to generate electricity.

See the full article at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/13/us-tepco-nuclear-idUSBRE8AC0IN20121113>

Australia: World's Largest Marine Reserves Created

Nov.13, 2012

Abstract: Australia created the world's largest network of marine reserves, protecting a huge swathe of ocean environment despite claims it will devastate the fishing industry. The announcement will significantly expand the protection of critically endangered creatures and populations such as the blue whale, green turtle.

See the full article at: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-11-13/flora-fauna/35155691_1_western-australia-tony-burke-marine-reserves

Nigeria: The Nation Has Highest Oil Spill in the World

Nov.14, 2012

Abstract: Nigeria senate disclosed that it has the highest number of oil spill incidences among oil producing countries with no penalty regime attached to such oil spills. Spokesman said oil spill had become an irresponsible environmental behavior and reckless waste of the people's wealth and benefit.

See the full article at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201211140973.html>

Middle East: A 24-hour Program About Climate Change Launched The Dirty Weather Report

Nov.14, 2012

Abstract: Throughout the Middle East, access to freshwater and drought are creating flashpoints for conflict between governments and communities, with the potential for broad and far-reaching ramifications for U.S. national security.

See the full article at: <http://mideastenvironment.apps01.yorku.ca/?p=6320>

Iran: Step Up Underground Nuclear Work Soon

Nov.15, 2012

Abstract: Iran has nearly finished installing centrifuges at the Fordow enrichment plant buried deep inside a mountain and is believed to be in a position in the near future to significantly step up production there of material that could be used for bombs if processed further.

See the full article at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/15/us-nuclear-iran-enrichment-idUSBRE8AE10220121115>

Algeria: Exploits Controversial Shale Gas

Nov.15, 2012

Abstract: Algeria, the world's fourth-largest gas exporter, has decided to develop its shale gas potential, but experts fear this could cause severe environmental problems. Officials say the country's shale gas reserves are 600 trillion cubic feet (17 trillion cubic meters), or around four times greater than its current known gas reserves.

See the full article at: <http://mideastenvironment.apps01.yorku.ca/?p=6337>

Nigeria: Reps to Suspend N3.7 Billion Ecological Projects

Nov.16, 2012

Abstract: Citing breach of provisions of the Procurement Act, the House of Representatives, gave their backing to a motion seeking the suspension of work on 17 ecological projects across the country worth N3.7 billion. They also mandated investigation the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Program.

See the full article at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201211160341.html>

Uganda: 297 Million African Women and Girls Lack Adequate Sanitation-Wateraid

Nov.16, 2012

Abstract: A survey commissioned by WaterAid of women living across five slums in Lagos, Nigeria, showed that one in five had first or second hand experience of verbal harassment and intimidation, or had been threatened or physically assaulted in the last year when going to the toilet.

See the full article at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201211161254.html>