



International Fund for China’s Environment Newsletter

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IFCE Weekly News (Feb. 11 – Feb. 17)

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Also, follow us on twitter (and for more environmental news): @IFCE_DC

Or, for original content on our blog at: www.ifcedc.blogspot.com

Thank you!

Edited by: A. Lin (China), Y. Chong (World), LL Tan (US), and J. Gottesman (Europe)

CHINA

Environmental Health Implications of Electric Vehicles in China

February 13, 2012

Abstract: Chinese and U.S. universities have worked together to evaluate the effects of emissions and environmental health impacts on 34 major urban centers due to electrical and conventional vehicles. Universities in the study included the University of Tennessee and Tsinghua University in China.

See the full article at: <http://resourceinvestingnews.com/31349-environmental-health-implications-of-electric-vehicles-in-china.html>

Public Awareness of Environmental Rights Improved

February 13, 2012

Abstract: Zeng Xiaodong, vice president of the All-China Environment Federation (ACEF), said that people's awareness should be the priority with regard to the right of a clean and protected environment. Overall, the Chinese people are increasingly aware of their environmental rights. However, there are still many obstacles for environmental lawsuits.

Comment [JDG1]: Not everyone knows what the ACEF is, best to be as clear as possible.

Comment [JDG2]: This sentence is confusing. There are too many subjects without a clear direction.

See the full article at: http://www.china.org.cn/environment/2012-02/14/content_24629838.htm

China's 'Green GDP' Resurfaces

February 13, 2012

Abstract: Since the Ministry of Environmental Protection conducted a study that reported the costs of pollution to be nearly \$222 billion USD in 2009, the official press has taken note. Support for China's green initiative has received increased publicity and is overtaking other previously favored developmental interests.

See the full article at: http://www.rfa.org/english/energy_watch/greengdp-02132012120520.html

Why Electric Cars Are More Polluting than Gas Guzzlers – at Least in China

February 14, 2012

Abstract: Hybrid car drivers make the assumption that their choice of vehicle is actively saving the world through not using fossil fuel. However, new information in the journal Environmental Science & Technology shows that electric vehicles may not be as clean as they appear to be, especially in China.

See the full article at: <http://healthland.time.com/2012/02/14/why-electric-cars-are-more-polluting-than-gas-guzzlers-at-least-in-china/#ixzz1mP7XHt5u>

GM Gets Environmental OK for Possible New China Plant but Company says No Decision Yet

February 14, 2012

Abstract: Every time a new plant or factory is constructed a myriad of environmental issues accompany it, but despite this hurdle, General Motors Co. has just secured approval from environmental authorities in central china for a new plant. The Hubei Environmental Protection Bureau has posted information about the nature of its approval online granting a measure of transparency and a sense of what is required to obtain such approval.

See the full article at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/gm-gets-environmental-ok-for-possible-new-china-plant-company-says-no-decision-yet/2012/02/10/gIQAVFLL3Q_story.html

Comment [JDG3]: Too informal. Think about your audience, this is being sent to businessmen around the world.

Worsening Air Pollution Costs China Dearly: study

February 15, 2012

Abstract: China's increasing air pollution over decades of largely unrestricted economic growth has led to losses of more than \$112 billion USD in terms of economic productivity, an MIT study reports. If people's lost leisure time because of illness or death is included as well, the losses rise by an additional \$22 billion USD.

See the full article at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/16/us-china-pollution-costs-idUSTRE81F09M20120216>

China's Electric Vehicle and Its Dirty Coal

February 16, 2012

Abstract: China is slowly evolving from unregulated coal plants with zero pollution controls to a more environmentally friendly state. Almost half of the power in the south of China comes from hydroelectricity. Higher usage of electric vehicles would mean even fewer emissions and less citizen deaths.

See the full article at: <http://evworld.com/article.cfm?storyid=2044>

China's River Pollution 'a threat to people's lives'

February 17, 2012

Abstract: As much as 40% of China's waterways were marked as seriously polluted as of yesterday. This can be attributed to the 75 billion tons of pollution and waste discharged into them. Such practices contribute to problems of water shortages, river pollution, the deterioration of aquatic ecology, and stunted sustainable growth as asserted by Hu Siyi, vice minister at the Ministry of Water Resources.

See the full article at: <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90882/7732438.html>

EUROPE

Fuel Removal Gets Under Way on Italy Cruise Ship Nearly a Month After Grounding

February 12, 2012

Abstract: It has been almost a month since the Italian cruise ship Costa Concordia ran aground and sank, releasing 500,000 gallons of fuel into the water. The project is expected to take 28 days of ongoing pumping though others are skeptical of this number given the already extensive delays.

See the full article at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/travel/fuel-removal-gets-under-way-on-italy-cruise-ship-nearly-a-month-after-grounding/2012/02/12/gIOAH3y38Q_story.html

Climate Change Could Impact Some of Your Favorite Treats

February 13, 2012

Abstract: Our favorite made-up holiday's favorite treat is becoming increasingly scarce as our global climate becomes increasingly volatile. Crops such as cocoa whose success is predicated on a very particular set of climate circumstances have become increasingly embattled and scarce.

See the full article at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/13/valentines-day-climate-change-impacts_n_1274253.html

A Street View for Rivers

February 13, 2012

Abstract: Videographer Jared Criscuolo has a mission: to do for rivers, what Google maps did for Street View. He is interested in doing so to study the effects of rainfall, and runoff on the toxicity and pollutants present in water.

See the full article at: <http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/13/a-street-view-for-rivers/>

12.4% of Europe Now Powered by Renewable Energy

February 14, 2012

Abstract: The EU's breakdown of energy consumption made a large gain in 2010, with renewable energy gaining nearly an entire percentage point as it jumped to 12.4% of total consumption (up from 11.5% in 2009). Additionally, there was a 25% increase in the number of individuals employed in the renewable energy sector during that same period of time.

See the full article at: <http://www.treehugger.com/renewable-energy/124-europe-now-powered-renewable-energy.html>

Half of UK Households 'could face water restrictions by April'

February 15, 2012

Abstract: Rainfall in Britain this year is the lowest it's been since 1972, and consumption has obviously risen dramatically since then. Now, Britons are facing heavy restrictions as the crisis nears a drought. With the potential of stirring significant civil unrest, the Environment Secretary is holding a meeting with private companies, wildlife groups, and others next week to address the increasingly dire situation.

See the full article at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/feb/15/uk-households-water-restrictions>

Air Pollution Linked to Heart Attack Risk, analysis shows

February 15, 2012

Abstract: Scientists at Paris' Cardiovascular Research Center have surveyed a large history of previous studies and have determined that air pollution leads to a very noticeable increase in the amount heart-related deaths. While it is not as dire as the concentration of inhaling a cigarette, because of the ongoing nature of air pollution the long-term impacts are dangerous indeed.

See the full article at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/feb/15/air-pollution-heart-attack-risk>

Desmond Tutu Tells David Cameron Tar Sands Threaten Health of the Planet

February 16, 2012

Abstract: The number of Nobel laureates who have urged David Cameron to abandon tar sands as they pose significant detrimental impact to the health of our planet has risen to eight, the latest being Desmond Tutu. They are urging the British PM to get onboard with the EU's classification of tar sands as being 'highly polluting'.

See the full article at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/feb/16/desmond-tutu-cameron-tar-sands>

Cameron, Sarkozy Sign Nuclear Deal

February 19, 2012

Abstract: British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Nicolas Sarkozy have signed an agreement towards civilian cooperation in the construction of new nuclear powerplants in Britain. It is the first diplomatic agreement signed by the two long-time allies following Cameron's refusal to enact EU financial transaction taxes.

See the full article at: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-02-19/cameron-sarkozy-sign-nuclear-deal-benefiting-rolls-royce.html>

Activists Occupying New Nuclear Site Accuse EDF of 'ignoring democracy'

February 17, 2012

Abstract: Protesters have been gathering at the site of Great Britain's first new nuclear power plant since 1995, arguing that their voices have been all but ignored in the process of approving the site for construction. The company has begun building despite not yet having obtained public, or legal approval.

See the full article at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/feb/17/activists-occupy-nuclear-site-edf>

UNITED STATES

Why Do Mammals Go to Coffee Farms?

February 13, 2012

Abstract: Go to a coffee farm to identify tree species with Amanda Caudill, a doctoral student at the University of Rhode Island. Scientist at Work is a blog for scientists to post daily progress of their expeditions. Here, our fascination with coffee as a species is explored. “You never know what will thrill you everyday.”

See the full article at: <http://scientistatwork.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/15/why-do-mammals-go-to-coffee-farms/?ref=earth>

Comment [Joshua Go4]:

Comment [Joshua Go5]:

From 9/11, a Lesson on Whales, Noise and Stress

February 14, 2012

Abstract: After more than 10 years of study, researchers now confirm that the underwater noise from ships can cause stress to whales which communicate with acoustic within the same frequency range of many ship noises. This research benefitted in a way from the 9/11 attacks, after which governments halted commercial transportation in much of the world. Additionally, the reduced noise from ships leads to the reduced fecal levels of glucocorticoids, metabolites of stress-related hormones in whales, affirming the study’s findings.

See the full article at: <http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/14/from-911-a-lesson-on-whales-noise-and-stress/>

U.S. Pushes to Cut Emissions of Some Pollutants That Hasten Climate Change

February 15, 2012

Abstract: Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, plans to announce a program to reduce emissions of short-lived pollutants, such as soot, methane and hydrofluorocarbons. Durwood Zaelke, president of the Institute for Climate Governance and Sustainable Development, described this program as the opening of a second front in the climate war. It will be a complement to the time-consuming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change work. The United States plans to invest \$12 million USD and Canada \$3 million USD over two years to initiate the program which aims not only to reduce global temperatures by 0.5 degrees Celsius by 2050, but also to reduce the rate of lung and heart diseases.

See the full article at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/16/science/earth/us-pushes-to-cut-emissions-that-speed-climate-change.html?ref=earth>

Comment [Joshua Go6]: Titles, like President, or Mr. are capitalized. Secretary of State and official titles are usually included in this.

Comment [Joshua Go7]: 'such as' is more formal than like, yet conveys the same sentiment.

Comment [Joshua Go8]: Amongst whom?

Studies: Health Risk from Toxic Pavement Sealants Greater than Previously Believed

February 16, 2012

Abstract: Recent studies show that sealants associated with coal-based tar asphalt have ill effects on people's health, especially children. These sealants, the byproduct of steelmaking industry, are used by every state except for Washington, which banned the products last year in an attempt to preserve the asphalt.

See the full article at: <http://openchannel.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/02/17/10428845-studies-health-risk-from-toxic-pavement-sealant-greater-than-previously-believed>

Comment [Joshua Go9]: You don't have to write Washington State, as DC is properly referred to as the District of Columbia.

The Fracking Industry Buys Congress

February 16, 2012

Abstract: Tainted water, respiratory ailments, skin lesions, blood oozing from eyes, deaths of livestock and pets, fish killed... you name it. Fracking-related contamination has been found around natural gas wells in 31 states. Continuous complaints rocketed to over 493,000 in these territories.

See the full article at: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/feb2012/2012-02-16-02.html>

Comment [Joshua Go10]: Generally, your writing will seem more coherent if you avoid repetition of words close to one another.

Bay Area Climate Change Plans Lack Regional Cooperation

February 17, 2012

Abstract: The lack of planning coordination in the Bay Area where climate change may cause flooding, shoreline erosion, heat waves, water shortages and a spread of exotic infectious diseases will increase the vulnerability of residents, according to Laura Tam, a policy director at the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association. In order to keep subways from flooding, prevent agricultural lands from drying up, and cope with higher temperatures, we must heed the experience that climate change action plans from other cities indicate that climate change to be a reality, and not only a scientific proposition.

See the full article at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/17/science/earth/bay-area-climate-change-plans-lack-regional-cooperation.html?ref=earth>

Comment [Joshua Go11]: Locations, titles, high levels of political offices, and official recognized programs or companies (proper nouns) are capitalized. In this case the 'Bay Area' is a location. Otherwise it comes across as the land around any bay.

World

Poachers Slaughter 200 Elephants in Cameroon National Park in Six Weeks

Cameroon

February 17, 2012

Abstract: Well-armed poachers from Chad and Sudan have killed 200 elephants in Cameroon in less than two months. This scale of cross-border poaching was unprecedented and shocking, and has led to calls for new measures to prevent the reoccurrence of such an action.

See the full article at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/feb/17/poachers-slaughter-200-elephants-cameroon>

Comment [JDG12]: Your abstract here did not explain to the reader how the situation had impacted others, or what responses had been generated as a result.

For Mexico City, a Repurposed Landfill

Mexico

February 17, 2012

Abstract: Mexico City's government shut down the energy giant Bordo Poniente's landfill focused on capturing methane gas used in electricity production. Not only will the project generate revenue through energy sales, but it also will be eligible to receive carbon credits as a result of the emissions reduction it is responsible for.

See the full article at: <http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/17/for-mexico-city-a-repurposed-landfill/?ref=earth>

What a Bornean Elephant Wants: More Protected Forests and Wildlife Corridors

Bornea

February 16, 2012

Abstract: Elephants are extremely sensitive to habitat fragmentation and deforestation from the expansion of palm oil plantations and to logging. Without the swift implementation of forest management to ensure the stoppage of further raids of forests for wood, the Bornean elephant's days may very well be numbered.

Comment [JDG13]:

See the full article at: http://news.mongabay.com/2012/0216-hance_borneanelephant.html

Growth Spurt at a Bolivian Volcano Is Fertile Ground for Study

February 14, 2012

Bolivia

Abstract: The Bolivian Uturuncu Volcano is steadily inflating as indicated by its rising height. The development of the Uturuncu Volcano provides a new forum for scientists to study and explore the development of volcanos, and the properties of that which they discharge during eruption.

Comment [JDG14]: This is not a complete abstract. It is a statement, but doesn't consider the focus of the title, and how the second clause explains the second.

See the full article at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/14/science/a-fascinating-growth-spurt-at-the-uturuncu-volcano-in-bolivia.html?ref=earth>

“Gold” Standard for Redd Forest Conservation Project in Columbia’s

Choco

Colombia

February 15, 2012

Abstract: A REDD project has been established in Colombia’s Darien region, which itself is a part of the Chocó rainforest ecosystem that runs along the Pacific coast of Colombia and Ecuador. The project aims at reducing deforestation and forest degradation that’s results from logging, mining, cattle ranching and clearing the land for other agriculture activities.

See the full article at: http://news.mongabay.com/2012/0215-redd_choco-darien.html