



Research and Environment News from China

Number 17 - November 2005

Please note that the previous newsletters can be downloaded from the Website of the Embassy of Switzerland in China: www.eda.admin.ch/beijing . To subscribe/ unsubscribe or send us your comments, please send an eMail with the corresponding subject to ziwen.zhu@eda.admin.ch.

Introduction

A number of events have happened this month with Swiss participation.

The Sino-Swiss Workshop on Environment and Sustainability was the latest *strategic* symposium financed by the Swiss (State Secretariat of Education and Research) and Chinese (Ministry of Education and Research) and co-organized by Swiss and Chinese coordinators ETH and ACCA21, and our support. Around 30 Swiss researchers and 45 Chinese researchers participated, making speeches and discussing potential co-cooperation. Topics were wide, from water management, bio-diversity, bio-treatment, ... to new energy, transport management, and from environmental policy to industrial ecology. Last year's strategic symposium on bio-technology having generated a number of strong contacts followed by successive meetings, it is very likely that the topic of environment will also succeed in sino-swiss cooperation.

As the same time, a symposium "Environmental Protection on Law Symposium" included Swiss participation, including EMPA (Materials Science and Technology) which is managing the project of co-operation with China in the field of eWaste. The symposium was organized by the National People's Congress that we are confident will cooperate with Switzerland on the establishment of a future eWaste law.

Talking about eWaste, Swiss company Dietiker/Immark, co-organized a large conference in Shanghai, "World Recycling - Shanghai '05". In parenthesis, the central government has "nominated" the three cities Beijing, Tianjin, Hangzhou to implement pilot eWaste treatment (and collection and recycling chains).

At the same time as the first symposium above-mentioned, the current catastrophe of Jinan/Heilongjiang happened respectively was announced. The articles on the catastrophe are not included in this newsletter, as it evolves daily.

Articles on bird flu are still not included; our website www.eda.admin.ch/beijing can be consulted.

Science & Technology

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| 6. Private Sector Invests 1.2 Bln Yuan in State R&D Program | <i>Program 863 investment</i> |
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| 8. HP Opens China Research Lab | <i>research laboratory</i> |



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| 10. Lab Opened to Help Promote Energy Efficiency | <i>Energy Efficiency</i> |
| 11. China Joins Galileo Projects | <i>Galileo Projects</i> |
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| 8. Stricter environment laws hit lead smelters | <i>environment laws</i> |
| 9. Wind could blow energy crisis away | <i>renewable resources</i> |
| 10. Grasslands could turn into desert | <i>desertification</i> |
| 11. China to reform price mechanism of energy and resources | <i>price mechanism</i> |
| 12. 2,682 Companies Shut Down for Discharging Wastes | <i>Discharging Wastes punishment</i> |
| 13. 70% of Rivers, Lakes Polluted in China | <i>water pollution</i> |
| 14. 26 Laws on Environmental Protection Enacted | <i>environmental protection laws</i> |
| 15. China Sets Target for Environmental Protection | <i>Environmental Protection targets</i> |

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| 2. Forum seeks right path for TCM globalization | <i>TCM</i> |
| 3. New rural medical co-operatives under scrutiny | <i>rural medical system</i> |
| 4. Henan gets it right in war on HIV/AIDS | <i>HIV healthcare system</i> |
| 5. China reports 132,545 cases of HIV infection | <i>HIV infection</i> |
| 6. Guangzhou stages run in aid of cancer research | <i>cancer research</i> |

KEYWORDS



Activites coming up soon

1-2 December, 2005
Asia Pacific Pharma, Hospital, Biotech 2nd CEO Executive Summit
Guangzhou, China
Contact: Ms. Lynn Ng
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Email: Lynn.Ng@ibcasia.com.sg
URL: http://www.abc-asia.com
2 December, 2005
Frontiers in Biomedical Research 2005
Hong Kong, China
Contact: Faculty Office,6/F William MW Mong Block, Faculty of Medicine, 21 Sassoon Road, Hong Kong
Tel: 852 28199333 Fax: 852 28184913
Email: fbmr@hku.hk
URL: http://www.hku.hk/facmed/fbr2005
3-4 December, 2005
Nutracon China 2005
Shanghai, China
Contact: Mr. Sheldon Habiger
Tel: 86 21 50592406 Fax: 86 21 50592406
Email: sheldon@chinagoesgreen.com
URL: http://www.nutraconchina.com/eng_main.html
8-12 December, 2005
China International Drug Delivery Systems Summit 2005
Beijing, China
Contact: Vera Tang
Rm. 1203/C Building, TOPBOX, No. 69 BeiChen West Rd. Chaoyang District, Beijing, China 100029
Tel: 8610 58772812/13/14/15 Fax: 8610 58772825
Email: veratang@medpharmconsulting.com
URL: http://dds.medpharmconsulting.com
16 January, 2006
China Life Sciences Partnering Forum in Beijing
Beijing, China
Organized by Burrill & Company
Contact: Marietta H. Wu
Tel: 650 3530826
Email: marietta@biohorizonllc.com
URL: http://www.burrillandco.com/bio/china_lifescience



18 January, 2006
China Life Sciences Partnering Forum in Shanghai
Shanghai, China
Organized by Burrill & Company
Contact: Marietta H. Wu
Tel: 650 3530826
Email: marietta@biohorizonllc.com
URL: http://www.burrillandco.com/bio/china_lifescience
20 January, 2006
China Life Sciences Partnering Forum in Shenzhen
Shenzhen, China
Organized by Burrill & Company
Contact: Marietta H. Wu
Tel: 650 3530826
Email: marietta@biohorizonllc.com
URL: http://www.burrillandco.com/bio/china_lifescience
13-16 February, 2006
The Fourth Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Conference
Taipei, Taiwan
Contact: Lin Wen-chang
Tel: 886 2 27899148 Fax: 886 2 27858594
Email: wenlin@ibms.sinica.edu.tw
URL: http://binfo.ym.edu.tw/apbc2006/
25-28 March, 2006
Shanghai-Hong Kong International Liver Congress 2006
Shanghai, China
Contact: Building 4, Room 303
Liver Cancer Institute and Zhong Shan Hospital
Fudan University, 136 Yi Xue Yuan Road, Shanghai 200032, China
Tel: 86 21 64041990 Fax: 86 21 64037181
Email: shanghai@livercongress.org
URL: http://www.livercongress.org/en/home.asp
11-14 April, 2006
CHINA MED - International Medical Instruments and Equipment Exhibition
Beijing, China
Contact: US exhibit space sales, US exhibitor services
Ryan Klemm
Senior Project Manager
Messe DÜsseldorf North America
150 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2920
Chicago, IL 6060, USA
Tel: 312 7815180
Fax: 312 7815188
Email: rklemm@mdna.com



URL: http://www.mdna.com/shows/chinamed.html
April 12-14, 2006
Agro Shanghai 2006
Venue: Shanghai Exhibition Center
Contact: Mr. Jin Sheng-ling
Exhibition Dept. of CCPIT Shanghai
Email: jinshengling@cpitsh.org
April 28 - 30, 2006
The 7th China International Environmental Protection Exhibition and Hi-New Technologies Conference
Venue: Shanghai International Exhibition Center
Tel: 021-54592323 Fax: 021- 54253480
Email: zmes@zhongmao.com.cn
Contact: Mr.Jiang Zhiyou 13370228868
13-15 June, 2006
Drug Discovery and Development China
Shanghai, China
Contact: Ms. Lynn Ng
Tel: 65 68355107 Fax: 65 67335087
Email: Lynn.Ng@ibcasia.com.sg
URL: http://www.drugdisc.com/china
June 18 - 21, 2006
International Symposium on Nanotechnology in Environmental Protection and Pollution
Venue: The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology
International Conference Center
Clear Water Bay
Kowloon, Hong Kong, P.R. China
June 28-30, 2006
Wind Power Asia 2006- The 3rd Asian Wind Power Exhibition and Conference
Venue: China World Trade Centre, Beijing, China
Tel: 86-10-68360959, 68360575 Fax: 86-10-68360949
Email: marcowang@unique-expo.com
October 23-25, 2006
4th Food Science International Symposium
Venue: Xiamen, Fujian, P. R. China
Contact: Prof. Sun Shizhong
Senior Advisor c/o BFRF
Email: chnfood@chnfood.cn
November 2006
Ecobuild Shanghai 2006
www.greenshanghai.org



January 15-16, 2007	
The 4th International Workshop on Energy and Environment of Residential Buildings (IWEERB 2007)	
Venue: Harbin Institute of Technology	
Contact: Mr.Zhi Weiluo	
Tel: 86-0451-898 60889	Fax: 86-0451-8628 2123
E-mail: iweerb2007@hit.edu.cn	

Environment-related international tenders and investment opportunities:

english.cepi.com.cn/homepage/homepage.jsp

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Science & Technology

Biotech plan said to help genetic disease sufferers

(China Daily, 2005-11-05)

TIANJIN: People suffering from various infectious and genetic diseases may benefit from plans to support biotech medicine.

In the next five years, the State will focus on developing new low-cost biotech medicines and vaccines, among other biotechnology initiatives, said Qi Chengyuan, director of the High and New Technology Department under the National Development and Reform Committee (NDRC).

The central government will also concentrate on schemes to screen people for genes that might cause diseases.

China's biotech investment is said to be the largest in a developing country.

Qi made his remarks on Friday at the opening of the three-day Fourth China Tianjin Economic Development Area (TEDA) Bioforum. Investment will look at such things as genetically modified seeds, biotechnology-based manufacturing, bio-energy and biotech-based environmental protection, said Qi. All will be part of the 11th Five-Year Programme (2006-10).

Drafts of the plan, which has been worked on by the NDRC, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the Ministry of Health and other government departments, will be finished early next year, according to MOST sources.

During the current 10th Five-Year Plan (2001-05), the central government quadrupled its investment in life sciences and biotech sectors to 13 billion yuan (US\$1.6 billion), from the previous five-year period. That's according to statistics from the National Biotech Development Centre.

The huge investment and the vast number of talented people in China means the nation is among the world's top countries in biotechnological terms. It is doing a lot of work in areas such as proteomics (the branch of molecular biology concerned with the behaviour and interaction of proteins within cells), stem cell research, genetically modified seeds and gene therapy.



Zhang Jing'an, secretary general of the Ministry of Science and Technology, said total investment in the field could reach 50 billion yuan (US\$6.2 billion) in the 11th Five-Year Programme period.

Chinese scientists exchange huge research data via global high-speed net

(People's daily, 2005-10-31)

Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Institute of High Energy Physics exchanged huge scientific data with their Italian counterparts via the Global Ring Network for Advanced Applications Development (Gloriad).

The huge data, collected at the Yangbajing Observatory for space radials, could not be transmitted through the prevailing Internet.

The Hong Kong Open Exchange Portal (HKOEP) witnessed such a kind of huge data transmission in the past year.

Chen Wei, a senior engineer at the CAS Computer Network Information Center who oversees construction of the HKOEP, said here Monday that the portal has already been linked with research networks in Japan, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea. It is scheduled to connect other nets throughout the world.

In addition to three Gloriad founders, China, the United States and Russia, the HKOEP program was joined by the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands and Canada in September.

Gloriad, expected to be an important platform for research for the Next Generation Internet (NGI), is proposed as a 10-gigabit-per-second optical network around the Northern Hemisphere. The ring begins in Chicago at the Starlight facility, funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation, crosses the Atlantic Ocean to the Netherlight facility in Amsterdam, continues to Moscow and the Russian science city of Novosibirsk, goes on to Beijing and Hong Kong, and then crosses the Pacific Ocean to complete the circuit in Chicago.

Chen estimated that basic research in many areas would benefit from Gloriad, such as natural disaster forecasts, human genome mapping, exploration of outer space, earthquake monitoring, and high-energy physics.

Gloriad was developed from a U.S.-Russian program of NaukaNet, which provides Russian scientists access to the NGI in the United States. In reciprocity, American researchers could also be linked to high performance Internet service in Russia.

The CAS, China's top scientific research institution, also views Gloriad as a vital step toward a Chinese NGI, coded E-Science project, which is scheduled in 2006.

China plans 2007 space mission

(China Daily, 2005-11-04)

China plans to put three men into space within the next two years as it looks ahead to an orbiting space station and a mission to the moon, domestic media said on Thursday.

China last month successfully completed its second manned space mission aboard the Shenzhou VI, and is now developing a series of new craft up to the Shenzhou X, two Beijing newspapers said.

The Shenzhou VII would carry three people and be launched within the next two years, the Beijing Morning Post said.

But the Shenzhou VIII and IX would only carry equipment for the planned orbiting space station, the newspaper said, quoting chief rocket designer Liu Zhusheng.

Shenzhou X would carry the people who will work in the space station, Liu told the newspaper, without giving a timeframe for its launch.



But he said once the space station project got under way, Shenzhou VIII, VI and X could be launched within a month of each other.

"Once one part has gone up, we need to immediately send up the next bit to connect it, so we'll carry out a series of quick launches in succession," Zhu said.

China is also designing a rocket that can carry a payload of 25 tonnes into space, up from a present limit of eight tonnes, the Beijing News said, though it would unlikely be ready for another six-and-a-half years.

Another objective is to put a man on the moon, but that plan could be complicated due to China's current inability to land and then recover a craft from the surface, the report said.

"Though we have already achieved a high level of successful technology, success does not necessarily mean the technology is mature," the newspaper quoted another rocket designer, Yang Hong, as saying.

China put its first man in space aboard Shenzhou V in October 2003, giving China membership in the exclusive club of countries that have put a man into space.

The former Soviet Union and the United States first sent men into orbit in 1961.

China has run its ambitious space program on a relative shoestring.

Domestic media has put the cost of developing the whole Shenzhou program at about \$2.3 billion, a fraction of the \$16 billion budget of NASA, the U.S. space agency, for 2005 alone.

China to Launch Highly Compatible Chip

(www.china.org.cn, 2005-11-30)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/scitech/150421.htm>

Deloitte Ranks Nation's Top High-tech Companies

(www.china.org.cn, 2005-11-24)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/scitech/149745.htm>

Private Sector Invests 1.2 Bln Yuan in State R&D Program

(www.china.org.cn, 2005-11-23)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/scitech/149634.htm>

China to Hold Top Int'l Congress on Plant, Biotechnology

(www.china.org.cn, 2005-11-23)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/scitech/149628.htm>

HP Opens China Research Lab

(www.china.org.cn, 2005-11-16)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/scitech/148980.htm>

High-tech Ensures Online Banking Security

(www.china.org.cn, 2005-11-16)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/scitech/148979.htm>



Lab Opened to Help Promote Energy Efficiency

(www.china.org.cn, 2005-11-16)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/scitech/148978.htm>

China Joins Galileo Projects

(www.china.org.cn, 2005-11-15)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/scitech/148795.htm>

1st Digital High-resolution TV Channel to Be Launched

(www.china.org.cn, 2005-11-14)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/scitech/148716.htm>

Environment

Environmentalists vie for Green Figures awards

(China Daily, 2005-11-14)

Competition in an online poll to elect China's top 5 environmentalists is heating up.

Voters are currently faced with a shortlist of 20 nominees, but by the end of the month five will have been selected as China's Green Figures of 2005.

The list of 20 candidates came out last week, based on 35,823 Internet votes, letters and phone calls to the organizing committee.

The five winners will be announced at the opening ceremony of China's Environmental Cultural Festival at the end of this month .

"The prize of China's Green Figures is a prize for common citizens, who make great contributions to environmental protection," said Pan Yue, vice-minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration.

"The vote is decided by the public, to encourage more people to engage in the environmental cause," Pan said.

"Environmental protection needs the participation of all citizens. Anyone, no matter who they are, can contribute to the cause."

Tian Guirong, a farmer-turned battery seller, is one of the nominees.

"When I read a 1998 report about pollution caused by the improper disposal of waste batteries, I was shocked," she told People's Daily.

"I asked myself how much land and water would be polluted by the 3 million batteries I sold every year?"

Tian, in her 50s, lives in Xinxiang, Central China's Henan Province. Since 1998, she has voluntarily collected waste batteries.

At a personal cost of around 200,000 yuan (US\$24,700), she has collected 65 tons of waste batteries, which have been transferred to the environmental protection bureau of Henan Province for proper storage and disposal.

Other candidates on the list include:



Liang Congjie who founded Friends of Nature, China's first environmental non-governmental organization to control desertification in the Alxa area of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Yuan Xueshun, who has protected swans for more than 30 years.

Zhao Yongxin, the first person to publicize the environmental problems at Yuanmingyuan, the Old Summer Palace.

When asked how it felt to be listed as a candidate last week, Song Jun, a member of the Alxa SEE Ecological Association, said that he did not even know his association had been nominated.

Another candidate, Liu Jianqiang, a reporter from Southern Weekend who has covered many important environmental issues, said he was just doing his job and never expected to be nominated.

"I don't think it matters who wins. Spreading the spirit of environmental protection is the important thing," Liu said.

Ma Lijun from the China Environmental Culture Promotion Association, the organizer of the election, is looking for greater public support.

"Public participation in the election is still not enough. Public awareness and knowledge about environmental protection need to be further strengthened," he said.

NGOs unite to protect environment

(China Daily, 2005-11-10)

Domestic and foreign entrepreneurs have teamed up to protect Inner Mongolia's biodiversity.

The combining of international forces was announced at the Asia-Pacific Meeting of US-based group Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Beijing yesterday.

At the meeting, TNC and China's Alxa SEE (Society, Entrepreneur and Ecology) Ecological Association expressed their willingness to co-operate in protecting biodiversity in the autonomous region's Alxa League.

"Although TNC focuses on the protection of biodiversity, while our association puts its major efforts into control of desertification (in Alxa), our aim of achieving harmony between humans and nature is the same," said Liu Xiaoguang, president of the Alxa SEE association.

"We hope we can learn from TNC how to better protect biodiversity in Alxa League."

An environmental non-governmental organization (NGO), the Alxa SEE Ecological Association was founded last year by nearly 100 entrepreneurs.

TNC was founded in 1951 to preserve plants, animals and natural communities by protecting the environments they need to survive. It now works in 28 countries.

Having already collected donations of about 100 million yuan (US\$12 million) from its members, the Alxa SEE association is carrying out desertification control, forestry protection and alternative energy development projects.

Desertification in Alxa is a prime cause of the sandstorms which hit Beijing every spring.

"The reasons for setting up the association are very simple," said Victor Wang, a board member of the association and CEO of Gwcom Inc.

"First, Beijing has been plagued by sandstorms every year. If the capital's sky is blue, it is a very beautiful city. But when the sandstorms come, it really disturbs our lives," Wang said.

"We want to pay back society. Environment protection is a major concern for China."

According to Su Ming, deputy director of the Ministry of Forestry's International Forestry Co-operation Centre, NGOs will play an increasingly important role in protecting China's ecology.



"The government wants to expand co-operation with non-governmental organizations to better the environment," he said. "We hope an effective partnership can be forged between the government, non-governmental organizations and entrepreneurs."

UN forum stresses sustainable planning

(China Daily, 2005-11-10)

NANNING, Guangxi: A scientific development plan is the key to sustainable urban expansion and management, officials said yesterday.

Chen Xiaoli, an official with the Ministry of Construction, made the remarks at the International Conference on Sustainable Urban Development, which opened yesterday in Nanning, capital of South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The three-day event, organized jointly by the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and China's Ministry of Construction, has attracted 355 delegates from domestic and overseas research institutions and government departments engaged in urban development.

The 2005 Nanning International Human Settlement Exhibition was held yesterday in conjunction with the conference.

Three parallel sessions focussing on urban governance, sustainable land use and housing development also open today.

Chen said he believes clear planning is vital for sustainable development.

"For a city to achieve balanced and sustainable development, it is a must to clearly identify the nature, size, targets and structure of development through scientific predictions and planning before efforts are made to realize all the objectives," he said.

Chinese cities have seen rapid expansion over recent years, with increasing urban economic development providing a strong impetus for regional economic development.

Sources with the Ministry of Construction indicate that there are currently 661 cities in China, with an urban population of 540 million.

However, Chen said, Chinese cities are suffering from water and energy shortages, pollution, population expansion and insufficient infrastructure.

"Economic growth, social progress and urban performance in terms of ecological environment, city image and culture must be taken into consideration for sustainable urban development," said Chen.

Executive Director of UN-HABITAT Anna Tibajuka said yesterday that "adequate shelters for all" has become the most important objective of sustainable urban development.

Canadians help Jiangsu clean-up

(China Daily, 2005-11-10)

<http://russian.china.org.cn/english/environment/148299.htm>

China to spend US\$180b to boost renewable energy use

(China Daily, 2005-11-08)

Over the next 15 years China is set to spend about 180 billion dollars to increase its use of renewable energy to 15 percent of the total generated, from the current seven percent.

Zhang Guobao, vice minister of the National Development and Reform Commission, revealed the plan at an international conference on renewable energy in Beijing, Xinhua news agency reported on Monday.



"Renewable energy, including solar, wind power and hydropower, will contribute to better energy security in China," said Zhang.

"It also delivers substantial economic and environmental results, alleviating poverty."

In the coming 15 years China will actively develop biomass energy and hopes to replace ten million tons of petroleum with renewable energy annually, Zhang said.

China also plans to expand the heat collection area of solar heaters to 300 million cubic meters (390 million cubic yards) by 2020, replacing the use of about 40 million tons of standard coal each year.

The European Union's Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas, who is also attending the conference, on Sunday highlighted the importance for China of developing renewable energy to become less dependent on traditional fuel and to better cope with energy shortages.

"The development of renewable energy is very important to resolving Chinese cities' energy problem," Dimas said.

He emphasized solar energy and biomass energy should be explored along with wind energy.

China is expected to surpass the United States in greenhouse gas emissions in a few years.

"I'm absolutely sure the situation is not hopeless because the Chinese government is determined to take the right measures to improve the situation and they have already taken some measures that have helped improve the situation," Dimas said Sunday.

He said China has ordered some factories to cut sulfur dioxide emissions by 46 percent. He also said China was paying great attention to wind energy and has set up both offshore and inland windmills.

By 2008 when Beijing will host the Olympic Games, the air quality in Beijing will be much better, as good as it was during the Athens Olympics, said Dimas.

New tech urged to abate paper making pollution

(China Daily, 2005-11-01)

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-11/01/content_489390.htm

Pollution threatens Taihu Lake

(China Daily, 2005-11-01)

High levels of algae in East China's Taihu Lake are causing increasing concern for experts and residents.

"The severe eutrophication of the lake is likely to cause a blue-green algae bloom, which will endanger both biodiversity and the health of local residents," Chen Feizhou, a researcher with the Taihu Laboratory for Lake Ecosystem Research under the Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, told China Daily.

Eutrophication is a process whereby water bodies, such as lakes, receive excess nutrients that stimulate excessive plant growth. Statistics released in a recent forum held in Shanghai on Taihu Lake pollution management show that the eutrophication rate of the lake is as high as 70 per cent.

According to experts, the eutrophication is caused mainly by untreated industrial, household and agricultural discharges. "These uncontrolled discharges have brought excessive nitrogen, phosphorus, microcystins and other toxic organic materials into the feeder rivers, which is the main reason for the increase of eutrophication," said Chen.

Research by Zhu Songquan, another expert working with the institute, found that the species of fish have decreased from 103 in 1960s to 48 in 2004.



Covering an area of 2,400 square kilometres, Taihu Lake, the third largest freshwater lake in China, currently serves more than 40 million people living in Shanghai and East China's Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces for drinking water, flood control, shipping, waste disposal, fisheries, and farming.

"We drank the water from Taihu Lake without any purification in the early 1980s. Now, it cannot be drunk even after treatment," sighed Zhang Jiang, a local resident in Wuxi, a city on the northern banks of the lake.

Stricter environment laws hit lead smelters

(China Daily, 2005-11-01)

China's stricter environmental regulations are delaying construction of a 80,000-tonne-per-year lead plant in Henan, but are encouraging small lead producers in Yunnan to merge their operations, industry officials said on Monday.

Privately held Dongfang Gold and Lead Co. would start building its new lead plant by late December this year, having delayed construction by more than a year, an official said.

The construction was originally planned to have begun in July 2004.

"They have been doing the environmental assessment for the project," the official said, referring to the environmental authority of the Henan provincial government in south-central China.

Dongfang also operates another 60,000-tonne-per-year lead plant, which has smelting and refining capacity.

Emissions from Dongfang's 60,000-ton lead plant exceeded levels set by the government when the plant ran trials in April 2004, a report posted on the web site of the State Environmental Protection Administration said.

The official said Dongfang had already spent more than 10 million yuan to upgrade the 60,000-ton plant in Jiaozuo city and it now met requirements of the provincial environmental authority. He added that emission violation would not affect the approval for its new lead plant.

LEAD PRICE RISES

Lead, used in car batteries, cable covers and solder for pipes and plumbing, rose 1.7 percent in value so far this month to \$961 a ton on Monday for delivery on the three months of the benchmark London Metal Exchange.

China is a major lead supplier in the world but its exports are falling due to strong domestic demand.

In September its refined lead exports fell to 21,962 tons, down 37 percent from August and 51 percent from July of 2005.

Small lead producers in Gejiu city in China's southwestern Yunnan province struggle to pay big bucks to upgrade their smelters as the local environmental authority monitor their emissions closely.

Three small lead producers in the city have merged to become Zhen Xing Lead Co. in face of the stricter regulations, that require stronger financing ability. Zhen Xing has capacity of 60,000 tons refined lead a year.

"The environmental authority monitors smelters' emissions 24 hours a day," said a senior executive for Zhen Xing, which is the largest lead producer in Gejiu city.

More than 20 lead smelters, including Zhen Xing, are operating in Gejiu with combined smelting capacity at about 200,000 tons a year.

"Others will have to do the same," the executive said, referring to mergers.

China produced 1.7 million tons of refined lead in the first nine months this year, up 24.5 percent from a year ago.



Wind could blow energy crisis away

(China Daily, 2005-11-04)

A recent study has ascertained that China's offshore wind power generation capacity could be as high as 750 million kilowatts.

Such a huge potential energy reserve will help China enjoy the benefits of renewable resources, provided they can be well exploited in the years to come, said the study, which will be continued as a nationwide assessment on wind energy resources and development.

"The amount is almost three times higher than the inland wind resources," said the study, carried out by the National Climate Centre (NCC).

Most wind power is currently generated off the coast of Guangdong, Fujian and Jiangsu provinces by 10-metre-high wind turbines.

However, exploitation of offshore wind power is still a relatively new effort, despite the country being plagued by shortage of power supply, and increasing pollution.

Wind energy use is widespread in some developed countries, but in China it accounts for less than 1 per cent of the total.

The study found that China's installed capacity of wind generators, by the end of last year, was only 764,000 kilowatts, or 0.17 of the total energy capacity.

In Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, despite rich wind resources, the installed capacity of wind generators was only 125,500 kilowatts, just 2 per cent of the total requirement.

It is estimated that, by 2020, China's installed capacity of wind generators will reach 20 million kilowatts, 4 to 10 per cent of the total generation, according to Luo Yong, deputy director of NCC.

By then, the world's generation of wind power is scheduled to make up of 12 per cent of the total electricity production, he said, adding, over the past five years, the sector's annual growth rate has averaged 35 per cent worldwide.

To realize China's own goals in the sector by that date, and catch up with developments worldwide, China needs an overall assessment of its wind energy resources and utilization, Luo said.

Before the end of this year the assessment, funded by World Bank and the Global Environment Facility, will help China select sites for 20 key wind generation projects, each with an installed capacity of at least 100,000 kilowatts, he added.

"The assessment is a significant help in exploiting and utilizing climate resources, particularly wind energy," Qin Dahe, top official of China Meteorological Administration told the World Meteorological Organization's Technical Conference on Climate as a Resource, which ended yesterday in Beijing.

Grasslands could turn into desert

(China Daily, 2005-11-04)

CHENGDU: If the desertification of the Ruo'ergai Grassland continues unchecked, the area could become one of the highest deserts in the world in less than 20 years.

Ten thousand hectares of land in the grassland of Southwest China's Sichuan Province have become desert, with the desertification rate increasing by 11 per cent a year.



This environmental shift will trigger sandstorms on the Chengdu Plain, one of the country's major farming areas located 300 kilometres away. The Chengdu Plain is 500 metres above sea level, while the Ruo'ergai Grassland is 3,500 to 4,000 metres above sea level.

The alarming prediction was made in a recent desertification monitoring report.

Human activity is the main cause of desertification, according to an anonymous official from the Sichuan Provincial Department of Forestry.

Since the 1980s, herdsman working in pastures have been raising an increasing number of livestock, eating away 37,000 hectares of grassland.

In 1958, Ruo'ergai County was home to 344,000 livestock, which had become 909,000 by 1998. The excessive number of animals is to blame for the widespread desertification, the official said.

Desertification has resulted in worsening soil erosion across the province.

A total of 200,000 square kilometre of land in Sichuan are prone to soil erosion, accounting for nearly 41 per cent of the province's total area. Each year, more than 300 million tons of mud and sand end up in the Yangtze River because of this.

Worsening desertification has forced the provincial government to act. The authorities will step up efforts to protect forests and grasslands, the official said.

China to reform price mechanism of energy and resources

(People's Daily on line, 2005-10-29)

Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan said here Friday that a quicker process should be adopted to set up a price forming mechanism reflecting market supply and demand of energy and resources.

Special efforts should go to the five areas of water, electricity, oil and natural gas, coal and land resources, Zeng said at Friday's national conference on the issue.

Government interference should be reduced and the market should play a bigger role in the price forming mechanism, said Zeng.

Meanwhile, the government should tighten and improve macro control over price monopoly or pricing for products of public welfare to guide the price formation by storing certain products and launching funds for price adjustment, he said.

A unified open market system with sound competition and good order should be set up to promote the flow of resource products, said the vice premier.

Different industries and regions should also be taken into consideration and measures of social security, financial subsidy and price preference should be adopted to improve the price mechanism, said Zeng.

In the past 27 years, China has developed from a planned economy to a market economy and the price mechanism also turned from being highly-concentrated to market-oriented under the government's macro control.

2,682 Companies Shut Down for Discharging Wastes

(Xinhua News Agency November 25, 2005)

China shut down 2,682 companies discharging liquid waste among 420,000 inspected between last May and September, Zhang Lijun, deputy director of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) told a press conference held in Beijing Thursday.



Within this period, China put 23,000 cases on file, closed 2,682 companies and asked 1,750 to stop production for treatment. 163 people responsible for major environment pollution events received punishment, Zhang said.

Zhang, asked at the meeting to respond to the public concern over the water poison accident that occurred in northeast China's Songhua River, vowed to take tougher measures to reduce the emission of pollutants.

A major chemical explosion at Jilin Petrochemical Company 380 kilometers up the Songhua river on November 13 had sent massive amounts of benzene into the waterway.

An 80-kilometer chemical slick has been slowly moving downstream along the Songhua River and reached Harbin on Thursday morning.

Currently, the water supply has been cut off in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, as the city's water source, Songhua River, has been heavily polluted.

SEPA has incorporated the pollution-reduction measures China's major rivers, including the Songhua and Huanghe rivers, into the country's eleventh five-year economic and social development program, which means putting the task as one of the country's top concerns, said Zhang.

70% of Rivers, Lakes Polluted in China

(Xinhua News Agency November 24, 2005)

China has 70 percent of its rivers contaminated and 75 percent over-enriched, according to information from a symposium in east China's Jiangxi Province Wednesday.

Currently, most of China's rivers are menaced with shrinkage, disfunction, contamination and other problems like a decrease of swamps, said Chen Bangzhu, director with the population, resources and environment committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) at the First National Inland Lakes Symposium Wednesday.

The worsening conditions of these endangered rivers are caused by a booming economy, the expansion of population and irrational development, Chen acknowledged.

Apart from that, other causes also contribute, such as lack of supporting laws, inadequacy of concerned surveillance departments. Without scientific guidance, some rivers are polluted with illegal discharge of waste and overuse of fertilizers.

A ready consequence looming ahead is a shortage of fresh water and frequent floods and droughts.

Inland lakes are important resources. The Tai Lake area in Jiangsu Province, for instance, known as an area teeming with fish and rice, nurtures 3 percent of China's population with its 0.4 percent of the country's territory.

26 Laws on Environmental Protection Enacted

(Xinhua News Agency November 22, 2005)

China's top legislature, or the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), has approved 13 international conventions on environmental protection and enacted 26 laws in this respect over the last 20 years.

The figures were released from an on-going international forum on environmental protection legislation and sustainable development opened in Beijing on Sunday, sponsored by the NPC's Environment and Resources Protection Committee.

Mao Rubai, chairman of the NPC's Environment and Resources Protection Committee, said China would further improve the legislation on environmental protection in the future so as to promote sustainable development.



He noted that the legislation objectives will be shifted from the protection of certain aspects of the environment to the protection of the whole ecological system.

Recycling economy, biological diversity, resources saving and poisonous waste disposal will become the legislation focus in the future, Mao said.

Officials from a dozen countries including China, the United Nations, the World Bank, the Asia Development Bank, the Republic of Korea, the United States, Japan, Britain, Germany and Australia, attended the forum.

China Sets Target for Environmental Protection

(Xinhua News Agency November 24, 2005)

http://english.people.com.cn/200511/24/eng20051124_223520.html

Health

Special prisons for HIV/AIDS inmates

(China Daily, 2005-11-14)

GUANGZHOU: Guangdong Province is to build at least two special prisons for HIV/AIDS inmates within the next two years.

Relevant departments are currently selecting cities for the construction of the two special prisons, according to sources from the Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Justice.

"Currently, we have no further details regarding the special prisons," said an official from the bureau yesterday.

The decision came after an increasing number of AIDS and HIV carriers were reported in the province's prisons in recent years.

Many local deputies from the People's Congress and members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) have also urged government departments to build the special prisons as soon as possible to handle the province's increasing number of criminals with HIV/AIDS.

Wang Weiyang, a member of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the CPPCC is such an advocate. In March, Wang submitted a proposal urging for the speedy construction of special prisons and better management of such criminals.

Statistics from the Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Justice revealed that the province has reported about 1,000 AIDS and HIV virus carrier cases in prisons.

Guangdong's first inmate with the AIDS virus was identified in May 2000.

Currently, 20 AIDS patients and 518 HIV carriers are serving their jail terms in Guangdong's prisons.

Since the fatal virus is able to spread quickly in such an environment, Wang believes that the number of AIDS-carrying inmates would be sure to increase, posing further problems for the management of prisons in the province.

Statistics from Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Public Health indicated that the number of AIDS patients in Guangdong reached 5,051 by the end of last year.

However, experts predicted that the figure was in fact nearer to 40,000 including both AIDS and HIV carriers and this number could grow in the future.



Experts forecast that the prosperous province could have around 500,000 HIV carriers and AIDS patients by the end of 2010.

Currently, Guangdong has the fifth largest population of AIDS patients and HIV carriers in China.

Yunnan Province in Southwest China is the worst HIV/AIDS-hit region, followed by Henan Province, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Guangdong now has a total of 145 hospitals designated to the treatment of HIV and AIDS.

In June, the province started offering free AIDS and HIV tests to its residents.

Forum seeks right path for TCM globalization

(China Daily, 2005-11-07)

Globalization of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) should be stepped up to help provide people worldwide with better healthcare, experts said.

TCM has proven effective throughout China's long history of fighting against various diseases, well before Western medicine was imported into China in the 19th century. Even now, TCM is still playing a vital role in caring for the world's most populous country.

For example, over the past three years, Chinese doctors have proved that TCM is more effective than Western medicine in preventing and treating SARS, said Deng Tietao, leading doctor and lifelong professor of TCM at Guangzhou University.

He made the remarks at the two-day First China Forum for Globalization of Traditional Chinese Medicine, which opened in Beijing on Saturday.

The forum is sponsored by the China Association of TCM, China Medical Association of Minorities and the Chinese Medicine Committee of World Confederation of Productivity Science China Chapter.

Moreover, thanks to TCM, Chinese people have never worried much about the flu, like the Western world has been.

TCM centres around the idea of life preservation and the promotion of health and patients do not have to suffer from the side effects of drugs, pain and injury from unnecessary medical examinations and techniques, said Deng.

Since people everywhere are paying more attention to harmonious interaction with nature and to methods of maintaining health and preventing sickness, TCM will continue to grow in popularity, experts said.

However, due to cultural differences, various obstacles set up by the Western health and medicine authorities, the lack of communication between the practitioners of TCM and the outside world and many other factors, the globalization process of TCM is rather slow.

Almost all the speakers were in consensus that TCM should maintain its unique characteristics and direction of growth, instead of blindly imitating or catering to the standards of Western medicine.

It is unfair and incorrect for the Western world to say that TCM is not a science and should be "westernized", said experts.

So the globalization of TCM absolutely does not mean its "Westernization", experts stressed.

The globalization of TCM depends on the comprehensive development of the country's economy, foreign affairs, and other aspects.

Without the strong backup of an open and rapidly developing economy, globalization will remain a dream, experts said.



Meanwhile, public education is required to make people believe in TCM, instead of blindly trusting Western medicines.

For example, in China's hospitals, only 10 per cent of the doctors know how to give a TCM prescription, and the rest treat patients with Western medicines, said experts.

The globalization of TCM should not only depend on the export of medicines or herbs.

Because doctors play a very important role in TCM treatment, increasing the number of TCM doctors in China and other countries is what will aid globalization.

The culture of TCM, which is an important part of Chinese culture, also needs to be spread widely around the world to awaken more interest in the science, experts said.

New rural medical co-operatives under scrutiny

(China Daily, 2005-11-02)

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-11/02/content_489869.htm

Henan gets it right in war on HIV/AIDS

(China Daily, 2005-11-04)

ZHENGZHOU: Henan Province was once the darkest spot on the nation's HIV/AIDS landscape.

Now the province is the shining example on setting up a comprehensive healthcare system to fight the disease.

For 10 years, ever since the first case was reported in the mid-1990s, the Central China province has been in the glare of national and international media: for illegal blood sales, infections transmitted through contaminated blood, tardy reporting of cases and poor medical care as well as the sheer suffering of victims.

But now, the nation's most populous province, with nearly 30,000 reported cases of HIV/AIDS, has set up a dependable system to fight the epidemic.

After years of opprobrium, says Li Zizhao, director of HIV/AIDS control office under the Henan Provincial Health Bureau, there will be no excuses; he will let actions speak loudly.

He described how the authorities got it right in establishing a comprehensive care system sponsored and run by governments.

A province-wide system of epidemic surveillance, prevention, treatment and welfare support is in place.

Ma Jianzhong, director of the Henan Provincial Health Bureau, said the first target was to know the number of HIV carriers.

In August last year, the province tested all 280,000 farmers who sold blood in the early 1990s. Then, people who have close contact with blood sellers and other high-risk groups were tested, as well as thousands at random.

By June, the cumulative number of HIV carriers was 29,337, including 16,457 suffering from AIDS.

At least 90 per cent of the victims were infected while selling blood. And about 98 per cent of the total cases were found in rural areas.

Since the virus was found among blood sellers in 1995, Henan closed all unlicensed blood banks; and for the past seven years the province has ensured that clinical supplies are all from donors and screened.

"This way, we have completely cut the channel of HIV infection through blood transmission," Li said.

Moreover, from this year, Henan will test at least 1 million residents for HIV annually.



As part of treatment, township hospitals and village clinics have been greatly improved in areas where there are HIV/AIDS sufferers: about 98 per cent of the victims get free, timely medical treatment. The remainder, in urban areas, have access to bigger hospitals.

Infected villagers get free basic treatment and free anti-virus medicines, which are provided by the central government; and at least 100 kinds of free medicines given by the provincial government to treat various diseases caused by the virus.

Welfare services are an integral part of the system.

All HIV carriers are exempt from various taxes, whatever their business.

Each member of HIV-affected families gets 12 yuan (US\$1.5) a month. And the governments give every orphan or elderly person left by HIV/AIDS victims 130 yuan (US\$16) a month.

The governments encourage and pay people to take care of orphans or lonely old people.

For those orphans or elderly people who cannot find a family, the governments have established "homes" where they live for free.

And about 10,000 children from HIV families receive free school education.

China reports 132,545 cases of HIV infection

(People's Daily, 2005-11-08)

China reported 132,545 accumulated cases of HIV infection by the end of August this year, announced Vice Health Minister Wang Longde in Zhengzhou on Monday.

The cases include 30,158 AIDS patients and 7,643 deaths. The provinces and regions of Yunnan, Henan, Guangxi, Xinjiang and Guangdong reported more than 10,000 cases each, accounting for 77 percent of the total amount, said Wang at an AIDS conference held in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province.

Drug abuse is still the main mode of transmission, accounting for 41.6 percent of infections. An unclear source of infection accounts for 22 percent, but Wang expected most were through sex.

The infection rate in pregnancy increased from zero in 1997 to 0.26 percent in 2004, which indicates the epidemic is spreading from high-risk groups to ordinary people, he noted.

The ministry at the end of 2004 reported 106,990 HIV infected cases including 23,955 AIDS patients. However, experts believe the reported cases only account for 12.7 percent of the real number, suggesting that China now has about 840,000 HIV carriers, including 80,000 AIDS patients.

Guangzhou stages run in aid of cancer research

(China Daily, 2005-11-28)

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-11/28/content_498476.htm