



Research and Environment News from China

Number 32 – February 2007

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Introduction

China has announced its official 10 best 2006 S&T progresses (cf. article):

- 1) Next-generation internet technology.
- 2) Discovery of a large natural gas field.
- 3) World first Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST).
- 4) Observation of resonance state in chemical reactions at the quantum level.
- 5) 436 km green corridor through the Takelamagan Deserts.
- 6) China's first global marine scientific investigation.
- 7) Development of therapeutic hepatitis B vaccines.
- 8) Upgrading of Beijing Positron and Electron Collider.
- 9) Teleportation of dual-particle complex quantum state and manipulation of six-photon entangled state.
- 10) Launching of a satellite of remote sensing applications.

The energy saving and environment protection 2006 objectives of the government have unfortunately not been reached. According to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), some of the reasons are a lack of supportive policies, in particular to influence the industry. The good news is that the People's Bank of China is now involved in environment protection: it is planned that commercial banks will be ordered to control the environmental impact of the commercial lawns.

China has a new case of human bird flu in Fujian province of South-East China. The H5N1 virus is responsible for the deaths of 14 people in China since 2003. A patient that was diagnosed with bird flu in January in Anhui province has recovered.

Science & Technology

KEYWORDS

1. China's Top Ten S&T Progresses for 2006
2. China to Quicken Development of High-tech and Bioindustry
3. Int'l R&D Centers on the Way
4. Banks to Assist Finance Science Projects
5. 'China May Become Scientific Superpower'
6. Bullet Train Makes Debut from Shanghai to Beijing

*S&T Progresses for 2006
high-tech and Bioindustry
Int'l R&D Centers
assist science projects
scientific superpower
bullet Train*

Environment

KEYWORDS

1. Pollution control targets not met
2. China Speeds Up 1st Survey on Soil Pollution

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soil pollution*



3. SEPA: Pollution Control Requires Accountability

pollution control

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green goal missed

5. PBOC launches green scheme

green scheme

6. National Plan targets climate change

climate change

Health

KEYWORDS

1. China to Tighten Drug Pricing

drug pricing

2. Two Birds Test Positive for H5N1 Virus in HK

H5N1 virus in HK

3. Pig-year Baby Boom Already in Shenyang

pig-year baby boom

4. Bird Flu Patient Still in Critical Condition

bird flu

Activites coming up soon

March 26, 2007
The 3rd Int'l Conference on Intelligent Green and Energy Efficient Building and New Technologies and Products Expo
Beijing, China
Tel: 86 10 5893 4535
March 2007
The 20th China (Zhejiang) Int'l Sci., Education, Medical Equi., Supplies & Technical Exchange Exhibition
Venue: Hangzhou Foreign S&T Exchange Center, Hangzhou, China
Tel: 86-571-8705 4042
April 2007
The China Int'l TCM & Healthcare industry Exhibition
Beijing, China
Tel: 86-10-5865 0051
April 23 – 25, 2007
The 7th International Exhibition on Nuclear Power Industry
Shanghai, China
April 27 – 29, 2007
The 8th China Int'l Water Supply& Drainage and Water Treatment Exhibition
Tel: 86-21-54592323 ext. 335
Email: andy@zhongmao.com.cn
May 20, 2007
16th IAA Humans in Space Symposium
Beijing, China



Tel: 86-10-62559882
April 2007
May 20-23, 2007
The 14th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Mathematical & Statistica Techniques
Shanghai, China
May 23, 2007
The 10th Multinational Urban Traffic Conference and Exhibition
Beijing, China
Tel: 86-10-6217 0166
May 28, 2007
Int'l Conference of Resource Recycling Utilization
Tianjin, China
Tel: 86-10-68594793
May 2007
The 7th International Conference for Computing Science
Beijing, China
May 2007
2007 China Automobil Technology Expo
Wuhan, China
Tel: 86-10-6528 6970
June 5 – 7, 2007
The 11th International Electric Power Industry, Power Network Technology & Power Supply Equipment Expo
Guangzhou, China
June 5 – 7, 2007
The 3rd International Renewable Energy & Energy Environmental Protection Technology Expo\
Guangzhou, China
June 11, 2007
ISES 2007 Solar World Congress & Int'l Solar Energy Exhibition
Beijing, China
Tel: 86-10-6217 4059
June 19, 2007
The 10th China Int'l Environmental Protection Exhibition and Conference – CIEPEC 2007
Beijing, China
Tel: 86-10-5155 5020
June 25, 2007
BioEco 2007
Tianjin, China



June 2007
ChinaNano 2007
Beijing, China
Tel: 86-10-6859 7244
August 2007
ICIC 2007
Qingdao, China
Tel: 86-551-5591195
November 22, 2007
The 6th China Int'l Mechanism, Hardware & Mould Exhibition
Dongguan, China
Tel: 86-10-6859 4793

Environment-related international tenders and investment opportunities:

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

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Science & Technology

China's Top Ten S&T Progresses for 2006

(China Science and Technology Newsletter, 2007-01-30)

China's top ten S&T progresses for 2006, selected through a voting procedure by 565 academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Engineering, was unveiled on January 21, 2007 in Beijing as follows:

- 1) Next-generation internet technology. China has established a pure IPv6 trunk network. Having been running smoothly, the system makes the first and largest IPv6 trunk network in the world.
- 2) A Puguang natural gas field has been discovered in the northeast part of Sichuan Province. It is the largest natural gas field so far registered in China.
- 3) Chinese scientists designed and developed the world first Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokomak (EAST).
- 4) Chinese scientists have observed the resonance state in chemical reactions at the quantum level. The effort provides a solution for addressing an international chemistry puzzle unsolved for more than three decades, and raises the study of chemical reaction to a new height and precision.



- 5) A green corridor as long as 436 km has been built through the Takelamagan Deserts. It is the world's first and longest green belt running through moving deserts, and becomes a role model for sand control with biological means.
- 6) Ocean I, a scientific expedition boat, has completed China's first global marine scientific investigation in a 297-day journey.
- 7) No. 3 Military Medical School has achieved key progresses in developing therapeutic hepatitis B vaccines.
- 8) Beijing Positron and Electron Collider has made key breakthroughs in upgrading.
- 9) Chinese scientists have, for the first time in the world, realized the teleportation of dual-particle complex quantum state, and manipulation of six-photon entangled state.
- 10) China has successfully launched a satellite of remote sensing applications.

China to Quicken Development of High-tech and Bioindustry

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-03-01)

China will speed up the development of bioindustry, making it the leading industry of the national economy, according to a conference held by the State Council on Wednesday. The meeting, attended by Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan and State Councilor Chen Zhili, emphasized the strategic importance of developing bioindustry in areas like health, agriculture, energy and materials.

It also required that China should create better financing environment for high-tech industries, unify the technological standards and improve the protection of intellectual property rights. In the meantime, the country should also strengthen the protection of biological resources with more effective supervision on related exploitation, according to the meeting.

China now ranks the world's third largest in terms of the scale of high-tech industries, propelling the country's economic growth and the industrial restructuring, the meeting said.

Int'l R&D Centers on the Way

(China Daily, 2006-12-15)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/192546.htm>

Banks to Assist Finance Science Projects

(China Daily, 2007-02-01)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/198479.htm>

'China May Become Scientific Superpower'

(China Daily, 2007-01-18)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/196445.htm>

Bullet Train Makes Debut from Shanghai to Beijing



(China Daily, 2007-01-29)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/197994.htm>

Environment

Pollution control targets not met

(China Daily, 2007-02-13)

The government pledged to do a better job on pollution control after admitting yesterday that the country failed to meet emission reduction targets last year. "We are optimistic that we can meet the target by taking a series of concrete measures," Zhou Shengxian, minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), told a high-level conference mapping out green efforts in Beijing.

The goal was to reduce Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) a water pollution index and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions by 2 percent last year as part of an ambitious plan to reduce them by 10 percent from 2006 to 2010. But last year, SO₂ emissions increased nearly 463,000 tons, 1.8 percent higher than the previous year, said Fan Yuansheng, director of the pollution control department of the SEPA.

COD reached 14.31 million tons 173,000 tons, or 1.2 percent, more than in 2005. Some measures, such as the installation of sulphur dioxide scrubbing facilities and shutting down small steel, cement and power plants, have shown good results as the growth of the main pollutants in 2006 slowed from the previous year.

According to Fan, China aims to reduce its SO₂ and COD emissions by 3.2 million tons and 1.23 million tons this year. But according to a report provided by a SEPA experts' group, if China's economy grows by 9 percent this year, another 2.4 million tons of SO₂ will be discharged and COD will increase by 0.9 million tons.

Some leading environmental scientists, such as Zhou Dali and Hao Jiming, said that China's pollution levels will not start to go down in real terms until next year. Emission cuts could be out of reach because of high economic growth, large amount of coal burning and low effective operation of treatment facilities, they said.

Last year, China's economy grew by 10.7 percent. Consumption of coal increased by nearly 230 million tons, resulting in the release of 2.8 million tons of sulphur dioxide from coal burning, SEPA figures show. Meanwhile the output of paper products, one of the major sources of COD, reached more than 58 million tons, an increase of 20 percent over 2005.

The government also planned to cut energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product by 20 per cent by 2010, or 4 per cent last year. No official figures are available to indicate if the target has been met but earlier reports said it was unlikely.

China Speeds Up 1st Survey on Soil Pollution

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-02-22)

China is speeding up its first survey on soil pollution, which is costing the country more than 20 billion yuan (US\$2.6 billion) a year, according to the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) recently.



However, the administration did not provide any details of the ways in which they might complete the survey more quickly.

The investigation focuses on farmland protection areas, main grain-producing areas, the Yangtze Delta Region, the Pearl River Delta Region, and areas around Bohai Bay.

China launched two nationwide investigations into its soil quality respectively in the 1950s and 1970s, both investigating the fertility of the soil rather than soil pollution.

The central government is to allocate 1 billion yuan (US\$129 million) for the national survey, which began last July and will be concluded in 2008.

After the survey, plans will be drafted for soil pollution prevention and pilot projects on rehabilitating and treating the soil will be carried out. A soil quality supervision and management system will also be built.

SEPA director Zhou Shengxian has said that China faces serious soil pollution that jeopardizes the ecology, food safety, people's health and the sustainable development of agriculture.

It is estimated that 12 million tons of grain are polluted each year by heavy metals that have found their way into soil. Direct economic losses exceed 20 billion yuan, according to SEPA figures.

SEPA: Pollution Control Requires Accountability

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-02-27)

A senior environmental official on Monday urged China's legislature to amend its 17-year-old environmental law in order to hold government officials accountable for pollution.

"The government's refusal or failure to fulfill environmental responsibilities has seriously set back China's environmental protection efforts," said Pan Yue, deputy director of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA).

Local governments often escape punishment for actions that result in serious pollution because China's current protection law mainly targets the behaviors of citizens and organizations. More importantly, its ability to restrict governmental actions is limited.

"With inadequate laws, the government's attempt at responsibility in environmental protection has become a mere scrap of paper," Pan said in an interview with Xinhua News Agency ahead of the "two sessions" - the annual meetings of China's top legislature and top political advisory body.

Chinese environmental officials and media have frequently lambasted local authorities for rampant environmental violations and called for serious punishments for negligent officials. In response to this, and as an effort to counter local protectionism, the Organization Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee has announced that environmental protection will be an important index for assessing local officials' performance starting from 2007.



Pan said the environmental protection law should specify and emphasize the government's role in environmental protection and impose harsher punishments. He referred to the lead poisoning incident in Gansu Province and arsenide pollution in Hunan Province last year, saying those accidents showed that "most of the environmental violations involved governments."

The lead poisoning, discovered last April in Huixian County, was caused by a local factory and resulted in around 250 young children being hospitalized with hundreds more testing positive for high lead levels in their blood.

The other scare was the result of two factories in Yueyang of Hunan Province releasing waste water with a high concentration of arsenide into the Xinqiang River, affecting the water supply of 80,000 residents in the lower reaches.

Pan said the government's refusal to carry out its duty, interference in environmental law enforcement, and decisions that have resulted in a negative impact on the environment are the main reasons for China's serious environmental problems. He added that since 2004, NPC deputies and CPPCC members have submitted nearly 70 motions and proposals on environmental legislation, with almost half focusing on the revision of the current environmental protection law.

"The next 10 to 15 years is a crucial period for China's environmental protection cause. Governmental responsibility for the environment must be clarified in the law. This task should not be delayed," Pan said.

Investigations have shown that most of China's rivers and lakes are polluted, and almost half the ground water in urban areas is heavily polluted. Of 222 drinkable water resources in 113 major Chinese cities, only 72 percent reached national standards.

Green goal missed by big margin

(China Daily, 2007-01-10)

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-01/10/content_779106.htm

PBOC launches green scheme

(China Daily, 2007-01-10)

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-01/10/content_779112.htm

National Plan targets climate change

(China daily, 2007-02-16)

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-02/16/content_810675.htm



Health

China to Tighten Drug Pricing

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-02-26)

China's top economic planning body issued a regulation on tightening drug pricing on Sunday.

The regulation, which will take effect as of March 1, requires five-step procedures before fixing medicine prices, including production cost investigation, expert evaluation and hearing opinions from the public, the National Development and Reform Commission announced on Sunday.

The new rules forbid drug price regulators from taking gifts of any forms or receiving invitations for banquets and traveling abroad from drug manufacturers.

To stem rising public complaints about high medical costs, China has slashed drug price on 19 occasions in the 1997-2006 period, totaling 40 billion yuan (US\$ 5 billion).

Two Birds Test Positive for H5N1 Virus in HK

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-02-27)

The Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said Monday two birds were confirmed to be H5N1 virus positive after a series of laboratory tests.

The Chestnut Munia was collected by Department staff on Feb. 18 in the vicinity of St Teresa's Hospital at Prince Edward Road West in Kowloon City, following a public referral. The carcass of the Scaly-breasted Munia was found the next day at the junction of Sing Woo Road and Wong Nai Chung Road in Happy Valley.

A department spokesman reminded people to observe good personal hygiene. "They should avoid personal contact with wild birds and live poultry and clean their hands thoroughly after coming into contact with them," he said.

Pig-year Baby Boom Already in Shenyang

(Chinadaily, 2007-02-28)

The Woman and Baby Hospital in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province, began its own baby boom during Spring Festival 80 babies born in the first seven days of the lunar new year.

Many babies were born by Caesarean section rather than normal labor. The parents believe that 2007, the Year of the Golden Pig, will be a prosperous and auspicious time for newborns. Many doctors and nurses had to work overtime to help with delivery; some even gave up their holidays altogether.

Bird Flu Patient Still in Critical Condition

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-03-03)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/201393.htm>