



Research and Environment News from China

Number 33 – March 2007

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Introduction

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) have announced two important measures in the field of environment protection. In order to reduce air pollution urgently and in particular acid rain, it is planned that coal-fired power plants will cut sulfur dioxide (SO₂) discharges by 62 percent before 2010. Besides, SEPA is now strengthening cooperation with the People's Bank of China: enterprises that are identified by SEPA environmental protection supervisors as law violators are expected to have more and more difficulties getting financial support.

The Ministry of Science and Technology has launched a list of innovation projects in relationship with the Olympic Games where international and commercial cooperation is wished. Fields involved include information and communication, environment, transport, energy, etc. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish the detailed list.

Science & Technology

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| 3. China to Have Own Jumbo Aircraft by 2020 | <i>jumbo aircraft</i> |
| 4. Another Strong Signal Sent for 3G Rollout | <i>3G rollout</i> |
| 5. Center for industrial bio-technology inaugurated in Shanghai | <i>industrial bio-technology</i> |
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| 3. Power Plants to Cut SO ₂ Emissions by 2/3 | <i>SO₂ Emissions</i> |
| 4. Nation launches 'Green China Day' | <i>'Green China Day'</i> |
| 5. Wen stresses green growth, rural welfare | <i>green growth, rural welfare</i> |



Energy

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energy security

Health

1. Private fund sought for healthcare

KEYWORDS

healthcare

2. China passes draft regulation on human organ transplant

human organ transplant

3. China confirms human death from bird flu

bird flu

Activites coming up soon

April 2007
The China Int'l TCM & Healthcare industry Exhibition
Beijing, China
Tel: 86-10-5865 0051
April 23, 2007
300th Anniversary of Leonhard Euler – Swiss pioneer of modern science
Beijing, China
Tel:86-10-6532 2736 - 312
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 & Statistical 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
July 16 – 20, 2007
6th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Zurich, Switzerland
http://www.iciam07.ch
August 2007



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Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Embassy of Switzerland in China
Environment, Science, Technology, Health section

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 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.

Report: Discrimination exists in S&T

(China Daily, 2007-03-09)

Women have become more active in China in the field of science and technology, but they still face strong opposition from their male colleagues to attain senior positions, according to a report by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Released yesterday, the report shows that in the past few decades, female scientists and engineers have grown steadily to 9 million in 2005, accounting for one-third of the total scientific and technological (S&T) professionals in China.

Based on questionnaires and interviews with 2,971 female scientists and engineers nationwide and graduate students in Beijing during the past 18 months, the report shows that the income and working conditions of S&T



professionals have been dramatically improved. However, according to the report, discrimination against women in the S&T profession has become more apparent, especially when finding jobs.

"In our survey, 93.8 percent of female respondents said they experience discrimination when trying to find a job," said Zhao Lanxiang, lead author of the CAS report and a research fellow at the Institute of Science Policy and Management, CAS. The report also found that female S&T professionals have to bear major responsibilities at home, which has an influence on their career development.

The report cited the fact that among 175 chief scientists of the 973 Programme a basic science funding scheme in China only eight are female, accounting for 4.6 percent. Among 537 Cheung Kong scholars a well paid teaching position for top scholars and scientists hired by the Ministry of Education, only 21 are female, accounting for 3.9 percent. While it is tough for female S&T professionals to get promoted, they have become more realistic.

The CAS report reveals that stable jobs and higher incomes have become primary reasons for most women to choose S&T jobs. In addition, female S&T professionals are treated better in the richer coastal regions of eastern China than their counterparts in central and western China, according to the report.

Based on the survey, the report said: "The tremendous previous efforts to eliminate gender discrimination were mainly concentrated in the political and economic areas, but now more such efforts should be made in the S&T fields." It suggested the government encourage female S&T professionals to form more organizations to express their interests, and establish special research and training funds to further their careers.

China to Have Own Jumbo Aircraft by 2020

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-03-10)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/202480.htm>

Another Strong Signal Sent for 3G Rollout

(China Daily, 2007-03-21)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/203639.htm>

Center for industrial bio-technology inaugurated in Shanghai

(CAS, 2007-03-27)

<http://english.cas.cn/eng2003/news/detailnewsb.asp?InfoNo=26465>

China to Produce Liquid Fuel from Coal in 2008

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-03-30)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/205447.htm>

Stephen Hawking Invited to 4th Int'l Congress of Chinese Mathematicians

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-03-31)

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/205513.htm>

Environment

Enterprises Violating Environmental Protection Rules Will Struggle to Get Bank Loans

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-02-25)

Chinese enterprises which violate environmental protection rules will find it hard to secure bank loans, according to the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA).

Zhang Lijun, vice director of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), said that SEPA would blacklist companies that violate environmental laws and include them on a database, which will be submitted to the People's Bank of China from April 1.

Zhang said that he hoped the cooperation between SEPA and the People's Bank would force enterprises to be more self-disciplined in environmental protection and to control their pollutant discharge.



The SEPA dispatched 1.67 million environmental protection supervisors to inspect more than 720,000 enterprises nationwide in 2006, identified 28,000 violations and shut down 3,176 enterprises. The findings have been included on the SEPA database.

China Provides Half of Total Carbon Credits Under *Kyoto Protocol*

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-03-27)

China has provided half of the world's carbon credits under the *Kyoto Protocol* after developing 279 foreign-invested carbon reduction projects, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) announced yesterday.

These projects involved a total investment of US\$9 billion, said Xie Zhenhua, vice minister of the NDRC.

As a developing country, China is not obligated to meet targets set by the *Kyoto Protocol*, but under the clean development mechanism (CDM) it can provide so-called carbon credits to developed countries if they invest in projects that help reduce carbon emissions in China.

A carbon credit is given for the reduction of every ton of carbon that is prevented from being emitted into the atmosphere.

The CDM allows developed countries to fulfill their emission reduction obligations at much lower costs by investing in clean energy projects in developing countries.

The projects include upgrading equipment in factories or converting coal burning factories to alternate energy sources.

Xie said the Chinese government would step up industrial restructuring and tighten controls on energy consumption this year.

At the conclusion of the annual session of China's National People's Congress this month, Premier Wen Jiabao pledged the government would honor its international responsibilities and reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions.

The government had set a target to reduce energy consumption per unit of GDP by 20 percent by the year 2010, Wen said.

Power Plants to Cut SO₂ Emissions by 2/3

(Xinhua News Agency, 2007-03-28)

China plans to cut sulfur dioxide (SO₂) discharges from its coal-fired power plants by 62 percent by 2010 in an effort to reduce air pollution.

The realization of this target is vital if China wants to clean the air and reach the goal set by the government in its 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-10) to cut nationwide discharges of SO₂ by 10 percent by 2010, said an official with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) yesterday.

The SO₂ discharged by coal-fueled power generators is expected to drop from 13 million tons in 2005 to 5.02 million tons in 2010, according to a plan released by NDRC and the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA).

China saw its SO₂ emissions jump by 1.8 percent last year to total 25.94 million tons, down from the 13.1 percent growth a year ago. The power sector contributes more than half of the total pollutants, NDRC figures show.

The NDRC called for open and fair distribution of the discharge licenses to power firms and tax incentives for companies equipped with desulfurization facilities.

The NDRC and SEPA plan to publish an annual list of desulfurization-equipped power plants, allowing key projects to come under public scrutiny.

Firms that deliberately halt the operation of the desulfurization equipment will be punished, according to the plan.



China has set a goal in its 11th Five-Year Plan to reduce its energy consumption per unit of GDP by 20 percent and the discharges of SO₂ and chemical oxygen demand (COD) by 10 percent between 2006 and 2010.

The rising discharges of SO₂ have resulted in one-third of China suffering from acid rain.

Nation launches 'Green China Day'

(Xinhua, 2007-04-01)

BEIJING -- More than 10,000 people in eight Chinese cities celebrated the launching of the country's first "Green China Day" by planting 5,000 trees on Sunday in respective cities.

The "Green China Day" was launched in accordance with a proposal jointly raised by 18 members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference at its annual session held last March to legalize mass participation in environmental protection.

Eight cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Nanchang, Shenzhen, Zhengzhou, Xi'an and Fuzhou, were chosen as pilots for building commemorative forests on the "Green China Day" initiated by the China Society for Promoting Environmental and Cultural Development.

Pan Yue, deputy director of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), urged the public to do more to protect the environment at Sunday's meeting attended by 1,000 participants in Beijing. "Tree planting is not enough for environmental protection," said Pan.

Last year, the government issued a regulation on public participation in environmental protection evaluation, under which public representatives are invited to hearings on environmental protection programs that might affect the public interest. Their opinions are considered by the government for the environmental protection program.

On Sunday, Senior Chinese leaders including President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao joined 2 million people in planting trees in Beijing.

A government policy on tree planting in 1981 stated Chinese citizens aged 11 to 55 were required to plant three to five trees every year to increase China's forest coverage.

In 2006, only 55 percent of people planted trees, statistics from State Forestry Administration (SFA) show. China's forest area reached 175 million hectares last year, raising the country's forest coverage to 18.21 percent, compared with 12 percent in 1981. Nevertheless, China's forest coverage is only 61.5 percent of the international average and its per capita forest area only 25 percent.

Due to deforestation and land degradation, sandstorms fed by the deserts of Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia blow toward Beijing and the eastern coastal areas each spring.

Wen stresses green growth, rural welfare

(China Daily, 2007-03-05)

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-03/05/content_819516.htm

Energy

China not a threat to global energy security

(China Daily, 2007-03-07)

China poses no threat to world energy security as the country's consumption and import are low, said Ma Kai, the minister of National Development and Reform Commission Wednesday.

China's per capita oil consumption in 2005 is 242 kilograms, compared with the world average of 590 kilograms, over 3 tons in the US and 1.9 tons in Japan, noted Ma on the sidelines of the National People's Congress session.



For per capita oil import, the figure in China is 100 kilograms, 400 for the world average, 2.1 tons for the US and roughly 2 tons for Japan, added the minister.

"So I can't imagine why some people are saying that we, with a low consumption and import, pose a threat to global energy security, instead of those countries with high consumption and import, " said Ma. "It is unfair."

The minister went on to describe China as an active factor to maintain global energy security. "As a developing country, China, on its own, solved the problem of providing energy for 22 per cent of the world's population," said Ma. "This is a tremendous contribution to world energy security."

"In a word, China did not, does not and will not pose threat to the global energy security, "noted Ma.

Ma China has been making active efforts to establish oil reserves to ensure national energy and economy safety.

In line with international practice, petroleum will be stored at oil bases by both government and enterprise. "The two sectors of the oil reserve system are well underway," said Ma, noting that it takes time to make the reserves perfect.

Wei Liucheng, Communist Party chief of China's southernmost province of Hainan, said Tuesday the province is actively seeking to establish an oil reserve base.

Though declined to give more details, Wei said the provincial government is negotiating with international petroleum syndicates on the issue and "Hainan boasts distinctive advantages for building both national strategic oil reserve base and commercial oil reserve base."

He pointed out that the tropical island is located near the main international sea routes for oil shipping, and that a 300,000- ton crude oil wharf is already in operation in the Yangpu Economic Development Zone on the island.

On China's economic growth rate, Ma told the country to shun off a blind pursuit of GDP growth, calling for an improvement of the quality of the economic development.

The lowering of this year's GDP growth target to 8 per cent aimed to encourage the country to focus on transforming the growth mode, adjusting structures and improving the quality of economic development, said Ma.

China's GDP registered a 10.7 per cent last year, the fourth year in a row that saw a double-digit growth. While believing the speed is normal, the minister expressed his worries as "the price paid for the economic development is too high".

The minister explained why Premier Wen Jiabao failed to mention this year's target in energy conservation and pollution reduction which are determined by various factors. Some measures may produce visible outcomes within the year while others may take effect years later, noted the minister.

But the central government's determination has not changed, said Ma, adding that the government's efforts and achievement in this field could be judged in a five-year perspective.

The minister rejected the suggestion that China triggered the recent global stock market rout, echoing an earlier statement by Shang Fulin, chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

"China's stock market is relatively small in scale and the full convertibility of renminbi, the Chinese yuan, under capital accounts have not been carried out," said Ma.

"As a result, the Chinese equity market will not have great influences on the global market. "

Health

Private fund sought for healthcare

(China Daily, 2007-03-22)



Central government officials and international experts yesterday called for the participation of the private sector in the reform of the country's messy healthcare system.

The system, dominated by government-run hospitals, is widely criticized for its expensive service that many patients complain as unaffordable and is often riddled with corruption.

More than 40 percent of patients' medical bills goes to drugs, compared with 15 percent for EU citizens, according to World Health Organization (WHO) figures.

To dismantle the monopoly of government-run hospitals, China will "encourage investment from all sectors of society, including private sector medical services," Wang Jun, vice-minister of finance, told a Health Care Public-Private Partnership Forum in Beijing yesterday.

Reform of government-run hospitals is also a key element in the 11th Five-Year Development Plan for the Health Sector, which the State Council released yesterday.

The goal, according to Vice-Health Minister Chen Xiaohong, is to set up a government-led market system of healthcare, in which both government and private sector entities work together to provide better service.

Figures for 2005 show that privately-run hospitals accounted for only 10.8 percent of the nation's 8,703 major hospitals; and the situation is unlikely to have changed significantly since then.

Also, there is little foreign investment in the system right now, although Xinhua News Agency reported that last Sunday, Minister of Health Gao Qiang said China is ready to allow Chinese-foreign joint venture hospitals, in which overseas investors can hold up to 70 percent of the equity.

To prepare for the comprehensive healthcare reform, the State Council has created a committee comprising 14 government agencies to coordinate its progress.

The committee has asked six organizations, including the WHO, the State Council Development Research Center and Peking University to put forward their proposals.

China passes draft regulation on human organ transplant

(Xinhua, 2007-03-23)

China's State Council on Thursday passed a draft regulation to tighten controls on human organ transplants, banning live organ donation by people under 18 years old.

The draft regulation, passed at a regular meeting of China's cabinet, says that any organization or individual are strictly forbidden to remove human organs from live Chinese citizen under 18 years old for transplant.

It also bans human organ trading, saying that the donation of organs should respect the will of donors and be conducted voluntarily.

China is faced with a huge gap between the patients who need functional organs and limited donations. About 1.5 million patients need organ transplants each year, but only 10,000 can find organs, according to statistics from the Ministry of Health.

Most organs in China are donated by ordinary citizens upon their death after the voluntary signing of donation agreements. Medical experts believe that if organs were allowed to be removed from people declared "brain-dead", the organ supply would be increased significantly.

However, Chinese people's traditional view of "living till the last breath" has prevented this regulation being passed.

The draft regulation has been made in accordance with worldwide recognized medical ethics and the WHO's basic rules on human organ transplants, says a statement issued by the State Council on Thursday.

The regulation has been adopted to follow international practices and laws, it says.

The regulation is also expected to protect the rights of organ donors, recipients of organs and medical staff.



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According to the regulation, medical institutes carrying out human organ transplants will be strictly supervised and managed.

China confirms human death from bird flu

(Xinhua, 2007-03-29)

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-03/29/content_839764.htm