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Members' news	AppliTek confident in success of China business
Alternative energy	Three Gorges Dam fully operational
	Qinghai at the forefront of solar power development
	Ming Yang considering to acquire Vestas Wind Systems
	Shanghai Luming to supply biofuel to SkyNRG
	Chinese solar firms warn of trade war
	Swire Blue Ocean enters offshore wind market
	China lambasts EU solar panels anti-dumping investigation
	Schlumberger, Anton set up venture to develop unconventional energy
	Lack of grid capacity hampers wind power producers
	10 provinces account for 90% of installed solar capacity
	Shale gas auction to be held on October 25
Pollution	Guangzhou unable to handle all the rubbish, incinerators needed
	Looser supervision leads to increased pollution
	Drive to greener economy providing investment opportunities
	Anti-pollution protesters halt construction of copper plant
	Panyu presses on with incinerator plans
	Difficulties to make tap water safe to drink
	Guangzhou to restrict car ownership
Greenhouse gas emissions	Drop in emission trading lowers profits at wind power producers
	China, EU strike deal to cut carbon emissions

MEMBERS' NEWS

AppliTek confident in success of China business

David Laurier, CEO of AppliTek in Nazareth, Belgium, was interviewed by the China Daily. He said he was confident that his company can sustain its success in China even though it is a latecomer. The company sells analytical technologies to nearly 120 countries. About 20% of its business comes from China, after only a few years on the Chinese market. Laurier is upbeat about the Chinese market potential. In Europe, he said, the common perception of the Chinese is that they produce inexpensive goods but pollute the water, soil and air. “But if these Europeans were to go there as often as we do in our business, they would see that China is making huge efforts to control pollution,” he said. “I am amazed at just how serious the Chinese government is about providing healthy conditions for its people and a sound environment.” Laurier said he was impressed that the Environmental Monitoring Center in Beijing can monitor nearly all of the major rivers and cities, but in Europe, there is no such integrated system. AppliTek’s sales volume dropped slightly compared with last year, Laurier said, but more projects were clinched. It now has about 20 to 30 small projects. “China’s economy could not be sustained without enough environmental protection policies and measures being put in place,” he said. Laurier is going to create a China task force in the company that can offer strategic solutions for building an environmentally friendly and resource-saving country. The company also intends to set up a service center in Shanghai by the end of this year together with a regional distributor. It currently has one distributor in Shanghai and one in Beijing. So far, the company's analytical equipment has sold well in China, but it has been more difficult to find buyers for its integrated solutions because of the higher prices and a lack of a business network. AppliTek was set up by Laurier’s parents in 1985 and his father is still the President of the Board, the China Daily wrote.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Three Gorges Dam fully operational

The Three Gorges Dam, the world’s largest hydropower project, started working at full capacity as the last of its 32 large turbine generators was put into operation. “With a combined generating capacity of 22.5 million kilowatts, the full operation of the generators makes the Three Gorges Dam the world’s largest hydropower project and largest base of clean energy,” Zhang Cheng, General Manager of China Yangtze Power Co, the operator of the generators, said at a ceremony in early July. The dam’s first generator went into operation on July 10, 2003. “The project has not only eased power shortages and boosted the country’s economic development, but also played a significant role in developing clean energy and cutting greenhouse gas emissions,” said Li Pingshi, Director of the Three Gorges Power Plant. The installation of the project's 32^{nd} 700-megawatt (MW) unit brought the total capacity up to 22.5 gigawatt (GW), accounting for 11% of the country's total hydroelectric capacity.

Qinghai at the forefront of solar power development

At the end of last year, Qinghai province’s total on-grid solar power capacity was 1,003 MW, accounting for 37% of China total of around 2,700 MW. By the end of 2015, Qinghai plans to boost the installed generating capacity of solar electricity to more than 4,000 MW, almost 1.5 times the current national capacity. This explosive growth happened in just one year, as by the end of May last year, there was only 50 MW of installed capacity in Qinghai. In May 2011, the Qinghai government promised PV station developers CNY1.15 per kilowatt-hour for electricity supplied by photovoltaic projects that became operational before September 30, much higher than the CNY0.4-0.5 paid for coal-fired electricity. “Before the move, more than 20 developers had signed project agreements. But as there was no guidance price, none of them dared to start construction,” said a local industry observer. Huanghe Hydropower’s project is the most ambitious. Located in Golmud, the center of Qinghai’s PV industry, the CNY3.2 billion project is the world’s largest PV farm measured by installed capacity and floor space. By the end of last year, it had been integrated into the main grid and started supplying electricity. PV power, with all its prospects, still faces a large obstacle — the power grid’s ability to assimilate it. In 2011, only half of China’s 2,700 MW solar power capacity was integrated into the power grid.

Ming Yang considering to acquire Vestas Wind Systems

New York-listed China Ming Yang Wind Power Group is considering acquiring Vestas Wind System. Ming Yang will offer €1.4 billion to €1.5 billion to buy the Danish company, a source, who declined to be named, said. Ming Yang Wind Power is the 10^{th} largest turbine manufacturer in the world, whereas Vestas produces the most. In the first quarter of 2012, Ming Yang’s revenue plunged by more than 70% year-on-year, the result mainly of overcapacity in the industry and government tightening policies. China’s wind power industry has started to expand at a slower pace as wind projects are being required to go through a stricter approval process. An increase in price competition and a decrease in demand have reduced Chinese wind turbine manufacturers' profit margins, according to Zhang Chuaiwei, Chairman and CEO of Ming Yang. "Nevertheless, the unusually demanding conditions now prevalent in the industry may prompt further market consolidation, which we believe we will benefit from as a leading market player," Zhang said. Vestas also reported a larger-than-expected loss. The Danish company closed its factory in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia autonomous region, in June. Vestas installed only 501 megawatt (MW) worth of wind turbines in China in 2011, down 42% from a year earlier. Ming Yang announced a plan to move into India, saying it wants to acquire a significant stake in the Reliance Group unit Global Wind Power and develop up to 2,500 MW of clean energy projects in the country, the China Daily reported.

Shanghai Luming to supply biofuel to SkyNRG

Shanghai Luming Environment Science Co has signed a letter of intent with Netherlands-based SkyNRG, a major jet biofuel supplier, to provide refined swill oil. The first 2,000 tons of biofuel were to be sent to the Netherlands at the end of July and would be used to power commercial jets after further processing. It will be used by SkyNRG's client airlines, including KLM, Air Canada and Qantas. SkyNRG's Managing Director, Dirk Kronemeijer: "We have a strong ambition on the Chinese market where only 2% of wasted cooking oil is recycled, compared with 70% in the Netherlands". The waste cooking oil has large amounts of animal fat that can be processed into bio kerosene after refining and chemical reactions. After further processing, the fuel will qualify to power planes. Planes using the biofuel generate about 40% less emissions. In Shanghai, waste oil collected from restaurants reaches more than 68 tons a day. The government is tightening efforts to block swill oil from being illegally recovered and recycled and prevent it from being used in restaurants. Kronemeijer said the company plans to build a plant in China in the future to collect and refine swill oil into jet biofuel. The company has been looking for waste cooking oil suppliers from China since last year and tests on such oil have been satisfactory, he added. More than 15 commercial airlines have made test flights powered by processed waste cooking oil from the Amsterdam-based company. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, one of the three founding partners of the company, completed its first commercial biofuel flight carrying 171 passengers from Amsterdam to Paris in June 2011. It operated with a half blend of biofuel to regular kerosene. Chinese carriers have also made efforts to develop biofuel, the Shanghai Daily reported.

Chinese solar firms warn of trade war

Solar cell makers in the European Union have called on the European Commission to probe alleged dumping practices by their Chinese rivals, as Beijing warned an investigation could trigger a trade war. EU ProSun, a group of more than 20 European solar companies, called on Brussels to "investigate unfair trade practices by Chinese manufacturers". The group suspects China of providing its solar players with large loans and other subsidies that allow them to sell their solar cells at prices below their production cost. "Europe has the world's most advanced and innovative solar industry, but we've fallen on hard times and are faced with bankruptcy filings because of these Chinese products sold at rates that are up to 55% below production cost," EU ProSun President Milan Nitzschke said. Seven of the world's leading manufacturers of solar modules are Chinese. China's manufacturers have called the dumping allegations "groundless". Four major firms in China warned that a EU anti-dumping investigation could trigger a trade war, adding the country is a big market for European products, including cars, aircraft, machines and luxury goods. "Any additional punitive tax will also contribute to the loss of thousands of jobs in the European solar industry," Suntech Europe president Jerry Strokes said in July.

China launched a probe into alleged U.S. dumping of solar products and government subsidies for the sector. The Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) will investigate whether U.S. companies sold polysilicon used to produce solar batteries at artificially low prices in China. Products made in South Korea will also be included in the probe. In addition, China will look into alleged U.S. state subsidies for the sector, including tax exemptions, supplying land free of charge and granting public funds for job training. The probe, which is expected to last for at least a year, comes after the United States in May slapped hefty anti-dumping duties on Chinese solar cell makers, which Beijing blasted as "protectionist". The price of U.S. polysilicon imports fell more than 67% year-on-year from January to May, squeezing many Chinese firms out of business, He Weiwen, Researcher at the China Association of International Trade, said. "Only eight out of the 43 polysilicon companies in China can barely sustain production. Others have almost all stopped operations, with one in the process of filing for bankruptcy," he said.

The European Commission launched a formal investigation in early September, which activated the largest trade dispute involving China in terms of trade volume. China's solar product exports were worth USD35.8 billion in 2011. The EU receives a share of more than 60% of those exports, or USD20.4 billion. In May, the U.S. decided to impose tariffs on more than 31% of solar panels made in China, in addition to the fees ranging from 2.9% to 4.73% imposed in March. Suntech Power Holdings said that in order to cut production costs and operating expenses, it has temporarily shut down a portion of its solar cell production capacity at its Wuxi, Jiangsu province, headquarters. Rival Trina Solar said it will cut about 200 employees at the management level. New York-listed LDK Solar, which has seen losses recently, said it is going to cut 5,554 employees, accounting for 22% of its staff.

Swire Blue Ocean enters offshore wind market

Swire Blue Ocean has taken delivery of the biggest ship in the world specifically built to install offshore wind farm equipment in a move that marks the firm's entrance into the global offshore wind farm market. The firm is a subsidiary of Swire Pacific Offshore, which is part of the Swire Pacific Group that is also the major shareholder in Hong Kong flag carrier, Cathay Pacific Airways. The 161 meter vessel, which has been named the Pacific Orca, will further enhance Swire Pacific Offshore's capabilities. Its main focus at present is providing tugs and support ships to oil and gas rigs. The Pacific Orca will be joined by a sister ship, the Pacific Osprey, to be delivered at the end of the year. Both ships, built by South Korean shipbuilder Samsung Heavy Industries, will be deployed to Europe, where most wind farm developments are taking place. They have six jack-up legs that can be lowered onto the seabed and push the vessel above the ocean surface. That allows the installation of wind farm equipment in water up to 60 meters deep. Pacific Orca will help build the West of Duddon Sands offshore wind farm near Barrow-in-Furness on England's northwest coast. The vessel will install 108 monopile foundations, each weighing 650 tons, and associated equipment for the project, which is being developed by Denmark's Dong Energy and Scottish Power Renewables.

Rikke Stoltz, Business Development Manager and Director at Swire Blue Ocean, said the ship could carry up to five monopile foundations at a time. It also has the capacity to carry up to 12 turbines, comprising wind farm towers, generators and turbine blades, up to 3.6 MW in size. It takes about 24 hours to install each turbine or foundation, depending on the exact nature of the installation work and the weather conditions. Stoltz added that Swire Blue Ocean was likely to complete its involvement in the West of Duddon Sands project at the end of next year, and would later be joined by Pacific Osprey to help with the construction of the 400 MW DanTysk offshore wind farm 70 kilometers west of Sylt, an island in the North Sea, starting from the middle of next year. Stoltz said Pacific Osprey would also carry out decommissioning work in the oil and gas market, removing small platforms in the North Sea. Karsten Schulze, Senior Manager for Energy and Natural Resources at management consultant KPMG, said Britain and Germany were the biggest markets for offshore wind farm development. Up to 6,000 offshore wind turbines are forecast to be installed by 2030 if the German government's expansion targets for wind energy are to be met. KPMG and the European Wind Energy Association said in a report there were up to 30 installation vessels available or under construction, the South China Morning Post reported.

China lambasts EU solar panels anti-dumping investigation

China called on the European Union to halt trade protectionism after the opening of an anti-dumping investigation into Chinese solar products. China sold solar panels and components worth around €21 billion to the EU last year, its largest market. "Restricting China's solar panel products will not only hurt the interests of both Chinese and European industry, it will also wreck the healthy development of the global solar and clean energy sector," Ministry of Commerce Spokesman Shen Danyang said. He urged the EU to resolve trade frictions in solar photovoltaic products through negotiations. Miao Liansheng, Chairman and CEO of Hebei province-based Yingli, said that his firm will closely cooperate with the European Commission in order to prove that the conditions for imposition of punitive tariffs are not fulfilled. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in Beijing she preferred a negotiated settlement to the dispute, frustrating Europe's solar panel producers. SolarWorld's alliance, EU Pro-Sun, says panel prices dropped by 75% from 2008 to 2011 as the Chinese ramped up capacity from almost zero in 2004 until it more than covered global demand for panels last year. It argues prices will still fall, albeit more steadily, if duties are set. However, some European solar companies say Europe should welcome Chinese imports because they make solar power more affordable and are essential to achieve the EU's goal of having 20% of energy from renewables by 2020.

Schlumberger, Anton set up venture to develop unconventional energy

Houston-based Schlumberger, the world's largest provider of oilfield services, has agreed to set up a joint venture with Anton Oilfield Services to tap a boom in unconventional energy. Schlumberger, which bought a 20.1% stake in its Beijing-based partner in July, would have a 60% stake in the venture and Anton the rest, Anton said in a statement. The planned total initial investment was USD12 million, Anton Vice President Peter Pi said. Anton is one of the largest oilfield services providers not owned by the state. The venture would combine Schlumberger's global experience and advanced technology with Anton's local knowledge and access to domestic talent and low-cost materials, Anton Chairman Luo Lin said. “A major focus of the joint venture will be on servicing the development of unconventional oil and gas resources,” he said. A major focus of global unconventional energy development is shale gas. China is estimated by the U.S. Energy Information Administration to have the world's largest shale gas resources, but owing to a lack of investment and technology, only a few dozen wells have been drilled, compared with thousands in the U.S. Beijing has set a target for shale gas output of 60 billion to 100 billion cubic meters (BCM) a year by 2020, compared with a negligible amount now. Reaching this target will require an estimated investment of USD100 billion, the Ministry of Land and Resources said.

Lack of grid capacity hampers wind power producers

Wind power producers in three northern regions of China were forced to waste CNY6.6 billion of electricity generated in this year's first half due to chronic power grid capacity shortages, the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) said. An average 16% of the three regions' wind farm operators' total output was not transmitted to the grid in the period, even worse than the 12.5% recorded in the first half of 2010. The three regions together accounted for 87.7% of China's total wind power generating capacity. The average wastage rate was as high as 27% in Gansu province, 24% in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and 15% in Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces in the northeast. They are among the top wind power producing regions. The commission blamed a lack of coordination between the pace of development of wind farms by developers and the government's expansion of power grids, as well as lagging improvement in inter-region grid transmission capability as the main culprits for the problem that has been plaguing the nascent clean energy industry in the past few years. “Wind project construction cycles are short, while those of power grids are long,” said the report. The growth in wind power capacity in China slowed from 100% in 2009 to 73% in 2010 and 39% last year, due to shortages of transmission capacity, according to Global Wind Energy Council's data. Monopoly power grid builder and operator State Grid Corporation of China had invested a total of CNY440 billion into grid connection infrastructure to wind farms by the end of last year.

10 provinces account for 90% of installed solar capacity

In terms of solar power installed capacity, China’s top 10 solar power producers are: Qinghai, Gansu, Shandong, Jiangsu, Hebei and Shaanxi provinces, and the Ningxia Hui, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang Uygur and Tibet autonomous regions. Those provinces and regions account for almost 90% of the country’s output. Seven of those provinces and regions are in western China. Golmud in Qinghai province, has been labeled the Photovoltaic Capital of China due to a series of large projects. The province vowed to approve 1 GW of solar farms this year — one-third of the country’s newly added capacity. Solar power rationing has happened twice over the past year in Golmud, partly because the local grid was unable to absorb the solar-generated power, causing millions of yuan in losses for local solar farm developers. In 2011, China’s connected solar capacity was 2.12 GW, or nearly 70% of the installed capacity, according to the China Electricity Council. “The grid infrastructure in the western regions is not adequate to support solar connections,” said Zhang Qian at Canadian Solar. “More transmission lines need to be built.”

Shale gas auction to be held on October 25

Royal Dutch Shell plans to spend at least USD1 billion a year exploiting China's potentially vast resources of shale gas. China is estimated to hold the world's largest reserves of the unconventional gas – which can be unlocked from ancient shale rocks by hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking”. U.S. investor Wilbur Ross, CEO of WL Ross & Co, is in talks with Chinese companies to form a joint venture to participate in a long-awaited shale gas auction in China late next month. China is offering 20 blocks in eight provinces with a total area of 20,002 square km. More than 100 Chinese companies, from utility firms to real estate developers, have shown interest. China-registered domestic companies and Sino-foreign firms controlled by Chinese partners with registered capital of at least CNY300 million are invited to tender, the Ministry of Land and Resources said in a tendering circular. The auction will be held on October 25. Each bidder can only bid for a maximum of two blocks. In June last year, China awarded two out of four blocks in its first shale gas auction to Sinopec Corp and a Henan provincial company. The inaugural licensing round, for which only state-owned companies were invited, marked the start of commercial shale gas exploration in China, holder of the world's biggest shale reserves. Private and foreign firms are being invited to participate in the bidding for shale gas exploration rights for the first time. But analysts said the lack of clarity on gas pricing, incentives and the regulatory framework means winners will be taking substantial investment risk despite the lure of China's huge resource potential. Shale gas is a kind of natural gas trapped within sedimentary rock formations. Its low permeability has for long meant it could not be extracted unless the rock formations are fractured, which can now be done through modern drilling technology. China plans to pump 6.5 billion cubic meters of shale gas by 2015, according to the country's 12th Five Year Plan (2011-2015) on shale gas exploration.

- Goldwind Science and Technology Co, China's largest wind turbine maker, said it has received approval to connect turbines in the Gullen Range project to the Australia grid. Gullen Range, with 182 MW of capacity, is Goldwind's largest overseas project.
- China Ming Yang Wind Power Group, China's third-largest wind-turbine manufacturer, has formed a joint venture with India's Reliance Group to develop 2.5 gigawatt (GW) of wind farms in South Asia. Ming Yang will provide engineering, procurement and construction, and Reliance will have a supporting role in developing wind projects.
- The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) has denied requests from nine solar companies who wished to go public by the end of June because of apparent concerns about the worsening business environment for the industry. One of the rejected IPO applications was by Himin Solar, a company based in Shandong province. A supply glut and falling prices are cutting the profits of China's solar companies. For most companies the profit margin has narrowed to 20% or lower, down from the 139% they previously enjoyed, said Wang Quan'an, Secretary General of the Shanghai Solar Energy Society, in June.
- Sky Solar Holdings Co, a Chinese solar power developer, plans to invest about USD154 million to build 20 solar power stations in Japan, each with a capacity of around 2 MW.
- In a preliminary ruling in July, the U.S. Department of Commerce imposed provisional anti-dumping duties from 20.85% to 72.69% on utility-scale wind towers from China. The anti-dumping tariffs add to countervailing duties of between 13.74% to 26%, the Department announced in May. Some wind towers from China could thus face tariffs as high as 100%. The China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products strongly opposed the move.
- An Italian court has filed charges against an investment fund controlled by China's Suntech Power, the world's biggest maker of solar panels, accusing it of illegally building solar farms to milk state subsidies. Legal action against the fund could result in €80 million of subsidy-backed solar farms being dismantled, a prosecutor said.
- Sunshine Oilsands held talks with China Petrochemical Corp to jointly develop the Canadian company's estimated 71 billion barrels of oil sands reserves. The Calgary-based oil sands explorer raised HKD4.5 billion in a Hong Kong initial public offering (IPO) in March, attracting cornerstone investors that include China's sovereign wealth fund China Investment Corp, China Life Insurance Co, and Sinopec Group.
- China has connected 50.26 gigawatt (GW) of wind-generated capacity to the nation's largest electricity grid. Growth in on-grid wind power capacity was up 87% annually over the last six years. Grid-linked capacity will rise to 100 GW by 2015 and 200 GW by 2020. China plans to have at least 15% of its energy mix come from non-fossil fuels by 2020. Wind farms are the second-biggest contributor to renewable-energy capacity after hydropower dams.
- Commercial Aircraft Corp of China (COMAC) and Boeing Co opened the Boeing-COMAC Aviation Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction Technology Center. Its first research project will be to treat and clean waste cooking oil, often described in China as gutter oil, for use as jet fuel. Boeing also works on other biofuel materials,

like jatropha, with other research institutes in China.

- China's Commerce Ministry said the United States must cut support for six government-backed renewable energy programs or face penalties. The U.S. measures, supporting wind, solar and hydroelectric energy programs in several American states, were a barrier to Chinese exports, the Ministry said.
- Suntech Power Holdings Co has replaced its founding Chief Executive Shi Zhengrong, by David King, the company’s Chief Financial Officer. Shi will also step down as Chairman to become Executive Chairman as well as Chief Strategy Officer (CSO). Shi is considered the most prominent of China’s solar entrepreneurs, building Suntech into the world’s largest panel maker in terms of manufacturing capacity. “At this time, I believe it’s important to devote more of my time to guiding the strategic direction of the company, building relationships with key partners, and driving the ongoing development of Suntech’s leading solar technology,” Shi said.
- The debt of 10 of China’s largest solar energy companies totaled USD17.5 billion, according to a report by the U.S. investment bank Maxim Group. It pointed out that LDK Solar and Suntech were the most likely to go bankrupt. A supply glut and falling prices are cutting profits at China’s solar companies.
- LDK Solar Co, the solar-wafer maker that has reported four straight quarterly losses, will have a portion of its debts paid by the government of Xinyu city in Jiangxi province where it is based, including loans from Huarong International Trust Co. The bailout is the first from a Chinese local government to a non-state solar company to pay off debt.
- China produced more than 103.1 billion cu m of natural gas last year with 7.3% year-on-year growth. Apparent consumption — production plus imports minus exports — was 129 billion cu m in the same year. It topped the world with its 22% year-on-year growth in natural gas demand last year, with increasing Chinese production, imported pipe gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies, according to the BP Statistical Review of World Energy. China’s natural gas consumption will be doubled within the 12th Five Year Plan period (2011-2015) to account for 8% of its total energy mixture by the end of 2015.
- China imported 40,000 tons of polysilicon in the first half of the year, an increase of 34% and a new high, according to the General Administration of Customs. Germany accounts for 20% of the imports.
- China Petroleum and Chemical Corp (Sinopec) and Airbus announced they will jointly produce renewable aviation fuel at a newly built refinery in Hangzhou for regular commercial use in China. The refinery is one of the few in the world that has the capacity to produce aviation fuel from biomass on a large scale, Sinopec said. Using its own technology, Sinopec has already produced aviation fuel meeting international standards, according to Senior Vice President Dai Houliang. Airbus will offer Sinopec technical expertise gained in past certification processes with the EU and U.S. fuel standard bodies.
- Nearly 10 billion cubic meters of water – a quarter of the water that can be allocated for use from the Yellow river in a normal year – will be consumed by 16 new coal-fired power plants due to be built under China's 12th Five Year Plan by 2015, exacerbating water shortages in the arid northwest, a Greenpeace report said. “China is trading millions of people's water rights for energy,” said Li Yan, Greenpeace's East Asia Climate and Energy Campaign Manager. “Two years into the five-year plan, it's time to rethink the pros and cons of this westward coal expansion and acknowledge the painful heritage it will leave: huge carbon emissions, horrible air pollution and a grim future for vast arid areas,” Li said.
- China will spend CNY2.37 trillion on major energy-saving projects from 2011 to 2015 under a blueprint outlined by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). The country will invest CNY982 billion in energy conservation and set aside CNY816 billion toward reducing pollution. Another CNY568 billion will be pumped back into the circular economy.
- Shanghai-listed Sinovel Wind Group reported a 97.6% plunge in first-half net profit and Shenzhen and Hong Kong-listed Xinjiang Goldwind Science & Technology, the second-largest producer, reported an 83% drop in interim earnings. Goldwind summed up the predicament facing the wind power sector well in its results statement: “The rapid emergence of China's wind power industry gained global acclaim as the industry took the lead in meeting China's new energy development goals. However, irrational

competition resulted in problems that necessitated stricter national regulations."

POLLUTION

Guangzhou unable to handle all the rubbish, incinerators needed

The Standing Committee of Guangzhou's People's Congress confirmed plans to build five garbage incinerators by 2015, with one of the three planned for Huadu district to be completed by 2014, despite protests by local residents. The government has cut the number of incinerators it plans to build by 2015 from six to five, and reduced its daily-capacity target from 15,000 tons to 11,000 tons, but public opposition remains widespread. The city already has one incinerator, in Likeng, in the northern district of Baiyun, which handles 1,000 tons of refuse each day. Most of the rest of the 18,000 tons of waste the city produces each day end up buried in landfills, which already contain 40 million tons of garbage. While the scaling back of the city's incineration plans can be viewed as official acknowledgement of public concerns, the government remains resolute in its determination to promote the burning of refuse both to solve its waste problem and to generate electricity. Xu Jianyun, Deputy Director of Guangzhou's Urban Management Committee who is in charge of building waste-treatment facilities, said the city would have 20,000 tons of refuse a day by 2020 and had to reduce the amount being sent to landfills. Many people complained the incinerators will be built close to communities and could pose serious threats to residents' health and the environment. Arguments over whether Guangzhou should have incinerators, and, if so, where, have been going on since 2009. The city government also needs to answer doubts about the fairness of the bidding process.

Looser supervision leads to increased pollution

The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) warned in July that looser local supervision led to a decline in efforts to control pollution in some parts of the country in the first half of this year. "It's hard to be optimistic about what was done to cut emissions in the first half," said Zhang Lijun, MEP Vice Minister. "Pollution worsened and supervision loosened in some regions as some local authorities relaxed restrictions on emissions." The areas most affected were predominantly in the country's west, while eastern coastal cities are facing more difficulties in attaining their targets as the easiest measures have already been taken. In 2011, the country missed about half of the main targets it had set itself for energy conservation and environmental protection, including its target for energy intensity. But the lingering global recession and domestic efforts to restructure the economy have made the conditions for achieving those goals favorable, Zhang said. China plans to conduct a review of work it undertook to save energy in the first half of 2012, he added. From 2011 to 2015, China has set the goal of reducing its energy intensity by 16% and its carbon intensity by 17%.

Drive to greener economy providing investment opportunities

China's ambition to shift to a greener economy is expected to provide more than CNY2 trillion in investment opportunities over the next five years for the country's burgeoning energy-saving sector, according to the five-year plan released by the Chinese government to promote the energy-saving and environmental protection industry, one of the country's seven "strategic industries". The plan is aimed at generating a total output of CNY4.5 trillion from the energy-saving and environmental protection industries by 2015. It is expected to stimulate more than CNY2 trillion in investment opportunities across the industry. The plan highlights important areas of the sector, including the application of semiconductor lighting, industrial waste utilization, water desalination and the promotion of related technology and infrastructures. Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said recently the nation will invest more than CNY2 trillion in promoting energy-saving and low-carbon projects by 2015. There is a potential to save 400 million tons of standard coal equivalent by 2015, which could stimulate investment of more than CNY1 trillion, according to the plan. Investment in sewage and garbage treatment operations, as well as de-sulphuring and de-nitration could exceed CNY800 billion by 2015. The output of environmental services could surpass CNY500 billion during the same period.

Anti-pollution protesters halt construction of copper plant

Thousands of anti-pollution protesters in Shifang, Sichuan province, battled police in late June and succeeded in halting the construction of a CNY10.4 billion molybdenum-copper alloy plant by Shanghai-listed Sichuan Hongda. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowds after protesters lobbed bricks at government offices. Several protesters were arrested but later released. “The local government will definitely carry out supervision during the entire process of constructing the project. If the company fails in the environmental protection assessment, the local government would not allow it to go into production,” Xu Guangyong, Mayor of Shifang, told protesters. He later agreed to scrap the project. “Given the fact that some people are worried about the environmental impact and health hazards of the project and reacted fiercely, [we] have decided to stop construction on the plant and it will never be built in Shifang,” the city's Communist Party Secretary, Li Chengjin, said in a statement. Ma Jun, Director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, said the case showed the lack of public participation in environmental decision-making. “Heavy metal projects are always highly polluting. Of course the public has concerns about this,” he said. Greenpeace campaigner Ma Tianjie said a toxic arsenic compound contained in the plant's solid waste posed a major health risk. Molybdenum, though not carcinogenic, can cause liver and kidney damage, and can also hamper bone development in children, while copper is extremely toxic to aquatic animals but less dangerous to people. “The public's concerns were not unfounded, given the poor environmental record of the metal-smelting industry,” Ma said. Li Yanfang, Environmental Law Professor, says China's environmental laws still have loopholes in terms of public consultation. As a result, environmental reviews sometimes fail to reflect the public's true opinion about certain industrial projects. Shifang, with a population of around 430,000, is about 50 kilometers from Chengdu, the provincial capital. Nearly 6,000 people in Shifang lost their lives in the massive 2008 earthquake that hit Sichuan and neighboring areas.

Panyu presses on with incinerator plans

Nearly three years after plans to build an incinerator in Guangzhou's Panyu district triggered massive protests, authorities have invited tenders to build the plant in a different part of the district. According to an urban solid-waste-management plan for 2010 to 2020, the district government has proposed that the waste incinerator be operating by 2014 in Dagang town, at the southern end of Panyu. The plant was originally planned for the northern end of the district. Two other towns – Dongchong and Dashi – were listed as backup options. Guangzhou's main landfill in Xingfeng county is overflowing and faces imminent closure. In 2009, Panyu officials announced a plan to build the incinerator in Dashi, which borders Haizhu district, but in November of that year the proposal faced intense opposition from nearby residents. More than 10,000 signatures were collected, and hundreds of angry property owners, concerned about their health and the negative effects on real estate prices, took to the streets. The proposed incinerator in Panyu is designed to process 2,500 tons of solid waste a day, and the capacity is expected to be raised to 2,900 tons by 2020 and 4,000 tons by 2030. According to figures from 2010, Beijing and Shanghai each produced about 20,000 tons of rubbish a day. Central Guangzhou was generating at least 8,000 tons a day, with 7,000 tons going to the Xingfeng landfill and 1,000 tons to the incinerator in Likeng.

Difficulties to make tap water safe to drink

China's tap water is still not safe to drink despite the adoption of stricter standards concerning drinking water quality, according to Tsinghua University Professor Wang Zhansheng. Tap water which is tested as qualified in the plants might be polluted during the delivery process, and no authorities have been appointed to supervise the implementation of the new standards to ensure their complete adoption, he added. “Many pollutants can’t be removed under the current treatment,” Wang said. The government plans to invest CNY410 billion before the end of 2015 to upgrade and construct urban water-providing facilities and meet the new standards. Aging water pipes and inadequate management of storage facilities in urban communities are also causing further pollution. Chinese experts are alarmed at the poor quality of tap water in major cities, saying a lack of government action and inadequate public attention has made widespread contamination problems even worse. Their warnings shed light on a rarely talked about issue. Even if a new guideline is adhered to at water treatment plants, they say it will still be difficult to ensure that tap water piped into homes is safe to drink because of contamination from chemicals used in the pipes connecting treatment plants and homes, and from toxic organic compounds that are soluble and difficult to remove. A survey of more than 4,400 water treatment plants three years ago found that 58% of tap water met national standards after processing, according to the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development. But the

Ministry and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said the rate rose to 83% last year. Dou Yisong, Water Standards Expert at the Beijing University of Technology, warned that water pollution in the capital had yet to be brought under control despite a costly clean-up effort led by the government.

Guangzhou to restrict car ownership

Guangzhou is cracking down on pollution by restricting car ownership although it is one of China's biggest car manufacturing centers. The city introduced license plate auctions and lotteries that will roughly halve the number of new cars on the streets. The crackdown by the China's third-largest city is the most restrictive in a series of moves by big cities that are putting quality of life issues before short-term economic growth, something the central government has struggled to do on a national scale. The measures have the potential to help clean up China's notoriously dirty air and water, reduce long-term health care costs and improve the long-term quality of China's growth. “There's a recognition finally that growth at all costs is not sustainable,” said Ben Simpfendorfer, Managing Director of consulting firm Silk Road Associates. The central government in Beijing is pushing back against further restrictions on vehicles because of worries about the huge car industry, said An Feng, Senior Adviser in Beijing to transport policymakers. Polluting factories being pushed out of increasingly affluent cities in southeastern China are being turned away by poorer cities in western and northern areas unless they install costly equipment to control emissions, said Stanley Lau, Deputy Chairman of the Hong Kong Federation of Industries, a trade group representing manufacturers that employ nearly 10 million workers in China.

- Thirty people have died of cancer in 10 years in Yuxi village, Hunan province. A glass manufacturer nearby is allegedly the source of heavy-metal pollution, which has ruined farmland and over 100 wells. The villagers are forced to buy bottled water for drinking.
- A group of 30 Chinese fishermen are suing ConocoPhillips in the U.S. District Court in Houston, claiming their livelihoods have been greatly impacted by two oil spills last year from the company's off-shore drilling operations in China. Courts in China blocked their efforts to file a suit. ConocoPhillips and its partner, the China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC), reached a USD160 million agreement in January with China's Ministry of Agriculture to settle compensation claims related to the spill.
- Twelve industrial plants have been suspended following tests that found more than 10 children with excessive lead in their blood in Jiangxi province. The pollution was suspected of originating in the Futan Industrial Park in Qingyuan district of Ji'an city, home to over 30 plants. The factories are mainly involved in copper, recycled paper and petrochemicals.
- Guangzhou will enact a new waste disposal policy that will levy higher fees on residents who produce rubbish that exceed an as-yet unspecified limit. Cash rebates will be given to residents who undershoot the limit. The fee for a family that generates a standard amount of garbage will be kept at CNY15. The city plans to implement the new scheme in 131 pilot communities by the end of this year.
- 28 people were hospitalized in July after a leak of poisonous sulfur dioxide at the Jiangsu Sopo Group Co, a chemical plant in Zhenjiang. A total of 68 were treated. The company blamed the release on human error at the plant.
- Thousands of people demonstrating over fears of pollution from a sewage pipeline at a paper factory in Qidong, near Shanghai, clashed with police in July. Authorities announced that the waste water pipeline project at the mill, which belongs to Japanese company Oji Paper, would be “permanently cancelled”. Oji Paper denied it was causing pollution and said closing the 110 kilometer pipeline would not affect operations at the plant, located in Nantong.
- Shanghai set stricter lead pollution regulations in August in line with the strictest limits at home and abroad. The rule will also strictly regulate working procedures. All lead-related processing must be conducted in separated and enclosed workshops, plants should have no ventilation windows and all exits should be kept closed to prevent the spread of lead pollutants. By last year, Shanghai had 17 companies involved in lead battery production, assembly or recycling.
- A pollutant discharge quota exchange platform is to be established in Shanghai next

year to control emissions and trade in surplus quotas. The Shanghai Environmental Protection Administration will issue permits to industrial plants to regulate the type of pollutant, the maximum amount allowed and how it is discharged. Pollutants include waste-water, waste gases, and solid waste. Businesses without a permit can't discharge pollutants at all, according to the draft of the national rule. Those plants which discharge pollutants outside their permitted allowance will face fines of up to CNY500,000 or have their permits canceled.

- More than 20% of Jiangxi province suffers soil erosion that has affected agricultural productivity. More than 8 million tons of soil and sand are washed into Poyang Lake each year. Officials will be punished if they fail to help prevent erosion under a regulation taking effect this month. It also forbids quarrying in landslide-prone areas, with a maximum fine of CNY200,000.
- Starting next month, Guangzhou will release readings on 106 indicators of drinking water quality twice a year at its 30 water plants. The results of 42 indicators will be published once a month. At present, the city releases readings of six indicators twice a month, including information about pH and bacteria levels.
- City environment officials said the amount of respirable suspended particulates in Beijing would drop by 30% by 2020 if their reduction targets were met, the Beijing Daily reported. Nine measures have been formulated to tackle PM2.5. These include building 35 monitoring centers by the end of this year, taking 400,000 vehicles with high-exhaust emissions off the road next year, and closing the city's four remaining coal-fired power plants. An early-warning system would also be built to alert people in advance of expected days of severe pollution, officials said.
- One of China's largest freshwater lakes may disappear in the next decade or two because of pollution and ecological degradation. Fish are said to have disappeared from Wuliangsuhai Lake, located near Bayannur, Inner Mongolia, and the water has been overgrown with plants. There are also excessive amounts of phosphates and nitrogen from the nearby agricultural industry.
- The Jinao river in Wenzhou mysteriously turned black overnight in early August, and residents rushed to save as many fish as they could from the waters. The cause of the apparent contamination was under investigation, but residents blamed several factories upstream. About 50,000 fish were saved.
- Guangzhou will spend CNY300 million on 366 refuse trucks as part of its efforts to collect and recycle waste generated in the city every day. Mayor Chen Jianhua said the city government would allocate CNY200 million for the trucks. By the end of this year, dry and wet garbage will be transported separately, making landfill use more effective. Toxic and dangerous waste will also be collected and transported separately.
- China Petroleum and Chemical Corp is prepared to spend HKD10 million to clean up a beach in Hong Kong after plastic pellets were spilled into the city's waters. The company owns the 150 tons of plastic pellets that were spilled when Hong Kong was hit by a typhoon two weeks ago in July.
- Xian authorities want to develop seven wetland areas and 28 lakes over the next decade to address drought problems and improve the local ecosystem, the Xian Evening News reported. Officials said the city was facing a severe water shortage, with each resident having access to about a third of the water available to others in the province, and a sixth of the water available to others across the nation, on average.
- Provincial authorities told the Shandong People's Congress that 760,000 tons of polluted wastewater are discharged daily into waterways across the province that are used as tributaries for the major South-North Water Transfer Project, which is intended to alleviate water shortages in northern China. Much of the wastewater comes from farms and petrochemical plants, despite dozens of new sewage-treatment facilities in the province.
- Bird-watchers say that waste from two sewage pipelines attached to a quarry is polluting Bainiao Lake near Urumqi, Xinjiang, which attracts rare, migrating birds. The fear is that the lake will end up like others in the region that are no longer able to support aquatic life after decades of pollution. A local bird-watchers association organized more than two dozen volunteers in August to determine how many birds remain in the area.
- The Harbin Pharmaceutical Group has decided to relocate a plant from downtown Harbin to the city's outskirts following a pollution scandal last year. Construction on a

CNY700 million new site had started, a city official said, and was expected to be completed in 17 months.

- Shanghai is asking for CNY10 million in compensation from the owner of the Netherlands-flagged cargo vessel De Nederlandse Antillen that spilled 114 tons of fuel into the sea near the coast of Shanghai in June after it collided with a Chinese ship, the Shanghai Maritime Administration said. The spill contaminated water in the Nanhui area and Hangzhou Bay. The leak was one of the most severe in recent years in Shanghai.
- Following a damning report by the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) classifying nearly all of the seawater in Hangzhou Bay – extending from Zhejiang to southern Shanghai – as substandard, the 21st Century Business Herald has found six major clusters of petrochemical companies along the bay, comprising 210 firms. Experts were quoted as saying the heavy metals and organic pollutants have significantly threatened the oceanic ecology of the area. Fishing as an industry has almost ceased there.
- Dongguan authorities have admitted for the first time that water from the city's section of the Dongjiang, or East River, contains excessive levels of heavy metals and industrial pollutants and is not suitable for drinking for at least six months of the year. The Dongjiang, one of the world's most polluted rivers, supplies drinking water to Hong Kong and a dozen Pearl River Delta cities including Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Dongguan and Huizhou. The water used by Hong Kong does not come from the Dongguan section but from further upstream.
- 196 children living in one community in Xingzi town, Guangdong, tested positive for lead poisoning with 95 having levels 4.5 times above the safe level, the China Business News revealed, while authorities initially said only 18 children tested positive. Since the town has 20 villages and 211 communities, the actual number of lead-poisoned children could be much higher, the paper said. The pollution is thought to come from the coal-fired Lianzhou Power Plant, while the Xingzi river is also heavily polluted. Lead pollution by power plants is rare, but the situation in Lianzhou is unique because coal from the area has a high lead content.
- The mouth of the Yangtze river in Shanghai, where the Qingcaosha Reservoir is located, faces the risk of eutrophication as upstream factories keep discharging waste water. A Japanese paper mill, which saw its sea pipeline construction suspended in July by the Qidong city government, was the biggest threat. The reservoir is also threatened by busy shipping traffic and salt tides on the Yangtze. Oil leaks from ships and chemical cargoes are other potential dangers, the Shanghai Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference has said in a report. The Shanghai Water Authority is monitoring a 5-kilometer buffer area around the intake of the reservoir to ensure it can be shut in time should any emergency occur.
- Pollution caused by humans is the second leading cause in the melting of the No 1 glacier in the Tianshan Mountains in Xinjiang, experts say. It has been retreating by more than four meters every year and its thickness has shrunk by more than 15 m from 1958 to 2010, said Li Zhongqin of the Tianshan Mountains Glacier Observation Station under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The leading cause was climate change and the second one black carbon, particles generated by incomplete combustion of carbon-containing material. Several power plants and building material factories had been operating for nearly 30 years near the glacier.
- Authorities in Anxin county in Hebei province attributed the death of 1 million kilograms of fish in Baiyangdian Lake to environmental changes, but fishermen blamed illegal chemical dumping. Flooding in the upstream Xiaoyi river sent a large amount of mud and waste into the lake and decreased oxygen in the water, which caused many fish to die, authorities said. The fish died between August 12 and August 14, causing economic losses up to tens of millions of yuan. The fishermen suspected textile mills and fur processors in Gaoyang and Lixian counties caused the contamination.
- Five cities and districts in Guangdong province — Shaoguan, Qingyuan, Foshan, Shenzhen and Shunde — were found to be heavily polluted by acid rain in the first six months of this year, up from four in the same period of last year, according to a provincial environmental report for the first half of 2012. Nitrogen oxide has become a major cause of acid rain, partly as a result of the greater number of cars and an inability to adequately control their emissions. Some cement and ceramics industries have also recently moved from developed areas in the Pearl River Delta to Shaoguan

and Qingyuan, the two most affected cities.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Drop in emission trading lowers profits at wind power producers

A trading scheme for developed nations to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments while subsidizing new emission reduction projects in developing countries is on the verge of breakdown, according to a global energy think tank. Weak demand from Europe for emission credits saw only half of the scheme's one billion tons of approved credits bought, with the other half waiting for buyers, said Joan MacNaughton, the London-based World Energy Council's Executive Chair of Energy and Climate Policy Assessment. The possible collapse of the scheme could negatively impact Chinese wind power producers who earn more than 20% of their pre-tax profit from selling carbon credits to European firms. China Datang Corp Renewable Power reported that its carbon credit income plunged 52% in the first half, while that of Huaneng Renewables sank 71%. According to World Energy Council Analysts, if nothing was done to stimulate demand or restrict supply, the amount of excess emission credits would swell to between 3.4 billion and 4 billion units by 2020, from 500 million now, MacNaughton said. Governments should augment their emission reduction ambition and pool resources to buy up some of the excess credits, to help revitalize the carbon market, or risk its collapse. She said that despite some shortcomings, the system was considered a proven market-based method to reduce emissions globally. MacNaughton said China's worsening global ranking in energy-consumption pollution control was likely to continue this year. It was ranked 87th out of 92 countries last year, worsening from 80th in 2010 in terms of its environmental impact mitigation performance, based on an annual assessment by the Council, the South China Morning Post reported.

China, EU strike deal to cut carbon emissions

China has struck a deal to work with the European Union to cut greenhouse gases through projects including the development of Chinese emissions trading schemes, the European Commission said. At the China-EU summit in Brussels this month, Commerce Minister Chen Deming and EU Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs signed a financing deal promoting the transition “towards a low-carbon economy and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in China”, the Commission said in a statement. The EU will contribute €25 million and technical assistance over four years to three carbon-reduction projects. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao warned at the summit against erecting trade barriers amid an EU threat to impose tariffs on solar panels from China. The EU opened an anti-dumping probe into Chinese makers of the panels two weeks ago.

- About 200 local companies will participate in a pilot carbon trading program in Shanghai next year, as part of China’s efforts to clean up the environment with a market-based approach rather than with administrative measures. The city was one of the seven provinces and municipalities chosen by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in November to set up carbon trade markets in a trial program from 2013 to 2015. Eventually, a national market will be created.
- China’s environmental protection agencies have been ordered to publish environmental impact assessment reports on their websites from September 1 to make the evaluations available to the public. In the first half of this year, the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) approved 125 projects — involving a total investment of CNY687.2 billion — and rejected or suspended 17 for failing to meet environmental standards.
- China will channel part of the Civil Aviation Development Fund (CADF) to support energy-saving campaigns of domestic airlines and plane manufacturers, and developing bio-fuel. The companies will be granted subsidies ranging from 30% to 60% of the total investment for emission reduction efforts. Passengers will be charged CNY50 each for domestic routes and those departing the country on international routes will pay CNY90. The government is expected to collect CNY15.4 billion in the CDAF this year.
- China is to have a National Low-carbon Day from next year in the latest move to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The day will fall on the third day of the National Energy Efficiency Promotion Week in June every year. The Chinese government also adopted

a new sandstorm control plan in north China to minimize dust storms affecting Beijing and Tianjin, and decided to raise the subsidy standard for some reforestation projects from next year. About 9.3 million hectares of farmland returned to forest between 1999 and 2006.

- A joint estimate by the European Commission and the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency found that China emitted nearly twice as much carbon as the U.S. last year – just three years after it overtook the U.S. as the world's largest carbon polluter. China's per capita carbon footprint – 7.2 tons last year – is almost on a par with that of the European Union (7.5 tons) and by some estimates will surpass the U.S. (17.3 tons last year) by 2017. The central government has refused to provide an update of the country's carbon footprint since 1994.

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