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ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

China launches polysilicon import probe

China began a probe to determine whether it will impose retroactive anti-dumping duties on solar-grade polysilicon imported from the U.S., South Korea and the European Union. In line with the investigation, the Ministry of Commerce will also decide whether to impose retroactive anti-subsidy duties on polysilicon, the raw material used to make solar panels, from the U.S. and EU, it said in a statement. U.S. and South Korean suppliers have to provide monthly data on the amount and value of polysilicon they sold to China between January and October this year. They have to continue doing so till the preliminary findings by the Ministry are announced. European suppliers have had to do so since May. The move comes after the U.S. slapped hefty punitive duties on Chinese solar panels and Europe launched similar anti-dumping and anti-subsidy probes on Chinese products. Analysts warn the probe, which could benefit domestic polysilicon makers such as Jiangsu Zhongneng Polysilicon Technology Development Co, a unit of Hong Kong-listed GCL-Poly Energy Holdings, may put pressure on Chinese solar panel makers, who will face higher raw material prices if tariffs are levied, the

Shanghai Daily reports.

Zhou Shijian, Senior Trade Expert at Tsinghua University, said: "China is not willingly making the move, but it's the only countermeasure that the Chinese government can take when the U.S. insists on the hefty tariffs, and when negotiations with the EU did not solve the dispute." He added that the entire global solar industry would be badly hurt amid an escalating trade war. Zhou said one way out of solar disputes between China and the West is to exploit China's domestic market, as 90% of the country's solar grade polysilicon is imported and 90% of the finished products are exported, with the EU and the U.S. the biggest export destinations. China imported 64,600 metric tons of polysilicon in 2011, up 36% from a year earlier, with a total import value of USD2.59 billion. The U.S. and South Korea accounted for 60% of China's imports in 2011, but low prices from these sources saw 80% of domestic producers suspend operations as well as 5,000 job losses. Gao Honglin, Deputy Secretary General of the China Photovoltaic Industry Alliance, said that the move by the Commerce Ministry will have a beneficial effect on domestic polysilicon producers. Li Junfeng, Chairman of the China Renewable Energy Industry Association, expressed opposition to all types of trade remedies in the solar industry that drive up costs.

Longyuan Power plans big increase in offshore wind farms

China Longyuan Power, Asia's largest developer of wind farms, aims to raise its offshore generating capacity fivefold by 2015, despite technical challenges and the large capital required. The development of projects offshore is part of the industry's effort to shift focus away from the windy northern regions which suffer from power transmission bottlenecks due to overly rapid development of wind farms there, to coastal provinces that are close to consumption centers and do not require long-distance transmission infrastructure. Beijing-based Longyuan, a unit of China Guodian Group – one of five state-owned power generation groups – aimed to increase offshore capacity to 1,000 megawatt (MW) in three years from 182 MW currently, Secretary Jia Nansong said. Based on an average investment cost per MW of around CNY15.5 million on a 150 MW project, completing projects to meet the goal will require CNY12.7 billion of investment. Chinese power projects are typically 20% equity capital-financed and 80% bank loan-funded, implying some CNY2.5 billion of equity capital will be required. Longyuan had a total wind farm capacity of 8,994 MW at the end of June and plans to add 1,600 MW this year and 2,000 MW in each of the next few years, of which most will be onshore projects. For onshore projects, based on last year's average construction cost of CNY7.9 million per MW, the company may need some CNY41 billion of investment in the next three years, of which CNY8.2 billion would be equity capital. Longyuan had CNY3.9 billion of cash on hand at the end of June, with a net debt-to-equity ratio of 198%. To keep its debt ratio at a comfortable level, it planned to issue new shares that could raise HKD3.94 billion, the South China Morning Post reports.

Ralls Corp challenges President Obama in court

Ralls Corp, owned by executives of China's Sany Group, has asked a federal judge in Washington to hear its case against U.S. President Barack Obama's decision to scrap the purchase of four wind-farm projects near a U.S. Navy facility in Oregon. Lawyers for Delaware-based Ralls said the company's rights were violated by the September 28 decision to bar the wind-farm deals due to an unspecified national security risk. Tim Cullen, Partner with U.S. law firm Jones Day, who specializes in global trade disputes, said the case is "virtually unprecedented, because Sany and Ralls are challenging both the action of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and discretion of the President". He said the government may argue that the judge should not become involved because it is a matter of national security. Clif Burns, Lawyer with Washington firm Bryan Cave, who specializes in export controls and economic sanctions, said: "The Exon-Florio Amendment specifically exempts presidential decisions such as this one from judicial review, so Ralls' lawsuit has virtually no chance of being successful." Burns said: "I don't think that Obama's decision to block (the wind-farm deals) will have much effect on future Chinese investment in the U.S. because of the unique security concerns posed by this investment." "The case will be a near impossibility to win,... but it will be a good way for the Chinese to get experience in working the U.S. legal system, even if they lose," said Ann Lee, a New York University Economics Professor, as reported by the China Daily. "We do not know whether it's locational or whether it's equipment related or the height of the tower. We've been asked to disprove a negative in an entire universe of negatives," Viet Dinh, Lawyer for Ralls, told the Judge. Ralls was seeking to place Sany-made wind turbines at the Oregon installations after purchasing land and other

rights earlier this year. The assets consist of four locations, three of which are near, and one is within, restricted Navy airspace, the Treasury Department, which heads CFIUS, said on September 28. Ralls said Obama's decision could cost the company USD20 million in lost design and construction costs.

- Through development of new energy and renewable energy resources, China is expected to increase its total usage of renewable energy equivalent to 478 million tons of standard coal by 2015. This means the reduction of 1 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
- More than half of the solar companies listed in China predict their profits will slump in 2012.
- First Solar, a U.S.-listed clean energy developer, has reached an agreement with Zhenfa New Energy Science and Technology Co to supply two megawatts of thin-film solar modules for Zhenfa's solar projects in Xinjiang. The cooperation will establish First Solar's first commercial demonstration project in China.
- Xinjiang Goldwind Science & Technology, China's largest wind-turbine maker, is studying new projects to take advantage of Australia's 2020 renewable energy target. Australia is set to install as much as 8,000 megawatt (MW) of wind power by the end of the decade, and Goldwind was "looking to be a serious participant", said John Titchen, Managing Director of its Australian unit. Goldwind, which entered Australia in 2009, started construction last month on a 165.5 MW wind farm in New South Wales state, the second project in the country to use the company's turbines. The farm is scheduled to start operating in 2014.

POLLUTION

Lead smelter severely pollutes Anhui town

Tianying in China's Anhui province has been severely polluted by a state-owned lead smelter and foundry. The town once accounted for half of China's total lead output, but its land is now uninhabitable and its water undrinkable. In 2007, the Blacksmith Institute, a New York-based non-profit group that helps clean up polluted sites, included Tianying in its list of the world's most polluted regions. For China's new leadership, reversing the environmental destruction wreaked by three decades of unrestrained economic growth is among its highest priorities. In a pledge taken up by the new leadership, outgoing President Hu Jintao said in his address to the Communist Party Congress in October that the country had to "reverse the trend of ecological deterioration and build a beautiful China". Environment Minister Zhou Shengxian reinforced the pledge at a briefing in Beijing, saying China needed to "quickly change the current situation in which too much emphasis is put on economic growth and too little on environmental protection". In Tianying the government and the town's largest employer Jiaxin Group are all but indistinguishable. China's richer, coastal regions have improved environmental conditions over the last 10 years, driven as much by the profit motive as by tougher regulation. Rehabilitated land in Beijing or Shanghai can be turned into lucrative real estate. But Beijing has struggled to provide the incentives for poorer regions like Anhui to clean up. "The places I worry about in China are no longer the large wealthy metropolises but the small township and village enterprises – a lot of those are ignored and highly polluting and toxic to the very poorest communities," said Richard Fuller, the Blacksmith Institute's founder and President. Tianying today is not as polluted as it was a decade ago. A 2002 study showed lead concentrations were as much as 10 times higher than national standards and children had suffered "adverse effects" as a result of prolonged exposure to the metal, but the worst small-scale smelters and recycling workshops have been shut down, and production was left to large state firms like the Jiaxin Group. Local authorities have also set up a wetland preserve nearby and forced the town's remaining farmers to vacate land around the factories, replacing pasture with rows of fragile saplings, the South China Morning Post reports.

Supreme People's Court orders better protection of grasslands

People who damage large areas of grassland now face up to five years' imprisonment, according to a new judicial interpretation that aims to prevent conflicts arising from illegal mining and construction. The Supreme People's Court said judges are also advised to levy heavy fines to those who illegally occupy or convert the use of pastureland covering an area larger than 1.33 hectares. Yu Housen, Spokesman for the Supreme People's Court, said

grasslands account for more than 41% of China's territory and have tremendous ecological significance. At least 45 million people, around 3.5% of China's population, live on grasslands, mostly in Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia and Tibet. Yu said the environment of grassland areas has been degraded every year, and the land has been used for cultivation, mining, road building and urban construction. "Some of these projects permanently damage the environment, while the damage from others can only be undone at a high cost," he said. The judicial interpretation is expected to help ease concerns over environmental costs by curbing the illegal conversion of land use. Last year, two truck drivers, both affiliated with mining companies, were sentenced to death in Inner Mongolia after killing residents in disputes over mining pollution, the China Daily reports.

Hong Kong, Guangdong lower pollution reduction targets for 2020

Hong Kong and Guangdong have decided on reduction targets for air pollutants up to 2020 that are much less ambitious than goals set in the previous phase. Under the new eight-year plan starting this year, authorities from each side will also work towards separate mid- and long-term reduction rates of emission. That decision marked a departure from the 2002-2010 phase, in which both places shared common emission targets for four pollutants. In that phase, Guangdong failed by 2010 to achieve a promised cut in volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and marginally attained the target for nitrogen oxides. Hong Kong, meanwhile, had met all four targets, which also include sulphur dioxide and respirable suspended particulates. "Obviously, there's not enough momentum for Guangdong officials to take emissions of volatile organic compounds very seriously," a Chinese analyst said. Zhong Liuju, an air pollution prevention expert linked to the provincial government, said pollution worsened at an "unexpected" pace as 2010 economic output turned out to be 1.26 times the original estimates. Both regions laid down new specific reduction targets on emissions that would apply only until 2015. In the three years ahead, Hong Kong will have a tighter sulphur dioxide target than Guangdong, but will ease up on scrutiny of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds. Both places endorse the same target for respirable suspended particulates, or particles of 10 microns or less. By 2020, Hong Kong hopes to see emission drops in all four pollutants of 15% to 75%, and Guangdong of 15% to 40%.

Shenzhen's mangrove forests lost to pollution

Shrinking Shenzhen mangrove forests are posing a threat to migratory birds at Hong Kong's Mai Po Nature Reserve, experts say. Shenzhen had more than 530 hectares of mangrove forest in the early 1980s, forming one of China's most important wetland conservation zones. It now has less than a quarter of that left – just 130 hectares. More than half of the endangered species that were living in Shenzhen's mangrove wetlands have disappeared, including birds, plants and fish, according to a report by Wang Yongjun, former Director of Shenzhen's Futian Mangrove Nature Reserve. Experts in Shenzhen blamed the mangrove forests' decline on reckless urbanization and industrial pollution. But few expected such a massive loss of forest area, especially after Shenzhen's city government released a blueprint in 2007 pledging to triple the size of the city's mangrove forests to more than 500 hectares by 2015. The authorities have not released a general survey of the state of the city's wetlands and mangroves since 2006. Most of Shenzhen's remaining mangroves are now threatened by infrastructure projects and commercial property development.

Textile brands accused of pollution

Some of the most well-known textile brands been accused of hiding their toxic trails by using government-run wastewater treatment plants. Greenpeace International said a recent investigation found a wide range of hazardous substances in the effluent of two communal treatment plants in industrial zones in Zhejiang province. The treatment plants in Shaoxing and Xiaoshan, serving the Binhai, Linjiang and Jiangdong industrial zones, dumped a wide range of hazardous substances into the Qiantang river, it said. Zara, Metersbonwe, Levi's, Calvin Klein, Esprit, Marks & Spencer, Gap and JC Penny source their products from plants in the zones. The two treatment plants process 2.1 million tons of waste water per day. The results of the investigation were published in a report entitled "Toxic Threads: Putting Pollution on Parade," which claims that facilities were exploiting complex wastewater systems to hide scrutiny of their manufacturing processes. The use of communal treatment plants makes it extremely hard to trace the discharge of hazardous chemicals to specific facilities, Greenpeace said. Hu Jian, Deputy Director of the Shaoxing Environmental Protection Bureau, however, insisted that the processed wastewater met national standards.

China pledges to reduce amount of PM2.5 particles

China is pledging to reduce the amount of fine particles in the air by at least 5% by 2015, according to the Ministry of Environmental Protection's plan. China will cut PM2.5 intensity in 117 cities and reduce the intensity of the larger PM10 particles by 10%, sulfur dioxide by 10% and nitrogen dioxide by 7% by 2015 from 2010 levels. For the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta region, including Shanghai, and the Pearl River Delta region, the PM2.5 intensity will be cut by at least 6%, the Ministry said. The areas covered by the plan produce nearly half the nation's sulfur dioxide, nitric oxide, smoke and dust. For PM2.5 issues, the plan not only sets an improvement target, but also lays equal stress on treating primary and secondary pollution. Smoke, dust and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are also included in its emissions reduction agenda. The plan also aims to keep ozone under proper control and reduce pollution from acid rain by 2015, when a regional air pollution control management and control network will be established. "Air pollution in China is still very serious. For PM2.5, about 70% of domestic cities or 80% of the 117 cities in the major areas fail to meet the nation's new air quality requirement," said Zhao Hualin, Director of the Ministry's Pollution Prevention and Control Department. The standard for PM2.5 in China is 75 micrograms per cubic meter in a 24-hour period, the Shanghai Daily reports.

- Thermo Fisher Scientific's sales of air quality monitoring products in the Chinese market have been growing, and account for 25% to 30% of the company's global sales, said Marc Casper, President and CEO. The company is a major supplier of equipment to monitor PM2.5 levels in China, and Casper said it has a market share of 80% to 90% in China.
- Qinghai Lake's wild fish population has dramatically risen in the past decade, to an estimated 35,000 tons – about 13 times its 2002 level. But environmentalists have warned that the lake's ecological system is still being threatened by human activity, and that the level of fish is only a tenth of what it should be.
- Readings of PM2.5 in the city of Lanzhou, one of China's most polluted, will be available for public scrutiny this month. Lanzhou is among the first of 74 Chinese cities required by the Ministry of Environmental Protection to publish daily reports on PM2.5 by the end of the year. Shanghai began using the new standard last month. Experts said terrain and climate factors, and Lanzhou's reliance on petrochemical industries and its winter heating, have worsened pollution. The city will ban about half its vehicles from downtown roads on days with high air pollution from next year.
- Beijing Municipal authorities sent more than 330,000 cars to the scrap yard by the end of last month – more than twice the original target of 150,000 vehicles for the whole year. Traffic authorities said they were under pressure to improve the city's air quality by getting rid of old vehicles whose emission levels exceeded those of newer models. It was unclear how many official government vehicles were among those scrapped. About 5.15 million cars are registered in the capital.
- Environmentalist Liu Futang was found guilty by a local court in Hainan province of illegally profiting from self-published books that exposed pollution scandals, most of which he gave away or sent to friends. Liu, 65, was sentenced to three years in prison, but given a full reprieve, and fined CNY17,000. The conviction and plea deal will effectively silence the vocal activist, who has repeatedly revealed environmental degradation caused by government-backed projects in Hainan.
- About 98% of Beijing's 120,000 registered recyclers come from three provinces – Henan, Anhui and Hebei – the Beijing Resource Recycling Association reports. The actual figure is more like 200,000 if the unregistered are counted, according to Beijing University of Technology Researcher Cheng Huiqiang, who specializes in the economics of recycling. About 4.67 million tons of recyclable waste were collected from the 6.35 million tons of trash Beijing produced in 2010. Cheng says 3 million tons of empty water bottles are thrown away in China a year. If all these were recycled, 18 million tons of crude oil could be saved.
- China is experiencing its largest ecological deficit ever – caused by decades of high economic growth and rapid urbanization – as total emissions of carbon and other pollutants far exceed the capacity of its ecosystems, according to the "China Ecological Footprint Report" by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). "[Although] China's ecological footprint – or the demand the country places on the natural environment – is lower than the global average, the nation is already consuming 2-1/2 times its bio-capacity – the capacity to regenerate natural resources and absorb carbon

emissions,” the report said. Only six provinces and regions – Tibet, Qinghai, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Hainan and Yunnan – enjoyed a bio-capacity surplus in 2009.

- Beijing will take 30% of official vehicles off the road when the daily intensity of PM2.5 exceeds 500 micrograms per cubic meter, according to an emergency plan against heavy pollution that was released by the municipal government. In addition, industries related to metallurgy, construction materials and chemicals must reduce production and cut emissions by 30% during pollution emergencies. Earthwork construction at building sites will also be suspended.
- Two former Deputy Directors of the Environmental Protection Bureau in Jiexiu city, Shanxi province, have been jailed for taking bribes from polluting firms. Gao Runsheng was sentenced to eight years for taking CNY1.76 million, while Bai Shihe received a three-year sentence for taking CNY65,000.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Doha Climate Conference extends Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol was extended by eight years until 2020 at the Doha Climate Conference in Qatar earlier this month, averting a new setback to two decades of UN efforts that have failed to halt growing global greenhouse gas emissions, but the agreement was undermined by the withdrawal of Russia, Japan and Canada, so its signatories now account for only 15% of global emissions. A package of decisions, known as the Doha Climate Gateway, would also postpone until next year a dispute over demands from developing nations for more cash to help them cope with global warming. China teamed up with other emerging economies to push for a clear timetable on a promised tenfold increase in financial aid – USD100 billion a year by 2020, but the demands met strong opposition from the U.S., Europe and other developed nations.

The two-week conference was briefly extended to allow an agreement to be reached. The core issue was that developed countries should “substantially” reduce emissions, in line with “common but differentiated responsibilities” and set targets for a second-commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, said China’s top climate negotiator Xie Zhenhua, who is also Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). The first commitment period ends at the end of December. The Chinese delegation had hoped to reach a legally binding second-commitment period. “Developed countries that didn’t join the protocol or decided to opt out of any new commitments need to take comparable reduction measures by setting specific targets,” said Xie. As China’s per-capita emissions are close to, or almost equal to, the global average, the country is facing challenges in coping with climate change and must adopt a greener, low carbon path, he said. Prior to the conference, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) released the Green Book of Climate Change.

Xie Zhenhua added that China’s carbon emissions for each unit of economic growth are expected to fall by 5% this year, the biggest drop since it set a carbon intensity goal to curb greenhouse gases three years ago. Speaking on the sidelines of United Nations climate talks in Doha, he said China had cut carbon intensity by 3.4% in the first nine months, thanks to increased energy efficiency and renewable energy gains. Energy experts said this year’s prolonged economic slowdown was probably a major contributor to the significant drop in carbon intensity. China fell short of the annual goal of reducing carbon intensity by 3.5% last year, recording a drop of a little more than 2%.

China wants commitments from industrial nations before new treaty negotiations

Beijing’s top climate negotiator Xie Zhenhua said that international discussions for a new global climate treaty starting from 2020 should not begin until next year, after the securing of renewed pledges by developed nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emission from 2013. “Building on such progress, countries can move forwards to seek a consensus for the post-2020 scheme, with formal negotiations to be launched next year,” Xie said. Li Yan, a Greenpeace China climate campaigner, said that the extension of the Kyoto Protocol, with fewer countries ready to renew their emission-reduction pledges, would have only limited effectiveness in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. “It is understandable that China and other developing nations do not want to see the new treaty move too fast before the sorting out of other problems – rich countries’ commitments on emission reduction, financing and technical aide,” Li said. Delegates at UN talks in South Africa last year agreed that nations would

hammer out a new deal by 2015 to fight climate change after 2020. Li said that Beijing was prepared to take on some emission-reduction obligations after 2020, but it was not yet ready to formally commit to such obligations.

Shanghai expects cleaner air as it moves to Euro V standard

Shanghai is expected to enjoy slightly clearer skies next year as vehicles use cleaner gas. China Petroleum and Chemical Corp (Sinopec) will provide the new fuel and diesel that meets the Euro V emission standards at city gas stations by the National Day holiday next October. The measure will decrease PM2.5 emissions, as vehicles contribute about 25% of it. Zhang Quan, Director of the Shanghai Environmental Protection Administration, said the city has up to 230,000 vehicles viewed as highly polluting. The city now uses National IV emission standards – equivalent to Euro IV. Euro V fuel or liquified gas vehicles emit about 30% less nitrogen oxides than their Euro IV counterparts, researchers found. But pollution could still increase as more vehicles hit the roads. Shanghai has more than 1.7 million private cars, and the number would surpass 3.3 million if steps, such as a plate auction, were not taken, officials said.

Low-carbon development influences China's foreign trade

“Low-carbon development is now having a more obvious influence on China's foreign trade,” Wang Shouwen, Director of the Foreign Trade Department of the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), told a seminar during the China International Green Innovative Products & Technologies Show 2012 in Guangzhou. “Developed economies such as the EU and the U.S. have actively promoted carbon tariffs and carbon certification, having an increasing potential effect on Chinese exports. In addition to the trade policies of developed economies, business activities of transnational companies will affect Chinese foreign trade as they now prefer low-carbon products in their procurement,” Wang said. Though the U.S. Congress did not pass the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, it could become law in the future and entitle the government to impose carbon tariffs on Chinese exports beginning in 2020, according to Wang. It would affect Chinese exports in 46 industries including steel and nonferrous metals. The EU has now postponed implementation of the EU Emission Trading Scheme on all international flights to and from the EU until September 2013, but if China would have to pay the tariff, it would add CNY2,000 in transportation costs to each ton of cargo and lower the profit of export businesses by about 2%,” according to Wang. In 2010, Chinese exports to the EU totaled USD311.24 billion, and 17.31% were carried by aircraft. “If the EU were to impose tariffs on aviation, and emission reduction into ocean transportation industries, this would surely have a great impact on Chinese exports, as Chinese exports through ocean shipping account for one-fifth of the world's total,” Zhou Maorong, Deputy Director of the Institute of International Studies at Wuhan University, said. However the promotion of the green sector can also serve as the driving force for the country's trade to develop a new competitive edge, Wang said. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation 2012 summit, held in Vladivostok in September, saw leaders agree on a list of 54 green technologies that will be subject to import duties of 5% or less by 2015, which “brings new opportunities for Chinese exporters amid challenging global trade”, according to Commerce Minister Chen Deming, as reported by the China Daily.

Coastal cities make plans to cap emissions

Some cities in East China have started planning how to cap their greenhouse gas emissions, and their experiences will act as an example for other cities, said He Jiankun, Deputy Director of the National Climate Change Expert Committee. Greenhouse gas emissions in some eastern coastal areas are expected to peak at around 2020. However, at this stage, China cannot shoulder absolute emission cuts as it is constrained by its development stage, which is in the middle of urbanization and industrialization, he added. Some developed countries made commitments for absolute emissions, but if that is converted into carbon intensity reduction, between 1990 to 2010, China's carbon intensity declined by 50%, while that of the developed economies' declined by 30%, according to He. At the same time, he said it is unsustainable for China's resource-abundant western regions to replicate the development path of eastern coastal areas, which were heavily reliant on the heavy chemical industry at a high cost to the environment. “How the western regions can explore a low-carbon path is an urgent challenge facing China,” said He. “Reasonable growth rates are important for China, but it has entered into a stage where efficiency and quality of economic development matters more,” He added. “Without shifting to a low-carbon path, it's difficult for China to build its international

competitiveness in the long run,” he concluded.

China's carbon emissions per head approaching EU's

China's carbon emissions per head are approaching those of the European Union, but are still about a third of the United States', according to research published in the latest edition of the science journal Nature Climate Change. Emissions per person in China were 6.6 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) compared to the EU's 7.3 tons. The figure for the U.S. was 17.2 tons. However, China is still the world's biggest contributor of global carbon dioxide emissions which are due to reach a record high of 35.6 billion tons this year, according to the Global Carbon Project led by researchers from the Tyndall Center for Climate Change Research at the UK's University of East Anglia. China was responsible for 28% of emissions in 2011 compared to the United States (16%), the EU (11%), and India (7%). Emissions in China and India grew by 9.9% and 7.5% in 2011, while those of the U.S. and the EU decreased by 1.8% and 2.8%, according to the Fudan Tyndall Center. "Something like 30% of China's carbon emissions are related to goods consumed in other countries," said Chen Jianmin, Director of the Fudan Center and Professor in the University's Environmental Science and Engineering Department.

- China Petrochemical Corp (Sinopec) announced it started supplying liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Beijing's double-decker buses from the beginning of this month to help reduce carbon emissions. Sinopec's Beijing branch now has three filling stations in the capital. They have provided 500 metric tons of liquefied natural gas to buses on about 5,000 occasions so far, the company said. Buses can reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide by 30% by using LNG.
- Two grass-roots environmental activists have run an advertisement in The New York Times calling on China's new leaders, including Communist Party General Secretary Xi Jinping, to honor Beijing's commitments on tackling pollution and fighting global climate change. Veteran environmentalist Wu Lihong, from Wuxi, Jiangsu province, and activist Chen Faqing, from Zhejiang, jointly paid more than CNY100,000 to place the advertisement. A similar one in the People's Daily had been rejected, they said.

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