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## IFCE ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

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### **IFCE's Vice president Dr. Michael Zhao delivered a speech at RDPAC event**

Dr. Michael Zhao delivered a speech at the 10<sup>th</sup> RDPAC EHS Working Group Meeting held in Beijing on May 7-8. R&D-based Pharmaceutical Association in China (RDPAC) is an organization consisting of international pharmaceutical companies which have operations in China. Dr. Zhao introduced the latest environmental development trends in China and IFCE's initiatives in NGO support and community-based health and environmental education activities. Around 70 EHS officers from leading pharmaceutical companies attended this two-day event.

### **Alashan government delegation completed the study tour in USA**

With IFCE's arrangement, Alashan government delegation of fourteen officials conducted a study tour on biodiversity conservation in USA from Mar. 29 to April 12. They visited the World Bank and attended workshops with specialists from IFCE and Virginia Tech. They also visited the Grand Canyon National Park and discussed collaborative opportunities with the park management team. This is a part of the biodiversity conservation capacity building project sponsored by EU.



*Photo: The delegation met Grand Canyon National Park management team*



## **Campus energy consumption survey training workshop conducted**

With support from IFCE, the China Youth Climate Action Network (CYCAN) conducted training workshops on campus energy consumption survey in Beijing in March, Zhongqing and Nanchang in April. Eighteen people from 10 selected colleges in north China attended the workshop in Beijing. Twenty student leaders from 12 colleges in southwest China joined in workshop in Zhongqing. Thirty-three students from eighteen colleges in south China participated the workshop in Nanchang.

In addition, CYCAN's Green Campus Project won the award of 3<sup>rd</sup> SEE-TNC Ecological Award on April 22 in Beijing. It is remarkable that with only one-year operation, CYCAN's activities were highly recognized by this influential civil environmental award in China.

***Congratulations!***



←*Training workshop participants in Chongqing*



*Training workshop participants in Beijing →*

## **Earth Day activities**

Two of IFCE's interns, Sandy Lam and Prerna Rao, joined a group of volunteers to distribute more than 1,000 energy saving light bulbs to passengers at Rockville metro station near Washington DC on April 22, the Earth Day. The activity was coordinated by several American-Chinese groups. IFCE was one of event sponsors. Ping He participated the celebration activities on the National Mall on April 19.



## **Suggestion reports submitted**

Under request of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, IFCE submitted three policy suggestion reports to Chinese government concerning sustainable development. Ping He provided a



report on how to promote NGOs' development and he considered that the current laws and regulations hinder the health growth of NGOs in China and needs to be changed significantly. Eric Yin provided a report on importance of developing electric vehicles and he argued that electric vehicles are the future transportation in China to save the environment, secure the energy and lead the tech advancement. Suikei (Chuiji) Lo submitted a report on encouraging private investments in desertification control and land restoration. He suggested private investments are more efficient and the current policies are not in place to support the demands.

## **Environmental Awareness Project launched in Wuhan**

Wuhan Environmental Awareness Project "Green traveling and reducing emission" was launched at Shouyi Square, Wuchang, on May 24. More than one thousand of people from gov. agencies, communities, students, and media, etc attended the ceremony. The project has been implemented by Wuhan Green Env. Service Center/IFCE Wuhan Office, with support from IFCE and Wuhan EPA. It is one of eighteen local China's Environmental Awareness projects, co-sponsored by UNDP, China's Environmental Ministry. The project in Wuhan was the only one to be implemented by a grass-root NGO. A dozen of media, including Hubei Daily, Wuhan Evening Newspaper and Wuhan TV, covered the event.

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## **IFCE & Washington, D.C. NEWS**

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### **Ping He attended the ceremony for Gold Medal for International Corporate Achievement in Sustainable Development**



Ping He was invited to attend the ceremony for the 25th Gold Medal for International Corporate Achievement in Sustainable Development on May 8 in Washington DC. The Coca-Cola Company is this year's winner. The event was sponsored by the World Environmental Center. The ceremony was held at the National Building Museum and Mr. Muhtar Kent, Chairman & CEO of Coca-Cola accepted the award on behalf of the company. The World Environment Center Gold Medal for International Corporate Achievement in Sustainable Development was established in 1985 to recognize top industry initiatives in global environmental excellence and sustainable development. Around 300 international corporate and environmental leaders gathered at the event.



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## CHINA-US

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### **China Plans Environmental Rules for Companies Investing Overseas**

“The Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Commerce have drafted a set of mandatory environmental measures that would apply to Chinese outbound investors, the China Daily reports. According to the report, the new rules would require Chinese companies to conduct environmental impact reviews on overseas projects, take measures to protect the environment on all projects (such as including facilities for sewage and waste treatment), abide by China’s international environmental treaties and pay for any environmental damage that results from their projects.

The measures would apparently prevent companies from shopping around to do business in places with the most lax environmental regulations.

By way of comparison, the U.S. generally requires only that its companies adhere to the local laws in the jurisdictions where they operate.

The report noted that China’s government has not received any formal complaints of environmental damage caused by Chinese direct investment overseas. However, environmentalists have warned about the consequences of China’s rapidly rising investments in developing countries with weak legal regimes, especially since the Chinese projects tend to focus on industries that have the potential to strain ecological resources, such as mining, oil and manufacturing.

Last year, Chinese direct investment in non-financial sectors reached \$40.7 billion, an increase of 64% from 2007. In 2002, the figure was only \$2.5 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.”

[Click here to read more about new international environmental law](#)

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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### **Hope, but No Advances, in China-U.S. Climate Talks**

“During a news conference on Thursday night, Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of House, said she was “hopeful” after meeting with a number of officials, including President Hu Jintao and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao.





But Representative F. James Sensenbrenner, a Wisconsin Republican who took part, said he was discouraged by the Chinese refusal to commit to greater cuts in greenhouse gases while insisting that developed nations do more to reduce their emissions.

In previous statements, China has suggested that developed nations reduce emissions by 40 percent by 2020 from 1995 levels. By contrast, Mr. Sensenbrenner said, Chinese officials have linked their proposed reductions to the size of China's economy, which is growing significantly. The resulting math, he said, would mean "a significant increase in emissions in China."

China and the United States are responsible for nearly half the world's output of carbon gases."

[Click here to read more about the recent US-China talks](#)

### **EPA chief: US should take lead on clean energy**

"The top U.S. environment official says it's time for the United States to shed its energy-wasting image and lead the world race for cleaner power sources instead.

After several years with a relatively low profile under President George W. Bush, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency "is back on the job," EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson told The Associated Press on Thursday during a trip to Paris.

What the EPA does domestically this year will be watched closely overseas. Nations worldwide are working toward a major meeting in Copenhagen in December aimed at producing a new global climate pact. The U.S. position on curbing its own pollution and helping poor countries adapt to global warming is seen as key to any new pact.

Jackson was in Paris for international talks on how rich governments can include global climate concerns in overall development aid. She dismissed worries that economic downturn was cutting into aid commitments or investment in new energy resources. She said the United States should take the lead on clean energy technology, recession or no."

[Click here to read more about clean energy initiatives](#)

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## ANALYSIS

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*The Politics of Water Science: On Unresolved Water Problems and Biased Research Agendas*



*By Joyeeta Gupta and Pieter van der Zaag. Copyright 2009 The Center of Strategic and International Studies and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. FORUM; Pg. 14, May 2009*

Joyeeta Gupta and Pieter van der Zaag examine the issues of water scarcity and whether or not the fields of water/marine and geological sciences are doing enough research on sustainable energy. The problem is, as they eloquently put it,

“Funding sources, reward systems, scientific values and paradigms and a researcher's country of residence all push research in certain directions, and by consequence, not in others. In the process, values are intertwined in science. Some science gets more recognition at the cost of other science; some types of science (e.g. indigenous knowledge) are often ignored; and, as former secretary general of the UN points out, some types of problems are just not researched.”

Their conclusions were that there were definitely biases that took place as indirect results of specialization and a lack of enough cooperation between different fields of professions that are in charge of solving water-shortage problems. They recommend that cooperation between law/policy makers and engineers be rewarded more so than they are currently.

## **Meet China's green crusader**



“In the last few years China has begun to take aggressive action to bring its air and water pollution under control. Here are a few examples:

-China's fuel-efficiency standard for cars is currently pegged at 43 miles per gallon, which means that when America's 2020 standards of 35 mpg go into effect they'll be lower than China's minimum standard of today.

-Chief executives of companies found responsible for waste-dumping are being fined 50 percent of their previous year's salary.

-A "green credit policy," which instructs banks not to give loans to energy-intensive, polluting industries and to recall loans when companies are later found to be violation of environmental regulations, went into effect in July 2007.

-An ambitious renewable-energy program, in which hydroelectric, biomass, wind and solar power are to account for 10 percent of China's total energy use by 2010 and 15 percent by 2020, was made public in March 2008.

Credit for most of these measures goes mostly to one man, Pan Yue, vice minister of the newly established Ministry of Environmental Protection. Pan has made it a personal mission to raise



awareness of China's ecological crisis since 2003, when he was appointed vice deputy of the ministry's less powerful predecessor, the State Environmental Protection Administration.

"In 20 years, China has achieved economic results that took a century to attain in the West," Pan says. "But we have also concentrated a century's worth of environmental issues into those 20 years."

[Click here to read more of this editorial](#)

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## READER SUBMISSIONS

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"I'm tired of people using disposable plastic and paper cups and wanted to help them visual how wasteful their habits can be. I stacked 254 plastic cups [one for each work day] in a few stacks like skyscrapers towering over one ceramic mug to symbolize how using one reusable cup can prevent so much waste," wrote *Matthew Spooner, working for KPMG China based in Shanghai.*

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