



International Fund for China's Environment Newsletter

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IFCE ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

IFCE Beijing Office Moved and Adds New Member to the Board of Directors

IFCE and China Sciences Map Universe Tech Ltd. reached an agreement that the Map Universe will host the IFCE Beijing office and provide necessary support. The president of Map Universe, Mr. Yao Xin will join IFCE's board of directors. Map Universe is an established software company specialized in digital mapping, environmental information system and other information management services. Mr. Yao, a senior digital mapping professional, is the founding president of the company.

IFCE Tianjing Liaison Office is Established

IFCE and Tianjing Ecological Education Promotion Council reached an agreement to establish IFCE Tianjing Liaison Office. The Council will provide necessary logistic support to the office. The office will coordinate IFCE's projects and activities in the Tianjin region.



IFCE Board Directors met in Washington DC

The IFCE board directors of Washington, D.C., met in February to discuss new projects and activities for the year of 2009. As in NGO support program, IFCE will continue to provide support to the College Environmental Forum for the annual meeting and to China Youth Climate Action Network for green campus development. For the NGO forum, IFCE will partner with a leading Chinese NGO to co-sponsor it. For tech exchange program, IFCE is working with Dalian Industrial Zone to develop an energy conservation tech demonstration center. Other ongoing projects include biodiversity conservation in Inner Mongolia, community-based environmental and health education, and world natural heritage preservation in Yunnan.



Wuhan Public Environmental Education Project Approved

Wuhan Green Environmental Service Center and IFCE Wuhan office submitted a project called "Green Transportation and Energy Saving Public Education in Wuhan" to the Environmental Education Center, Ministry of Environmental Protection. The project was approved as one of the projects in China Environment Awareness Program, sponsored by UNDP. The project will be co-supported financially by IFCE and UNDP. The project objectives are to promote public transportation, biking, walking, riding environmental-friendly vehicle and car-pooling, etc. and to establish a long-term energy saving mechanism in urban living in Wuhan, the largest city in central China.

Alashan Gov. Delegation in US for Studying Conservation

A delegation from Alashan gov. led by Deputy governor, Mr. Li Chaoying is visiting US for a study tour for biodiversity conservation. The delegation, invited by IFCE, was a part of the ongoing project to enhance the capacity of biodiversity conservation in Alashan region, Inner Mongolia, sponsored by European Union Biodiversity Program.

The delegation visited IFCE, the World Bank, Virginia Tech and Grand Canyon National Park. IFCE also provided training on conservation to the group.

IFCE Environmental Delegation to China in June

IFCE is planning to organize an environmental delegation to visit Beijing, Changsha and Kunming in middle June. The mission is to

- 1) promote advanced concepts and new thoughts/tech in environmental protection and natural resource conservation
- 2) establish direct channels of communication with senior environmental and energy leaders and develop cooperative opportunities in China

If you are interested in joining, please contact Dr. Ping He at phe@ifce.org for details.



Conference on Overcoming Obstacles to U.S.-China Cooperation on Climate Change

Prominent scholars spoke at the Brookings Institution in downtown Washington, DC, addressing the issues of cooperation between the two largest, and most diverse, energy consumers in the world. Zhou Wenzhong, the ambassador of PRC to the United States, also presented opening remarks commending the scholars on their research and recommendations for policy changes. The speakers prescribed 9 recommendations, all in the theme of understanding and cooperation between the two nations relative to their capabilities and economic situations, rather than a set standard for both nations that is unrealistic for either.

[Click here to read more about overcoming obstacles to cooperation on climate change.](#)

CHINA NEWS

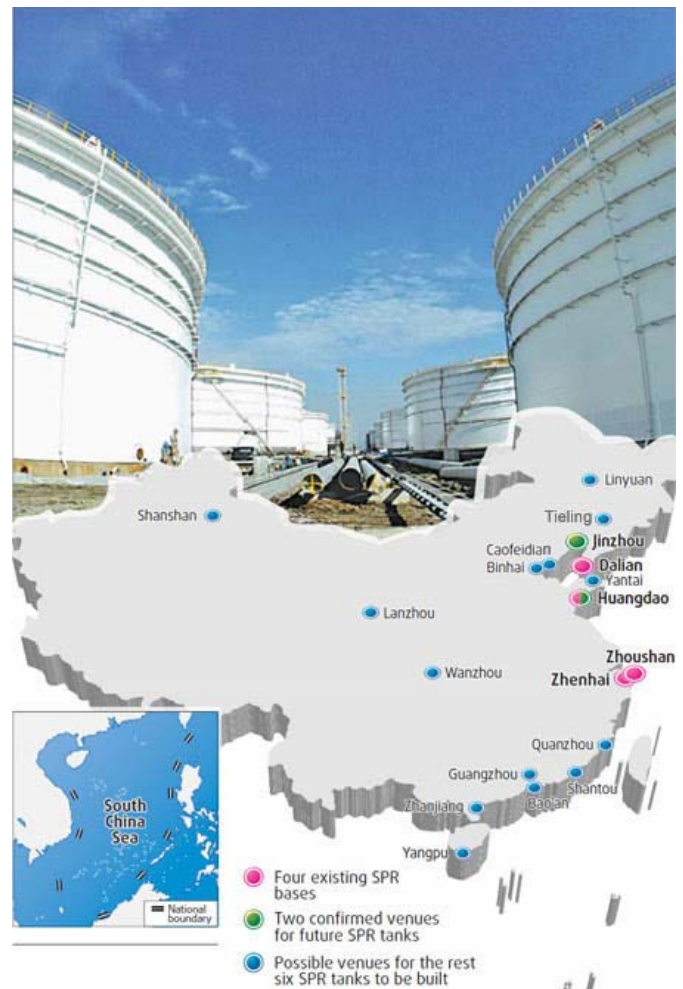
China Bolstering Oil Reserves

China is accelerating the build-up of its oil reserves to avoid the economic dislocations the country suffered in 2008 from fluctuations in the world oil price.

China's National Energy Administration (NEA) recently released a plan to build nine large refining bases in coastal areas over the next three years, sources with the China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Association said last week.

The refinery scheme is part of China's plan to bolster its oil inventories. The NEA announced at a national energy conference in early February that China will, in addition to the current four strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) bases, build eight new ones by 2011. The program will increase China's strategic crude reserve capacity to 44.6 million cu m, or 281 million barrels.

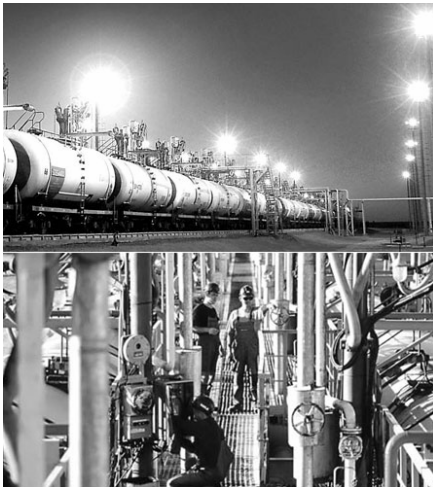
[Click here to read more about China bolstering oil reserves](#)





China National Petroleum Corporation Seeing Record Profit After Taking Over PetroKazakhstan

When China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) took over PetroKazakhstan (PK) four years ago, the Canada-based oil company suffered from aging refineries, inadequate pipelines, declining output, and dismal sales.



Today the company's annual crude oil production exceeds 10 million tons, accounting for 16 percent of Kazakhstan's total oil output. Its crude oil refining capacity tops 4 million tons a year and the company is seeing record net profits and cash flow.

[Click here to read more about the PetroKazakhstan takeover](#)

Snakebite expert educating the public about snake bite safety

A snakebite expert is currently raising 1,000 cobra snakes in his farm and hopes to educate the public about the serpents. Cui Guibin, from Shibi township in the city of Qionghai, Hainan province, is a local expert who has cured snake bites for 14 years. Known as the "king of snakes," he has helped more than 600 villagers who were bitten by poisonous snakes in past years.



Cui started to raise snakes and treat bite victims in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region 17 years ago. He said he wants to open a facility to educate people about the snakes and their uses.

[Click here to read more about the snakebite educator](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Obama to shift global priorities in global warming

Until recently, the idea that the world's most powerful nations might come together to tackle global warming seemed an environmentalist's pipe dream. The Kyoto Protocol, signed in 1997, was widely viewed as badly flawed. Many countries that signed the





accord lagged far behind their targets in curbing carbon dioxide emissions. The United States refused even to ratify it. And the treaty gave a pass to major emitters in the developing world like China and India.

But within weeks of taking office, President Obama has radically shifted the global equation, placing the United States at the forefront of the international climate effort and raising hopes that an effective international accord might be possible. Mr. Obama's chief climate negotiator, Todd Stern, said last week that the United States would be involved in the negotiation of a new treaty — to be signed in Copenhagen in December — “in a robust way.”

[Click here to read more about Obama policy changes](#)

Passed budget to generate economic growth and revenue by prioritizing “green” economy in the US, as an example for global priorities as well

WASHINGTON — The Obama budget promises what it calls a comprehensive effort to address global warming, slash oil imports and create a new “green” economy that produces millions of new jobs. The White House estimates that the plan, built around a cap-and-trade program to limit greenhouse gas emissions, will produce \$150 billion over 10 years beginning in 2012 to finance renewable energy projects and another \$65 billion a year to pay for middle-class tax credits. Any further revenue from the sale of emissions permits will be returned to families, communities and businesses that suffer hardship as the result of higher energy prices, the budget blueprint states.

[Click here to read more about "green" budgeting](#)

ANALYSIS

Hu Initiates Change in Rural Land Reform

Cheng Li, “Hu Jintao’s Land Reform: Ambition, Ambiguity, and Anxiety,” *China Leadership Monitor*, No. 27, (Winter 2009).



Cheng Li’s analysis tackles the fundamental questions presented by Hu Jintao’s new land reform policies, and the ethical and economical aspects behind it. Hu’s new plan is designed to give rural farmers more rights and market incentives through various “transfer of land” processes (*liuzhuan tudl*). These, in turn, will help boost productivity and increase



income.

Some dispute the motivation behind the change in policy, but it is clear this could be the beginning of a dramatic shift in land ownership trends in rural China. Cheng Li demonstrates that issues of widening economic disparity, land productivity, and the farmers' reaction to the new policy are all important factors in determining its success, as well as the lasting legacy of Hu Jintao.

[Click here for the full analysis of Hu's new land reform policy](#)

Carbon Tariffs: Not a Useful Tool in U.S.-China Trade Relations

Trevor Houser, "Why Carbon Tariffs Are A Bad Idea- -For Now," *Peterson Institute for International Economics*, March 26, 2009.

Trevor Houser responds to statements by President Obama's new Energy Secretary Steven Chu that carbon tariffs could be used against Chinese goods in order to "level the playing field". Houser argues that a carbon tariff against Chinese products would do more harm than good, and could potentially start a trade war that would have serious repercussions for both sides. He notes that China has shown a willingness to reduce its own emissions, with Beijing having agreed to help the globe reach a goal of a 50% reduction by 2050. Houser also believes that a carbon tariff on Chinese goods would not help because a vast majority of the greenhouse gases released by China are from industries such as cement and steel that produce for domestic consumption, and thus would not be subject to this tariff anyway.

[Click here for the full analysis of carbon tariffs](#)

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