

Dear readers:

Welcome! The newly modified CEW now has 7 fixed columns. Some of the columns are newly added and the contents of some columns were changed. We are now gathering our readers' feedback on what they think about the new columns. If you have any suggestions on CEW, please contact us at: [cew-editor@enviroinfo.org.cn](mailto:cew-editor@enviroinfo.org.cn)

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-CEW Ed.



Forest fires spreading in Inner Mongolia



The Dazhan river wetland, which is located in Heilongjiang Province, is the biggest forest wetland in China

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## ■ China environmental policies

### The Ministry of Agriculture publishes the "Executive Advice on the Action Plan on Food of No Public Hazard"

The Advice confirms that after 5 years, the quality safety levels of the production bases, which produce fresh living agricultural products of no public hazard including vegetables, edible mushrooms, animal products, and aquatic products have to achieve the required standards of the nation. The market sampling test passing rates of the fresh living agricultural products from wholesale markets, large agricultural trading markets and chain supermarkets in large and medium-sized cities have to be over 95%. This will basically solve the problem of acute poisoning of edible agricultural products.

The Advice announces that in 5 years time the Ministry of Agriculture and related national offices will struggle to solve basically the problem of "dining-table pollution" by means of a well-established structure and perfect system, to monitor the procedures for the quality safety control of agricultural products. This will ensure the quality safety indicators to achieve the medium level of the well-developed countries.

According to the information given, the "Action Plan on Food of No Public Hazard" of the Ministry of Agriculture will recently emphasize solving the problem of over dose of residue of organic phosphate fertilizers in vegetables, the problem of abuse of forbidden drugs in the rearing of animals and fowls, the problem of pollution of shellfish products and the problem of quality safety of exported agricultural products.

From 1 September 2002, the professional standards of 137 items of food of no public hazard such as "cucumber-food of no public hazard", written or amended by the organization of the Ministry of Agriculture, will be implemented. Among the 137 items, the standards of 126 items are newly written by the organization and those of 11 items are amended. The contents of the standards include the environmental conditions of the places of the products, the requirements of the technology of production and the standard of quality safety of products. This is a new list of standards of food of no public hazard. After the first list of standards of 73 items last year.

### Objective of China's soil maintenance and ecological construction for the next 50 years

The objective of China's soil maintenance and ecological construction strategy for the next 50 years is to basically realize beautiful mountains and rivers. This will be divided into three steps. **Step 1:** by 2010, the area of newly handled soil erosion will be 550 000 square kilometers. There will also be preliminary results in key projects in areas where soil erosion is serious in the Yangtze River, and the upper and middle reaches of the Yellow River. **Step 2:** from 2011 to 2030, more than 60% of areas experiencing soil erosion will obtain differing levels of handling. Sound soil maintenance prevention and supervision systems and dynamic survey networks will be set up throughout China, and the soil maintenance law and regulation system will be formulated and perfected. **Step 3:** from 2030 to 2050, a good ecological system appropriate for the economy and for sustainable development will be set up. Soil erosion and desertification will be controlled. Slopes will become terraced fields, and areas where forests can grow will be greened comprehensively.

## The Ministry of Construction released 104 technological advancement popularization projects, including 14 environmental protection projects

At present, in the “2002 technological advancement popularization projects and key technical demonstration projects conference”, the Ministry of Construction released 104 “2002 technological advancement popularization projects of the Ministry of Construction”, including 14 environmental protection projects. The implementation of these popularization projects started as soon as they are released. They will remain valid for 3 years.

For detailed information please click: [www.cin.gov.cn/tech/project/2002/default.htm](http://www.cin.gov.cn/tech/project/2002/default.htm)

## Guangzhou will implement new automobile noise control standard

It's heard that Guangzhou EPB and other concerned departments are drafting “automobile noise level limit and measuring method”. They are also adjusting the regulations on speed limit, allowable time period for traveling, passable road sections, and measurements and limit of automobile noise. To solve the noise problem in the bystreets, regulation that restricts traveling by motorcycle in bystreets at night is also drafted. The new regulations will hopefully be implemented in October. Additionally, noise-blocking barrier will be installed along highways. The residents living beside main roads will have noise-blocking windows installed.

Even though the environmental quality in Guangzhou is improving year by year, the automobile noise pollution is still pretty serious.

## ■ Dynamics

### The fundamental situation of products with green-food labels in China in the first half of 2002

In the first half of 2002, in China, 614 products from 303 enterprises have achieved the right of using green-food labels, with an increase of 96% compared with those within the same period last year. The green-food products mainly include the category of grains and oils, the category of animals, fowls, eggs and milk, the category of vegetables and the category of drinks. With reference to the distributions of the areas of products, the regions of Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia and Shaanxi contribute 67% of the total green-food products in China. Besides, the rate of return of the green-food product enterprises has further increased, to about 80%.

Up to the end of June 2002, altogether 2791 products from 1402 production enterprises have achieved green-food labels in which 62 green-food products have AA grade and 2729 have A grade. The green-food label products have increased by 40%, compared with the same period in 2001.

## The statistics of the 6 key forestry projects in 2001

Please refer to the table below for details:

Name of Project	Areas covered	Tasks conducted in 2001
Protection of natural forest resource	Upper stream of Yangtze River, upper and middle stream of Yellow River. State owned forest in "Dongbei" area and Inner Mongolia	948,100 hectares of afforestation; 395,500 hectares of "sealing the mountain and cultivating forest"; cultivation of seedling 60,000 hectares
Returning farmland to forest	All 25 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipality directly under the Central Government except the city of Shanghai, Jiangsu Province, Zhejiang Province, Fujian Province, Shandong Province, Guangdong Province, and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.	Returning farmland to forest and grassland 489,100 hectares; planting trees and grass on barren land and hills 545,300 hectares (including forest 484,900 hectares)
Construction of "Sanbei", Yangtze River Valley, and other protection forest system	Western part of "Dongbei" area, northern part of "Huabei" area, most of "Xibei" area, Xinjiang Construction Corps, coastal area, Pearl River, Taihang Mountain, six independent protection forest projects in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage of plain afforestation.	"Sealing the mountain and cultivate forest" 3.0765 million hectares in the year; cultivate seedling 82,000 hectares (including new seedling cultivation area of 52,600 hectares and new fine breed base 11,900 hectares in this year)
Treatment of sandstorm source near Beijing and Tianjin	Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei Province, Shanxi Province and Inner Mongolia. A total area of 458,000 square kilometers.	270,000 hectares of grassland treatment, 70,000 hectares of small drainage basin treatment, and 2491 associated water conservancy projects; 217,300 hectares of afforestation on barren land, barren hills, and desert; "Close the hillside to facilitate afforestation" 97,500 hectares; Newly constructed seedling base 687 hectares; constructed grass seedling base 5160 hectares.
Wild animal protection and the construction of natural reserves	—	Newly constructed 249 various types of natural reserves, including 12 state-level, 72 province-level, and 165 local and county-level natural reserves. The area of natural reserves increased 58.4216 million hectares.
Construction of "fast-growth" and fertile forestry base in key areas	18 provinces and autonomous regions including: Hebei Province, Inner Mongolia, Hainan Province, Yunnan Province...	Cultivated "fast-growth" fertile timber forest 88,870 hectares, including paper pulp timer 21,372 hectares, artificial plank timber 21,468 hectares, large diameter timber 15,637 hectares, and other timber forest 30,393 hectares.

## Review of accidents during production in enterprises of China in the 1st half of this year

From January to July this year, a total of 549939 accidents occurred in China, causing 65350 deaths. Eighty-two major accidents occurred, causing 1640 deaths. More than 10 people died in each of the 82 major accidents. Comparing with the same period of last year, the total number of accidents remained about the same, and the total number of deaths decreased by 4 or 0.24%. Six huge accidents occurred with more than 30 deaths each. The total number of deaths for the 6 huge accidents is 484. Comparing with last year, the number of huge accidents decreased by 5 or 45%, and the number of deaths they caused decreased by 53 or 9.9%. The following table shows the statistics of major accidents (with death rate of more than 10) during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of this year comparing with last year.



## China will start second round underground water survey and evaluation

It is said that the second round underground water survey and evaluation includes 8 items. Some of them are underground water system structure survey, underground water quality survey, and deep layer underground water usability survey. The emphasis of the survey will be placed on topic such as “the trend in the change of underground water environment under the influence of human activity”. The survey will last for 9 years.

The first round of underground water resource evaluation basically found out about the quantity, quality, and time-space distribution of China’s underground water resource. It was completed in 1984.

## The key scheme of treating and developing Yellow River was announced

The key scheme of treating and developing Yellow river that was just developed will focus on solving three big challenges of flood threats: conflicts between the supply and demand of water resources and the degradation of ecological environments.

The scheme proposed: to built large reservoirs at the intermediate stream of main braches of

the Yellow river, establish a drainage system based on projects of anti-flood banks and water course management, and direct floods to oceans with good use of water courses; to implement large scale water saving projects in the whole Yellow river irrigation area in order to ensure water saving irrigation areas to be 64 percent of the total by 2010; to develop water saving industries and implement the control of both the total pollution amount discharged in the river and water quality at boundaries among provinces; to establish water distribution center of the total flow of the river, implement standardized management of water quality and quantity and conservation; and to accelerate the establishment of ecological improvements.

### Key environmental protection laboratory passes checks

The “State Key Laboratory for Environmental Protection Water Environment Experiments and Pollution Control” was established by the South China Environmental Science Research Institute of the State Environmental Protection Administration, and recently passed its checks. The laboratory is one of the first group of three key state environmental laboratories established by the State Environmental Protection Administration in 1999. The laboratory targets water environment characteristics in different areas of China. Through mathematical experiments, physics experiments, and chemical and biological tests, it carries out research in changes to water environmental pollution and decomposition mechanisms in order to determine the self cleaning capacity, and to draw up laws and regulations on all kinds of water issues. In the past two years, the laboratory has undertaken many important scientific tasks, and has obtained some important scientific results.

### China will complete building her modern water-saving agricultural system

“Water-saving agriculture” is one of the important technologies in the 10<sup>th</sup> five-year plan. The three levels of design include 1) water-saving agricultural technology, 2) research and asset-becoming of facilities and important production and 3) water-saving agricultural technology integration and demonstration. On the completion of the project, the level of the water-saving agricultural technology will be, on the whole, up to the international well-developed standard in mid-ninety of the twentieth century. About 100 modern water-saving agricultural high technology products will be developed. 20~30 comparatively big enterprises for water-saving agricultural facilities and products will be cultivated and fostered. 10~15 modern water-saving agricultural technology integration and demonstration regions will be established.

## ■ Local comprehensive news

### The Ministry of Water Resources exposes illegal digging of sand and stone to the media

By the request of concerned departments of the state, Honghu and Xianning Cities of Hubei Province, Chishui City of Guizhou Province promptly investigated the problem and took action.

In the past few years, illegal digging of sand and stone in riverbeds has threatened the safety of levees. It is introduced that sand and stone can be dug in over 600 kilometers of riverbed at the middle and lower stream of Yangtze River passing Yichang City in provinces including Hubei,

Jiangxi, Anhui, and Jiangsu. The exploitable sand resource reaches 40 million tons per year. Due to the growth of market demand, sand price increased, and so did illegal digging. During this year, concerned provinces took action to handle the problem. Henan Province dealt with over 400 cases of illegal digging. Jiangsu Province captured 768 illegal digging boats.

### **Industrial pollution problem in the South-North Water Transfer Project central line water resource zone is solved**

South-North Water Transfer Project central line water resource zone is located at Danjiangkou Reservoir at the middle stream of Hanjiang River. At present, the industrial wastewater pollution problem is basically solved. The focus of pollution treatment is shifting to sewage from daily living and agricultural pollution. Seventy percent of the Danjiangkou Reservoir surface area is under jurisdiction of Shiyan City in Hubei Province. The mayor of Shiyan says that the first stage construction of Shendinghe wastewater treatment plant will be completed by the end of this year. After this, the plant can process 55,000 tons of wastewater daily. After the construction of the plant is totally finished, it will operate at the designed capacity of 160,000 tons daily.

### **Heihe River artificial water control has been accomplished**

Heihe River artificial water transfer started on July 8<sup>th</sup> and ended on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. According to the survey results from hydrological departments in Inner Mongolia, a total of 23.5 million cubic meters of water is transferred to Dongjuyan lake of Ejin Banner in Inner Mongolia. Currently, the water surface area of Dongjuyan Lake is 23.66 square kilometers, and deepest depth is 0.63 meters. When the water is fullest in Dongjuyan Lake, its water storage volume is 10.36 million cubic meters. After Heihe River ran dry for ten years, signs of life are returning to Dongjuyan Lake.

### **Shenyang will completely reconstruct municipal sewage system in 3 years**

The City of Shenyang decided to completely modify its sewage system in 3 years. US\$ 24.39~36.58 million will be invested each year. The new sewage system will be planned and constructed according to modern standards. Sewage and rainwater will have separate passage. Rainwater discharge planning will be inter-connected with the constructions of water system and artificial lake.

It is introduced that the current sewage system in Shenyang has problems such as pipeline aging, narrow pipeline, and irrational distribution of pipelines. Sewage discharge problem already affected the normal operation of the city.

### **Eighteen river sections in Guizhou Province are polluted heavily**

According to the monitoring data of 30 main rivers in Guizhou Province from 57 monitoring stations in the second quarter this year, the water of 36 river sections reached Grade II and Grade III of the State Surface Water Quality, the water of 3 river sections reached Grade IV quality, and the water of 18 river sections is polluted heavily, the water quality is Grade V or worse.

## ■ Business information

### State encourages private enterprises to participate in investment in the environmental protection industry

It is understood from the Deputy Director General of the Department of Science and Technology Standards of the State Environmental Protection Administration that, during the Tenth Five-Year Plan, investment in environmental protection throughout China requires US\$85.36 billion, representing 1.3% of GDP, and representing a total investment of 3.6% of total fixed assets. This represents a 1% increase over the Ninth Five-Year Plan. With the great increase in investment in the environmental protection industry during the Tenth Five-Year Plan, more and more private enterprises will enter. Facing this, private enterprises can, in accordance with their self-advantage, actively develop management activities for the environmental protection industry.

It is understood that, at present, government investment makes up 56% of total requirements in investment in environmental protection industry. Enterprise investment mainly refers to handling industrial pollution. Enterprise investment mainly refers to handling industrial pollution in accordance with the principles of the "Polluter's Burden" and is solved by the self-responsibility of enterprises. Enterprise investment makes up 44% of total requirements.

### For the first time China establishes the "system of project ownership" for an important technological project in environmental protection

The project is the "technology and project demonstration of the control of water pollution and the recovery of water system in Taihu Lake" and has formally begun in Wuxi City of Jiangsu Province recently. The Ministry of Science and Technology and the Government of Jiangsu Province have jointly invested US\$0.2 hundred million in this project. In the opening ceremony of the project, the project owner, Jiangsu Wuxi Taihu Lake and River Treatment Company Limited, announced the bidding of this project. The first research topics open for tenders in society are the "technology for water quality improvement in water resources of Taihu", the "system of technology for the control of surface pollution in the network of waterways", and the "technology of environmental protection dredge and ecological reconstruction for seriously polluted water system and bottom soil".

According to the introduction of the Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, the System of Project Ownership will encourage the owner of the project, through the implementations of items of the project, to become a professional enterprise for treatment of lakes and rivers, with clear equity ownership, operating according to the procedures of modern system of enterprises and possessing the initiative power of independent research.

### The construction of Si'nan River Power Station started

The power station project is a part of West-East Power Transfer Project in Yunan Province, and was started recently. The project will be put into operation in 2006. Yunan Dianneng Group Holding Company, Yunnan Development and Investment Ltd., and MuoJiang County government invested RMB 1100 million for this project.

The main stream of Si'nan River is about 70 kilometers in length. The river valley covers

1655 square kilometers. The average runoff rate at the bayou is 45.1 cubic meters per second. The utilized river stretch for Sinan power station is 34.3 kilometers. The total installed generator capacity is 200,000 kilowatt.

### **The important embankment and repair projects in Changjiang River will be completed**

The projects include the grade 1 and grade 2 embankments and inter-embankment buildings in selected embankments, reinforcement of bases and anti-leakage settlements, and consolidation of bases by stones. Such projects have great difficulty in carrying out and require high technology. They formally began in August 1999 with a total investment of RMB6.5 billion, including 18 projects and 207 sections over four provinces of Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi and Anhui and with more than 2000 kilometers in length.

To date, 89% of the projects have been completed and the projects will be handed over and inspected step-by-step, section-by-section before the beginning of next year. Up to date, the passing rate of sections inspected is 100%, with a rate of excellent or good performance over 80%.

### **Guangxi will invest US\$ 1.04 billion to construct new power stations**

It has been revealed that, this year, Guangxi will newly invest in four large electrical source projects, apart from continuing with the Longtan power station and Baise Water Resource Control Station, which commenced operations last year. The projects will be split into: the Pingban hydroelectric power station, comprising a total investment of US\$47.56 million and which is planned to commence construction in November; the Etan hydroelectric power station, involving an investment of US\$62.19 million, and which is planned to commence construction in December; the Changzhou Water Resource Control Station involving a total investment of US\$25.60 million, which is planned to commence at the end of the year; and the Heshan Electrical Factory expansion project, involving an investment of US\$119.51 million.

### **The China Shell Crude Oil Chemical Project will begin in September**

The project is situated at Daya Wan of Huizhou in Guangdong, jointly developed and operated by China Ocean Crude Oil Head Company, Guangdong Province Investment and Development Company and Anglo-Netherlands Shell Chemical Engineering Company Limited. The total investment is US\$4.35 billion, of equal shares between China and foreign countries. On completion, the project will produce 0.8 billion tones of ethene and more than 2.3 million tones of crude oil products and byproducts. The project will be completed and have production in 2005. It is predicted that the annual sales income will be US\$1.7 billion.

## **■ Activities**

### **“Sino-International Coal Processing/Utilization and Environmental Protection Conference/Exhibition” will be staged**

China Coal Industry Network, China Coal Processing and Utilization Association, and World

Energy Council will jointly host the exhibition. The exhibition will be staged from October 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> in Beijing. The conference will hold special topic discussions on coal washing/selection and processing, integrated resource utilization, environmental protection, and energy conservation. Equipment makers in the fields like coal washing/selection and processing, coal mine safety, coalmine environmental protection, gangue and coal mud processing will display their advanced technologies and products in the exhibition. Well know chambers of commerce and enterprises will send representatives to the exhibition. Included are large coal enterprises in China, Austrade, South Africa Mining C of C, DBT from Germany, and JCOAL from Japan.

### **“Develop the west environmental protection strategy” conference held**

The conference was held in Gansu province. At the conference, relevant experts and professions discussed in detail and in depth important issues facing China in environmental protection, including current international and domestic trends, China’s entry to the WTO and ecological protection, trade and environmental protection, patents and environmental protection, environment and economic development. The specialist knowledge and basic abilities of environmental protection workers was also discussed. Nearly 1000 people from the Gansu environmental protection system and enterprises participated at the conference.

### **“Supervision system for China’s urban water supply and quality” project conference held**

The Ministry of Construction, the United Nations Development Program, and the China International Economic Technology and Exchange Centre jointly held the conference in Beijing. At the conference, project technical consultants, and staff from the Water Resources Center of the Ministry of Construction, discussed the complete framework (discussion) for the “Supervision System for China’s Urban Water Supply and Quality”. At the same time, each representative introduced the progress of water quality survey developments in each area, and the problems that still exist. They also offered advice and opinions on the complete framework (discussion) of the “Supervision System for China’s Urban Water Supply and Quality”.

It is understood that the research topic of the “Supervision System for China’s Urban Water Supply and Quality” Project, in which the UNDP provided assistance, aims to discuss the feasibility and complete program for setting up a supervision system for urban water supply and quality by carrying out experimental research in several cities. The results are expected to inform national legislation and government policies.

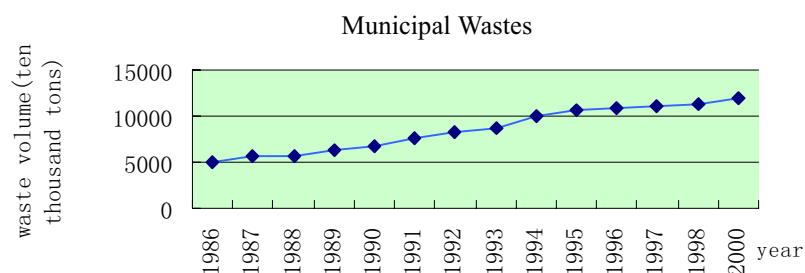
## **■ Special report**

### **The pollution and management of the Solid Waste in China (I)**

The concept of solid waste in China includes municipal wastes and solid industrial wastes. Solid industrial wastes include non-hazardous solid industrial wastes, hazardous solid wastes and radioactive wastes.

1. The current situation of municipal wastes: the volume of municipal wastes shows an increase

each year. The graph below shows the total volume of municipal wastes in China of year 1995~1998 and 2000.



Municipal wastes increased quickly before 1995, with average annual increase rate of 12 percent. This speed decreased after 1995 and is about 4.8 %. The total municipal wastes amounted to 120 million tons in 2000. As predicted, the total municipal wastes will amount to 158 million tons in 2005 and 219 millions tons in 2015.

Landfill is currently the major method of the waste treatment, which disposed 79.2 % of total municipal wastes. Wastes treated through incinerating only accounts for a small fraction and are only practiced in a few cities. Municipal wastes in most cities are still mixed, which increased the difficulty of treating wastes and caused severe environmental pollution of the neighboring region of the landfill sites. The land used for landfill occupied a substantial area of 500 million square meters. The solid wastes were treated to be harmless only accounts for 6 percent of total solid wastes in the country in 2000. This rate is only 30 percent in Guangdong, a province with better practice of the waste treatment, and is much lower than those of developed counties. Most landfill sites still do not meet the national standard rates of this kind of treatment.

Taking the example of waste batteries, the recycle rate of batteries is less than 2 percent in China, a big battery production and consumption country, with annual production of 14 billion (one third of the world production) and consumption of 7-8 billion batteries. Main battery products include Zinc manganese and Cadmium nickel batteries. Some of them such as Cadmium nickel batteries and batteries with mercury contain hazardous material and will pollute the environment and have long-term impact, threatening human health directly and indirectly. The first battery recycle and disposal factory is the Donghua Xinqing waste battery recycle and disposal factory in Yi county of Heibei province. US\$0.85 million was invested to establish the factory, which started operation in Aug 2001. It is said that the first phase project will solve the problem of separating different materials in batteries and the annual disposal capacity will be several thousand tons of waste batteries after the second project phase completes.

The waste disposal in China currently is still in the experimental stage of recycling different types of wastes. Many cities started experimental project of minimizing and reusing wastes. Cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou have started experiments of separately collecting different kinds of wastes in residential communities. P. R. China Solid Waste Pollution Control Law was enacted, prescribing the collecting of wastes separately. Departments concerned are drafting Waste Law based on proposals from NGOs.

**(Note: some statistics are obtained from the Research Report of Sustainable Development Strategies of China, 2001)**

## ■ Air quality this week

Monitoring data from China Environmental Quality Supervision Station indicates that from Aug.2 to Aug 8, most of the 47 major monitoring cities were 'good' in air quality. Air quality for cities with slight pollution was the following: Shenyang for two days, Hohhot and Lanzhou for one day.

**Please indicate data providers when quoting those of China EnviroData Weekly!**

### ■ About us:

China EnviroData Weekly is the only bilingual weekly in the environmental field that is produced in mainland China and launched globally at the same time. The weekly is created by Beijing Intellectual Power Consulting Co., Ltd. in March of 2002. IED (Institute of Environment & Development) and IFCE(International Fund for China's Environment) are our partners of CEW. IFCE will be in charge of promoting the English version of CEW.

Beijing Intellectual Power Consulting Co., Ltd. is devoted to the environmental and ecological fields of China, undertaking information & data collecting, project consulting, and research. A group of senior experts in environment protection & education, finance, business management and policy studies, work for you to provide highly targeted data and analysis at firsthand.

Hope our work be useful to you who care about environment and ecology in China