

Using Other People's Water: This month we take a closer look at water embedded in trade. The Xi-Trump summit saw an end to China's ban on US beef imports but does this really benefit the US given beef's huge water footprint? For water-stressed China it makes sense to use someone else's water to produce beef. To really get a handle on who's using whose water we sat down with Prof. Hoekstra, creator of the water footprint concept, who shares the hard truths on the challenges ahead over virtual water trade. Indeed, the idea of a water footprint is not without its critics. We take a look at the criticisms and share five reasons why the concept is relevant. Meanwhile, groundwater globally is being over extracted to grow cotton. Who is to blame - China, fast fashion? We explore growth trends of major fashion brands. Water is also embedded in electricity. Here we explore water flows in China's grid. China wants to embed environmental performance in a company's credit rating. Dr. Guo of the China Financial Association's Green Finance Expert Committee expands on how publicly available environmental data can help do this. The public can also help safeguard water resources as Earthwatch Institute's Chick shares. FreshWater Watch connects volunteers and scientists to fast-track research. In the new phase of balancing economy and environment, will the future point to the import of more water-intensive goods like beef? It's time to rethink trade; best to not be too over-reliant on other people's water.



APRIL NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL 🐾

Using Other People's Water: This month we take a closer look at water embedded in trade. The Xi-Trump summit saw an end to China's ban on US beef imports. On the surface this appears to benefit the US, but does it? Beef has a huge water footprint and using water from the US to produce beef makes sense for water-stressed China.

To get a handle on who's using whose water, who better to talk to than the creator of the water footprint concept. Prof. Arjen Y. Hoekstra shares hard truths on the challenges ahead over virtual water trade, water scarcity and over-consumption. But the idea of water footprint and embedded water is not without its detractors. We take a closer look at these criticisms and still find the concept of water footprint relevant. Check out our five reasons why.

Meanwhile, global aquifers are being sucked dry to grow various crops. A deeper dive finds cotton among the Top 5 crops causing the most groundwater depletion in production globally. Who's to blame? Is it China? Or are fast fashion brands like Zara, H&M and Uniqlo sucking us dry? Read on...

It's not just food and fashion; water is also embedded in electricity. Here we explore water flows in China's grid, which are transferred from the parched West to feed demand in coastal urban areas. Will this change how the grid develops? Should virtual water influence policy and trade?

In China, water caps and allocation permits similar to those recommended by Prof. Hoekstra are already in place. The nation also wants to embed environmental performance in a company's credit rating. Dr. Guo Peiyuan of the China Financial Association's Green Finance Expert Committee, expands on how publicly available environmental data can be used to help China transition.

The public itself too, can play a bigger part in safeguarding water resources by engaging in citizen science. Earthwatch Institute's Benita Chick explores how FreshWater Watch, the first initiative of its kind, joins volunteers and scientists to fast-track research that otherwise would have taken 11 years to conduct.

In the new phase of balancing the economy and environment, China could use virtual water trade as a way to manage the nation's water resources. Exporting precious water through Made-in-China products cannot continue forever, so will the future point to the import of more water-intensive goods like beef? Anything is possible - it's time to rethink trade; best to not be too over-reliant on other people's water.

**Water Footprint: The Road Ahead**

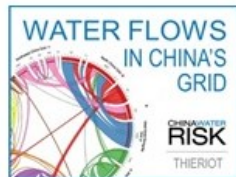
Prof. Arjen Hoekstra, the creator of the water footprint concept, talks to us about hard truths on the challenges ahead over virtual water trade, water scarcity & over-consumption

[Read this article →](#)

**Fast Fashion: Sucking Aquifers Dry?**

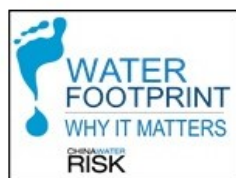
Groundwater is over-extracted to grow cotton. As the world's largest importer of cotton, is it China's fault? Or is fast fashion to blame? We explore trends in the growth across major brands, China's imports & global cotton production

[Read this article →](#)

**Water Flows In China's Grid**

Embedded water is everywhere and that includes electricity. We review recent findings that show how and where virtual water flows through the grid. Will this change how China's grid develops?

[Read this article →](#)

**Water Footprint: Why It Matters**

Despite growing recognition, a water footprint is not without its detractors, mainly economists and life-cycle scholars. However, we still think it's relevant for policy-making in China. Check out our five reasons why

[Read this article →](#)

**China's Increasing Use Of Public Environmental Data**

China wants a green credit rating system. Dr Guo Peiyuan, a member of China Financial Association's Green Finance Expert Committee, expands on publicly available environmental data and how it helps

[Read this article →](#)

**FreshWater Watch: Citizen Science At Work**

Earthwatch Institute's Benita Chick explores how the public can work with scientists to fast-track 11 years worth of water research. Find out what local and global impacts such programmes can make

[Read this article →](#)

TAPPING IN 🚰

Government

- State Council: [Key Points on Government Work for 2017](#): annual water quality rankings for cities & environ info of key polluting enterprises
- State Council: [Opinions on the Innovation of Investment & Financing Scheme for Agri Infrastructure](#): promote govt financial innovations; establish PPP scheme
- NDRC, NEA: [Notice on Easing Restrictions in PowerGen & Consumption](#): marketise electricity trade; y-o-y reduction of coal-fired powergen quota (2017 = <70% of 2016)
- NDRC: [Catalog of Key Technology on National Key Energy Saving Low Carbon Emission](#)
- NAFMII: [Guidelines for Green Debt Financing Instruments of Non-Financial Enterprises](#): insurance, pensions et al. encouraged to invest

Reports

- UNESCO: [UN World Water Development Report 2017](#): globally 80% wastewater not treated
- Barclays: [The Water Challenge: Preserving a Global Resource](#)
- Dalin, C. et al: [Groundwater Depletion Embedded in International Food Trade](#)
- IWMI, World Bank: [Beyond "More Crop per Drop": Evolving Thinking on Agricultural Water Productivity](#)
- Prof. A.Y. Hoekstra: [Water Footprint Assessment: Evolvement of a New Research Field](#)
- ICMM, IFC: [Shared Water, Shared Responsibility, Shared Approach: Water in the Mining Sector](#): 70% of operations from six largest mining co's are in water-stressed countries
- WaterAid: [Wild Water: The State of the World's Water 2017](#)
- Greenpeace, Sierra Club, CoalSwarm: [Boom & Bust 2017: Tracking the Global Coal Plant Pipeline](#)

Interest

- MEP: More irregularities in environ inspections, including unauthorised restarting of production
- Zhejiang: to introduce 1st provincial law to empower river chiefs
- Bank performance ratings in China to include green financing
- China's real estate industry launches green index to manage supply chains in steel, cement & iron
- Graphene-based sieve that removes salt from seawater created
- Two glaciers in India granted 'rights of human beings' for protection

Hot on Weibo:

- 7 inspection teams investigated heavy pollution in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei; found 75 problems in 121 places

FOLLOW US →



FORWARD TO A FRIEND →



Contact Us:
If you have questions, please send us an e-mail at info@chinawaternrisk.org.

Address
China Water Risk
9 Queen's Road Central
Suite 2406
Hong Kong -
Hong Kong

[Add us to your address book](#)

[See this email in a browser](#) 🌐

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update preferences](#)