

**Reform! Long Live the Ecological Civilisation:** China's "Two Sessions" weren't just about a "President for Life", an "ecological civilisation" is now enshrined in the constitution and ministerial reforms are imminent. What do these mean for water? Pay attention to our five highlights or risk being blindsided! Don't just take our views. See what top commentators have to say on China's global leadership on the environment as City University's Nanda summarises. Also, hear from water experts Biswas and Tortajada on China's soft power expansion and hurdles ahead. All these will need the help of finance and technological innovation. Hong Kong appears ready to lead in sustainable finance, as RS Group's Kelly, Ng and Lui find from the Sustainable Finance Initiative's first market-survey. As for innovation, China can learn from Singapore in developing new technology to produce clean water. Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy's Lee and Tortajada expand. The era of Beautiful China has "officially" begun. Start by catching up with our 2017-2018 review of key water policies.



MARCH NEWSLETTER

## EDITORIAL 🌱

**Reform! Long Live the Ecological Civilisation:** China's "Two Sessions" weren't just about a "President for Life", an "ecological civilisation" is now enshrined in the constitution and ministerial reforms are imminent.

China intends to merge its environmental ministries (water, forests & ocean) with the Ministry of Land & Resources to form a new Ministry of Natural Resources - imagine, water and forests are just as important as mined ores. Also, the MEP will be "super-sized" into the Ministry of Ecological Environment. What do these mean for water? Pay attention to our five highlights of the Two Sessions or risk being blindsided!

Don't just take our views. See what top commentators, from the founder of TECONET to the Head of Asia-Pacific for Bloomberg New Energy Finance, have to say on China's global leadership on the environment as City University's Nanda summarises. Also, hear from water experts Biswas and Tortajada on China's soft power expansion and hurdles ahead.

All these will need the help of finance and technological innovation. While Hong Kong lags in water tariff reform, it appears ready to lead in sustainable finance, as RS Group's Kelly, Ng and Lui find from the Sustainable Finance Initiative's first market-survey. As for innovation, China can learn from Singapore in developing new technology to produce clean water without sinking the environment, from biomimicry to data analytics. Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy's Lee and Tortajada expand.

With an "ecological civilisation" now firmly embedded in China's constitution and ministerial reforms on the horizon, the era of Beautiful China has "officially" begun. Start by catching up with our 2017-2018 review of key water policies.



**2 Sessions, 5 Highlights For Water**  
An 'ecological civilisation' is now embedded in China's constitution and ministerial reform has been tabled. Find out what these mean for water in our review. Pay attention or risk being blindsided

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**Is China Taking Over Global Leadership On The Environment?**  
Top experts, from the founder of TECONET to the Head of Asia-Pacific for Bloomberg New Energy Finance, share their thoughts at a high level panel in City University. Their Nanda summarises

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**China Steps Into Soft Power Vacuum**  
As the US retreats, Biswas and Tortajada explore how China is becoming the world's leading soft power, from infrastructural development to research progress, and hurdles it faces ahead

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**Sustainable Finance – Hong Kong Is Ready!**  
Is Hong Kong ready to embrace sustainable finance and stay competitive? RS Group's Kelly, Ng and Lui share findings from the Sustainable Finance Initiative's first market-survey

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**Water Efficiency Policy: A Technological High-Water Mark?**  
From biomimicry to data analytics, Singapore is developing new technology to produce clean water without sinking the environment. Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy's Lee and Tortajada expand

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**Key Water Policies 2017 - 2018**  
Missed out on key water and water-related policies in China this past year? Catch up with our review, including the latest on the new Water Ten Law and environmental tax law

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## TAPPING IN 🚰

## CWR Events

- CWR features in [EIGHT MILLION](#), a podcast on ocean plastic pollution & China's role
- CWR will speak at a conference hosted by Barclays-Tsinghua in Beijing (invite only)

## Government

- Expected: [ministerial reform for MEP & MWR](#)
- "Ecological civilisation" now enshrined in constitution
- MoF: [Guiding Opinions on Establishing & Perfecting the Long Term Effective Mechanism of Ecological Compensation & Protection in the Yangtze River Economic Belt](#): increase financial support for riparian areas & source areas; create up-downstream eco compensation scheme
- MIIT, MoST, MEP, MOT, MOC, AQSIQ, NEA: [Interim Measures for the Management of Recovery & Utilisation of New Energy Vehicle Batteries](#): automakers to recycle batteries
- MEP: [Comprehensive Catalogue of Environmental Protection](#): catalogue of products with high pollution risk
- MoHURD, NDRC: [Assessment Standards for National Water-saving Cities](#)

## Reports

- Sustainable Finance Initiative: [Mapping Sustainable Finance in Hong Kong](#)
- WRI, MIT: [Mapping Public Water Management by Harmonizing & Sharing Corporate Water Risk Info](#)
- World Bank: [China - Systematic Country Diagnostic: towards a more inclusive and sustainable development](#)
- Ceres: [Turning Point: Corporate Progress on the Ceres Roadmap for Sustainability](#)

## Interest

- China to enact "Soil Ten Law" this year
- 15 provinces' ecological "red lines" approved
- Platform to be built for supervising ecological "red lines"; >RMB200 mn to be invested
- >1,100 officials punished over environ 'irregularities' at nature reserves
- China explores measures to limit plastic packaging use
- >260,000 entities to pay environ tax from Apr 1
- Beijing: record 115 days without rain

## Hot on Weibo:

- 208 industrial parks fail to meet Water Ten

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