

Power Play: Water makes a power play this month as China tightens policies and regulations that affect the coal & coal-related industries. We explore how water drives coal reform as State Council moves to protect its No. 1 fuel source against water scarcity. For better air and less smog, China is also moving to become less reliant on coal-fired power generation which sees its share of energy mix fall to 43% by 2050 in favour of more hydro, nuclear, gas, wind & solar. All good for air and climate change but not necessarily good for water or neighbouring countries...



EDITORIAL

Power Play: Water makes a power play this month as China tightens policies and regulations that affect the coal & coal-related industries. We explore how water drives coal reform as State Council moves to protect its No. 1 fuel source against water scarcity. For better air and less smog, China is also moving to become less reliant on coal-fired power generation which sees its share of energy mix fall to 43% by 2050 in favour of more hydro, nuclear, gas, wind & solar. All good for air and climate change but not necessarily good for water or neighbouring countries.

We look into the inevitable rise of geopolitical tension with the planned hydropower expansion of over 120GW between 2015-2050 on transboundary rivers. Can we avoid sparking hydro wars? Wen Bo, policy advisor for the National Geographic Society, provides a review on China's inland nuclear power expansion in water stressed regions whilst Monika Freyman from Ceres' water programme shares lessons learnt from the US shale gas boom.

However, as China plans to add 1.8TW between 2015 and 2050, changing the energy mix is not enough, water savings (be it through energy savings or direct savings) are also necessary. Robert Brears, associate fellow at the Free University of Berlin shares price & non-price strategies available to urban water managers in China and Carlos Vazquez, project manager of "Mas Agua Para Todos" tells us how Cuba is working to alleviate water scarcity to help sustain its people & economy.

It's not just China that is concerned, "water & power" is the theme of the upcoming World Water Week in Stockholm where China Water Risk will be co-convening a seminar on coal-fired power & water as well as delivering a keynote at the Stockholm Water Prize Seminar.

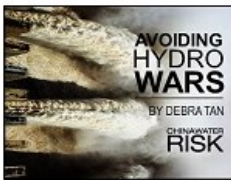
Water is important to power. Balancing fuel mix and water scarcity in China does not just ensure its water & energy security but regional stability. It's time for Asia to get involved in this power play. With shared glacial watersheds in the Himalayas shrinking, there is much more at stake here than just power and transboundary water disputes.

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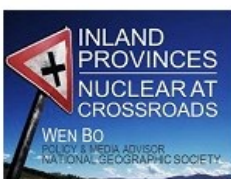
Water Drives Coal Reform
To ensure energy security, China needs to protect its No 1 fuel source against water scarcity. We take a closer look at what the new water-for-coal plan & other policies mean for coal & coal-related industries

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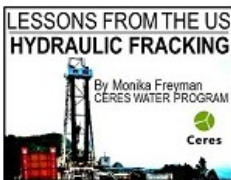
Avoiding Hydro Wars
With some 120GW of China's planned hydropower on three transboundary rivers, regional geopolitical tensions over water is running high. Can we avoid sparking hydro wars? Debra Tan expands

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Inland Provinces: Nuclear at Crossroads
Is planning to build 28 inland nuclear power plants wise? Wen Bo, policy & media advisor to the National Geographical Society on future nuclear plans and concerns over water availability

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Heavy water use in hydraulic fracking for shale gas plus water pollution are concerns. Freyman from Ceres shares water lessons & challenges learnt from the shale gas boom in the US

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With rising urbanisation and the need for more water & power in Chinese cities, water & sustainability expert, Robert Brears shares some tools to better manage urban demands

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Alleviating Water Scarcity in Cuba
UNESCO-IHE's Dr. Vazquez on how Cuba is alleviating its water scarcity issues through wastewater reuse, use of seawater and pilots in Cuba's growing tourism sector to ensure "Mas Agua Para Todos"

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China Water Risk Speaks at Stockholm World Water Week
China Water Risk is co-convening a seminar on coal-fired power & water, as well as delivering a keynote at the Stockholm Water Prize Seminar.

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TAPPING IN

Government:

- NDRC: [Measures for the Supervision & Administration of Coal Trading \(Amendments\)](#) - bans coal with high ash & sulphur content; in force from 1 Sep 2014
- MEP: [1H2014 State of Environment Report](#)
- MEP: [2Q2014 Handling Information of Key Environmental Cases](#)
- National Audit Office, State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission et al: [Implementation Measure of Economic Liability Audit of Leading Cadres of the Party, Central Government & SOEs](#) - prioritise environmental performance
- MoA & National Health and Family Planning Commission: [Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides in Food](#)

Reports:

- Global Environmental Change: [Water on an Urban Planet](#)- 6 Chinese cities in global Top 20 water stressed cities
- WEF: [The Water-Energy Nexus: Strategic Considerations for Energy Policy-Makers](#)
- UNEP: [Yearbook 2014: Emerging Issues in Our Global Environment](#)

Events:

Stockholm World Water Week 31 Aug - 5 Sep 2014

- 3 Sep 2014: ["Water Linkages to Coal Fired Energy Production: Shaping the Water & Energy Future"](#): CWR, ADB, WRI, HSBC & BGR
- 4 Sep 2014: [CWR to deliver a keynote at Stockholm Water Prize Seminar](#)

Interest

- NDRC: 10 thermal power plants fined USD84mn for pollution violations
- NEA: new coal-to-gas plants prohibited in provinces that buy coal from other regions
- Beijing: bans coal use in 6 districts by 2020
- Beijing: bans expansion of: food, textiles, construction, paper, chemicals & oil sectors
- Henan & Shaanxi: worst-hit by drought; Henan damages are >RMB4bn
- Fujian: removes 'GDP' from performance review criteria in 22 agriculture & 12 ecological counties
- 7 provinces to pilot water rights trading markets
- Li Keqiang: ecological & environmental protection a key area in opening up China to outside world
- Mu Guangfeng, Head of EIA office at MEP: China needs to import more food to ease water, energy shortages
- Zhao Yongkang, MEP's Nuclear & Radiation Safety Division: all nuclear power plants will have EIA & safety reports published online
- Waterway in eastern Zhejiang turned red from textile dyes
- Yuhuang Chemical Inc. plans USD1.85bn shale gas chemical plant in US for export to China
- Roofs & closets are turned into mini farms to grow vegetables

Hot on Weibo:

- Water saving tips as a result of summer droughts

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