**Vanishing Ice - Asia Running Dry?** Glaciers in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan region feed 10 major rivers that provide water to 17 countries in Asia. They are vanishing. Obsessed with their rapid decline CWR's Tan and award-winning explorer Jeff Fuchs undertook a month-long quest to live upon two of the India Himalayas' great stalwarts of ice - the Bara Shigri and the Lasermo Glacier. Tan and Fuchs recount their journey and their worry over the lack of cohesive action to tackle real threats. At the same time, glacial streams are tapped across Asia by the bottled water industry. In Tibet alone a 52x growth is expected. But actions like these are at odds with President Xi's wish for an 'ecological civilisation'. We take a closer look at who's bottling where. The right power type matters for climate and water and so we talked to the Director General of the International Centre of Small Hydropower, Prof. Dr Liu to see if small hydro can make a difference. Meanwhile, WRI's Fu, Zhong & Wang share key findings from the WRI-CWR study on managing water stress for coal & economic development in Ningxia. Future energy choices made today impact our water and food for tomorrow. We need to choose wisely - parts of Asia running dry may not be too far fetched - as Prof. Vivian Forbes at Wuhan University shares, the mouth of China's Yellow River has changed many times over the centuries. Prosperity along the coast depends on what happens in the mountains. Rivers that start there are the lifelines of Asia - let's make sure they flow eternal.

CHINAWATER RISK

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

## EDITORIAL

**Vanishing Ice - Asia Running Dry?** Glaciers in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan region feed 10 major rivers that provide water to 17 countries in Asia. They are vanishing. Obsessed with their rapid decline CWR's Tan and award-winning explorer Jeff Fuchs undertook a month-long quest to live upon two of the India Himalayas' great stalwarts of ice - the Bara Shigri and the Lasermo Glacier. Tan and Fuchs recount their journey and their worry over the lack of cohesive action to tackle real threats.

At the same time, glacial streams are being tapped across Asia by the bottled water industry. In Tibet alone a 52x growth is expected. But actions like these are at odds with President Xi's wish for an 'ecological civilisation'. We take a closer look at who's bottling where. Should more be done to align climate change policies and water conservation?

We know choosing the right power type matters for climate and water. More coal could lead to faster glacial melt and more megadams could lead to increased geopolitical tensions. But what small hydro - can it help? We talked to the Director General of the International Centre of Small Hydropower. Prof. Dr. Liu Heng makes it clear that small hydropower will play a role in China's energy mix. Meanwhile, Fu, Zhong & Wang of WRI share key findings from the WRI-CWR study on managing water stress for coal & economic development in Ningxia.

Future energy choices made today impact our water and food for tomorrow. On this front, we are pleased to see the recently announced collaboration between China's NEA & IRENA - renewables can help reduce both water use & carbon emissions. We need to choose wisely - parts of Asia running dry may not be too far fetched - as Prof. Vivian Forbes at Wuhan University shares, the mouth of China's Yellow River has changed many times over the centuries.

Prosperity along the coast depends on what happens in the mountains. Rivers that start there are the lifelines of Asia - let's make sure they flow eternal.

**Vanishing Ice: Asia Running Dry**
The Hindu-Kush Himalayan region plays a vital role in Asia's water future. It is a source of 10 major rivers which feed 17 countries. CWR's Tan shares her worries over the vanishing glaciers & the lack of cohesive action to tackle real threats
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**Bara Shigri: The Glacier's Sigh**
Award-winning explorer Jeff Fuchs returns to the Bara Shigri glacier only to find it drastically altered within two years. Sitting under an ice-shelf, Fuchs recounts local tales of "snows going" and the glacier's "aches & groans" as it retreats
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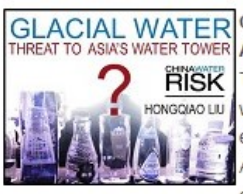


**Glacial Bottled Water: A Threat To Asia's Water Tower?**
The growing fad of glacial bottled water means the industry is encroaching on glaciers crucial for Asia's waterways. In China, this expansion is at odds with President Xi's wish for an 'ecological civilisation'. CWR's Liu on who's bottling where
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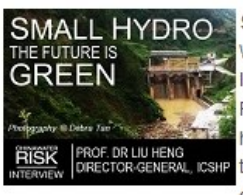


**Small Hydro: The Future Is Green**
We talked to Director-General of the International Center on Small Hydro Power. Prof. Dr. Heng Liu on small hydro in China - its future and role in the country's power mix to ensure energy security & combat climate change
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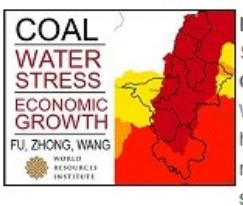


**Does Coal Always Mean Water Stress Along With Economic Growth?**
WRI's Fu, Zhong & Wang investigate how Ningxia manages its water resources to develop coal. See what strategies can be adopted to minimise water stress whilst allowing for economic growth
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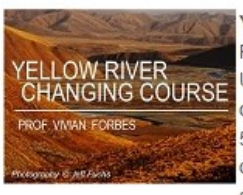


**Yellow River Changing Course**
Prof. Vivian Forbes at Wuhan University provides a detailed overview of the Yellow River's 5,500km long journey from source to delta and shares how & why the alignment of the river's mouth has changed over the centuries
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## TAPPING IN

**Government**

- State Council: Soil & Water Conservation Plan (2015-2030)
- NDRC: Measures on Energy Auditing of Public Organizations: those consuming >500 tce/yr face audits every 3 years
- NDRC: Piloting Local Consumption of Renewable Energy Electricity: Inner Mongolia & Gansu
- NDRC: 2016 Import Tariff Quotas for Cotton & Crops: cotton: 0.89mt, wheat: 9.63mt, corn: 7.2mt, rice: 5.32mt
- MEP: 2015 Review of EIA Agencies of Construction Projects: 66 agencies warned or disqualified
- MEP: Implementation Plan of Random Inspection in Daily Supervision of Pollution Sources: quarterly check of 25% of key pollution sources
- MWR: Credibility Evaluation of Market Players of Water Conservancy Projects: Annual rating of water quality Grade I to III
- MLR: China Mineral Resources Annual Report 2015

**CWR Related Reports**

- UNIDO Making It: CWR featured "Tough love: China gets serious about water pollution"
- WRI: Water Risk Analysis and Recommendations for Water Resources Management in Ningxia. CWR & Ningxia Research Development Centre

**Reports**

- IPE & NRDC: Greening the Global Supply Chain - CITI Index 2015

**Interest**

- Li Keqiang: "huge room" remains for environ protection sector; need to swap focus from natural resources to human resources
- NEA-IRENA: sets up "China Research and Co-operation Centre for Energy Transition"
- NEA-Ningxia govt: to establish pilot renewable energy base
- MWR: 20 new major water conservation projects to start in 2016
- MEP: bans new water pollution causing projects for lowest ranked cities & counties until they pass the next annual evaluation
- Shale gas pollution discharge standards out in 2016
- China Agricultural Bank debuts USD1bn greenbond in London
- Coca-Cola exec held for falsified pollution data of bottling plant in Gansu
- Golf membership officially banned for all party cadres

**Hot on Weibo:**

- Big push for renewables signalled by various energy conferences

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