



Woodrow Wilson  
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for Scholars

# CHINA ENVIRONMENT SERIES

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## The China Environment Forum

For nine years, the China Environment Forum—a sub-project within the Environmental Change and Security Program—has been active in creating programming, exchanges, and publications to encourage dialogue among U.S., Chinese, and other Asian scholars, policymakers, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations on environmental and energy challenges in China. The China Environment Forum regularly brings together experts with diverse backgrounds and affiliations from the fields of environmental protection, China studies, energy, U.S. foreign policy, economics, and rural development. Through monthly meetings and the annual *China Environment Series*, the China Environment Forum aims to identify the most important environmental and sustainable development issues in China and explore creative ideas and opportunities for governmental and nongovernmental cooperation. The Wilson Center's Asia Program periodically cosponsors meetings with the China Environment Forum. The China Environment Forum meetings, publications, and exchanges over the past two years have been supported by generous grants from the U.S. Agency for International Development, Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Blue Moon Fund, Tamaki Foundation, and Shell China, Ltd. Jennifer L. Turner directs the China Environment Forum.

## Environmental Change and Security Program

Population growth. Water scarcity. Degraded ecosystems. Forced migration. Resource depletion. Pandemic disease. Since 1994, the Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP) has explored the connections among these major challenges and their links to conflict, human insecurity, and foreign policy. Directed by Geoffrey Dabelko, ECSP brings policymakers, practitioners, and scholars from around the world to Washington, D.C. to address the public and fellow experts on environmental and human security. The program publishes and distributes 7,000 free copies of the annual journal *Environmental Change and Security Program Report*—in addition to publishing a biannual newsletter and original research. ECSP's core activities are made possible by the generous support of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Population and Reproductive Health.

## The Asia Program

The Asia Program was created in 1977 and has grown over the past three decades into one of the Wilson Center's largest and most active programs. It strives to provide a forum for examining current Asia-related policy questions in their broad historical and cultural context. The Asia Program's activities focus on China, Japan, the Koreas, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Since 1999, Robert M. Hathaway has directed the Asia Program.

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## INVENTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY PROJECTS IN CHINA

Available online at [www.wilsoncenter.org/cef](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/cef)

# FOREWORD

Jennifer L. Turner, Editor

We mark the publication of “lucky” issue eight (*ba ba ba, fa fa fa*) of the *China Environment Series (CES)* with a new look. Since issue 1 in 1997, *CES* has had a simple cover with a red chop bearing the characters 中美环保关系, which mean “U.S.-China Environmental Relations.” Abandoning this chop and replacing them with shadow images of the five elements of natural phenomena in traditional Chinese philosophy (metal, wood, water, fire, and earth) does not mean *CES* no longer focuses on Sino-U.S. green relations. On the contrary, we wanted our new cover to subtly emphasize how our publication’s themes have been expanding. While we continue to address the many types of—and opportunities for—U.S.-China energy and environmental cooperation, we have increasingly been expanding our scope to look at how other countries are working in China. Our authors have examined more deeply China’s evolving internal environmental governance structures from emerging NGO trends to new public participation mechanisms. This issue offers new insights into environmental conflict resolution and environmental health. According to the five elements philosophy, all things are interconnected. We claim no such all-encompassing philosophy in our journal, yet wish simply to note that our articles are interconnected, in that all present strategies and ideas to help China onto a more sustainable development path.

Over the past two years, a growing number of environmental protests and pollution accidents have helped fuel a growing debate in China on how to define public participation (*gongzhong canyu*) in the environmental sphere. This wrestling over the definition of public participation has become, appropriately enough, a very public debate among the Chinese government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and citizens, as well as a focus of international environmental projects. Many *CES* 8 contributors explore public participation in environmental governance in China, while others delve into energy, water, and forestry challenges.

In our lead article, **Allison Moore** and **Adria Warren** provide an excellent discussion of China’s evolving legal framework for public participation in the environmental sphere. The second feature by **Drew Thompson** and **Xiaoqing Lu** delves into the emergence of HIV/AIDS NGOs in China, comparing their growth to that of green groups. **Hongyan He Oliver** discusses various progressive transportation policies and technologies to help China significantly reduce its “thirst” for foreign oil. Our fourth feature article by **Lü Zhi**, **Michael Totten**, and **Philip Chou** discusses the opportunities for China to leapfrog into a cleaner economy not simply by adopting, but by producing clean energy and water protection technologies.

Once again our Commentary and Notes From the Field section sparked a rich collection of research and reflections from NGO activists, researchers, government representatives, and students. Our opening commentary by **Anne Arquit-Niederberger**, **Conrad U. Brunner**, and **Zhou Dadi** highlights how new Chinese policies and development plans advocating stronger energy efficiency initiatives could enable China to become an impetus for a global climate policy breakthrough. Several authors discuss the work of their NGOs in helping to promote public participation in China—**Margret J. Kim** and **Robert E. Jones** from Ecolinx relate anecdotes and insights from their countless training sessions in the outback of China on how to carry out environmental impact assessments (EIAs); **Lila Buckley** discusses the unique role the Global Environment Institute has played in helping to strengthen the EIA process in China; **Christine Chung** describes positive trends and challenges in environmental permit hearings and other similar workshops in which the National Democracy Institute was involved. **Marilyn Beach**, **Bill Bleish**, and **Shelly Yang** take a different tact to the EIA topic in introducing the results of a needs assessment for capacity building in the area of ecological impact assessments that Fauna

& Flora International conducted in western China. **Wu Haoliang** shines a light on what he calls the “third wave” of China’s grassroots environmental movement, namely, the emergence of regional youth environmental organizations.

While China’s local governments are often weak in enforcing environmental regulations, a number of commentaries point out how provincial and sub-provincial governments can be innovative in complying with pollution control (**Wanxin Li**), promoting energy efficiency (**Lei Bi**, **Murray Haight**, and **Ben Greenhouse**), protecting forests (**Dave Daversa**), and pushing for innovative auto emissions control policies (**Isabella Notar**).

The statistics on China’s growing environmental degradation are grim, yet **James E. Nickum** and **Yok-shiu F. Lee** remind us to stop and think twice about some of the oft-repeated numbers in their piece examining the number of water-short cities in China. **Eric Zusman** offers an insightful comparison of how air pollution regulations have been made in Taiwan and China, highlighting this as a fruitful area for cross-strait collaboration. Introducing the unique partnership among Chinese and U.S. health and energy researchers, **Frederica Perera**, **Deliang Tang**, **Barbara A. Finamore**, and **Li Ting-Yu** present their ongoing research on coal burning and children’s health in Chongqing.

I am pleased and melancholy with our special report that contains papers written by our U.S.-China Water Conflict Resolution Working Group. The publication of these papers means the formal end of work with an incredibly smart and fun group of water experts from China and the United States. The working group members produced papers that not only describe similar water challenges in the two countries, but also demonstrate how water conflict resolution might prove to be a promising area for Sino-U.S. cooperation.

Perhaps the most well attended China Environment Forum meeting this year was in March when we invited **Xavier Chen** (BP China), **Jeff Logan** (World Resources Institute), and **Wenran Jiang** (University of Alberta) to discuss the North American response to China’s growing energy hunger. A summary of that meeting is featured in this issue.

Two types of boxes are scattered about the publication, short commentary feature boxes and new Spotlight on NGO Activism in China boxes. The latter boxes provide snapshots of China’s very dynamic green civil society, detailing some of the work presented in our yearly “Inventory of Environmental and Energy Projects in China.” Once again our inventory is only going to be online for it has become too big to fit in our print publication. I must thank a small patient army of assistants for helping to collect this inventory—a task that demands perfecting the gentle art of heavy persuasion to get entries from the very busy folks in our network. This year **Louise Yeung** and **Juli S. Kim** worked hard to gather the international NGO entries, while **Xixi Chen** and **Yan Baohua** did an amazing job in updating and expanding last year’s inventory of Chinese groups. We must thank **Fu Tao** at *China Development Brief* (CDB), who was also out seeking similar information from Chinese green groups. I am grateful we could share contact information and data to help each other out on this big task. CDB’s directory (in Chinese) is at [www.greengo.cn](http://www.greengo.cn).

Naturally, I am indebted to my diligent authors, who patiently endured my edits and queries. I must single out **Marilyn Beach**, who went beyond the call of duty by reviewing final edits at a very busy moment of her life, waiting for her baby to be born. Perhaps I should really thank her new baby boy for being a bit late! My editing load was lightened this year by my managing editor **Juli S. Kim** and by my former assistant **Timothy Hildebrandt**, co-editor of the special report. Naturally, I must applaud **Lianne Hepler** and **Jeremy Swanston** the desktop publishers who created the stunning new CES look. The support of colleagues at the Wilson Center for my work is always that intangible/tangible assistance for which I am always grateful. I also wish to acknowledge funders—new and old—that have helped in this publication by supporting CEF meetings, staff salary, or printing costs: U.S. Agency for International Development, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Michigan State University (using a grant from the National Science Foundation), and the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Federal Conference Funds.