

News Scan

Global Governance and Ecological Civilization



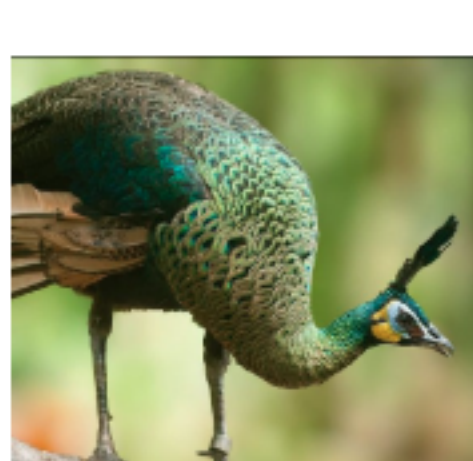
Possibility of a Carbon-Free Economy

March 24th, Time - Officials in China have promised a massive stimulus to restart the country's economy, and observers expect that they will largely focus on infrastructure. Some of those projects may be carbon-intensive, but others could ultimately reduce emissions. Expanding electric vehicle infrastructure and transitioning from coal-powered heating to gas-powered heating are among the areas where the country could spend billions, says David Sandalow, an expert on China's energy and climate policy who serves as a fellow at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy. [FULL ARTICLE](#)



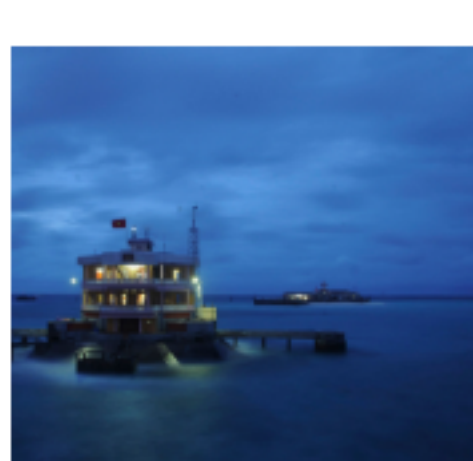
China's US\$7 trillion aims to save economy – but will its reliance on fossil fuels put the planet at risk?

March 23th, South China Morning News - China is planning a 50 trillion yuan (US\$7 trillion) stimulus package to try to save the economy after the coronavirus lockdown, but the projects listed include a number of coal-fired power plants – raising fears among environmentalists that it will double down on fossil fuels. By doing so, it could lock China into decades of unsustainable development and threaten efforts to meet the UN climate change target of limiting the rise in global temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius. [FULL ARTICLE](#)



Green peafowl's last habitat vs. 3.7-billion-yuan dam

March 21st, CGTN - The Kunming Intermediate People's Court on Friday ordered the construction halted for a hydropower dam in southwest China's Yunnan Province as it threatens the last major habitat of the endangered green peafowl. The landmark decision came almost three years after the green peafowl lawsuit was filed to stop constructing the hydropower station on Jiasa River, a stretch of Red River in the province. The lawsuit drew intensive public attention because it was the country's first environmental public interest case aimed at preventing the loss of an endangered species, and also because of the uncertainty that lies ahead for both humans and wildlife. [FULL ARTICLE](#)



New research stations come into operation on Nansha Islands

March 20th, Xinhua News - Two new research stations under the Integrated Research Center for Islands and Reefs of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) have been officially put into operation. The Integrated Research Center for Islands and Reefs has been established as an offshore experimental base by the CAS to solve science and technology problems on the ecological environment, resource utilization and sustainable development of the South China Sea. [FULL ARTICLE](#)



Ma Jun: 'We're at a crossroads for environmental protection'

March 18th, chinadialogue - Green pioneer Ma Jun speaks about new top-level plans to modernize China's environmental governance. As Director of the Institute for Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE), Ma spoke of his expectations for reform of China's environmental governance in the coming decade. The IPE has produced the Blue Map app so the public can check live pollution data from nearby factories, as well as an annual evaluation of government environmental transparency. These are regarded as models of positive interaction between government and the public on governance. [FULL ARTICLE](#)

Green Urbanization and Environment Improvement



Raising freshwater awareness

March 22nd, SHINE - "Water is precious, and fresh water for drinking is limited," said Dr Ren Wenwei, director of Water Practice, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) China. "We hope to involve more people in the protection of our freshwater ecosystem through 'Journey of Water.'" From September to October last year, WWF sent three celebrities on different water journeys along the Yangtze, the world's third longest and China's mother river, to understand water source conservation and call for public participation. [FULL ARTICLE](#)

Innovation, Sustainable Production and Consumption



ABB completes acquisition of Chinese EV charging provider Chargedot

March 17th, ABB Press Release - Since its establishment in 2009, Shanghai-based Chargedot has made a significant contribution to the uptake of electric vehicles in China. The acquisition is expected to further strengthen ABB's relationship with leading Chinese electric vehicle manufacturers and broaden the company's e-mobility portfolio with hardware and software developed specifically for local requirements as well as service offerings. [FULL ARTICLE](#)

Green Energy, Investment and Trade



BRI beyond 2020: partnerships for progress and sustainability along the Belt and Road

March, The Economist - Sustainability must be at the heart of China's Belt and Road Initiative if it is to remain a major force in global infrastructure development. This latest 'Partnerships' report found that when sustainability was raised to the top of the BRI agenda there was a greater pool of finance available, increased political support from China and more receptive third party countries. [FULL REPORT](#)



Asia's Central Banks Must Rise to the Challenge of Climate Change

March 17th, Brink - There is a sustained increase in coal, oil and gas consumption in China, India and ASEAN, pointing to a seeming neglect of climate change concerns as Asia chases faster economic growth. However, a new survey among 18 central banks from Asia shows that climate risks and low-carbon financing is a topic of increasing importance and relevance to the central banks and monetary authorities in the region, where many countries are experiencing hard impacts. [FULL ARTICLE](#)