

John Briscoe "Bankrolling change", Chinaonline, May 24 2010

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特写章 **FEATURED ARTICLE**

世界行亟待改革

Bankrolling change

中国在发展中国家基础设施方面的投入是一件好事。使许多国家从西方金融所置的无理要求中解脱出来。布里斯科将利用一周的修建展开系列。

China's investment in developing-world infrastructure is a good thing, since it liberates many poor countries from unreasonable requirements set by western financing agencies, argues John Briscoe, kicking off a week-long series on dam construction.

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布“第三极”道



学国学院和敦学院今化点“第三极水域”什山脉的候弱点。CL and UCL today launch the Third Pole”, a new report of the Hindu-Kush climate-change hotspot.

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“中外”由国著名者伊莎·希于2006年。网站提供了量和丰富的信和分析章并以中国重点的全展开。更多...

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印度基因蔬菜引世界注 Seeds of doubt in Delhi

印度政正于异激的国内中在是否引基因茄子的上不定其国家都在密切注事的展。伊迪普·格普塔道。

Caught in the middle of a fierce domestic debate, the Indian government is wavering over the introduction of GM aubergines – and the rest of the world is watching closely. Joydeep Gupta reports.



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夫潮背后的 All the tees in China

众多超1千的示了罕的成保。但在夫无不在重威到雨林的生。森沃道。

With its 1,000-year-old trees, Hainan was a rare conservation success. But now golf fairways stretch as far as the eye can see, in a boom that threatens the island's rain forest. Jonathan Watts reports.



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探物的内在灵性 Exploring the inner lives of animals

聚焦 NEWS FOCUS

中国 A Chinese environmental update

网易道中国科学家争取得到中国的淡水湖泊鄱阳湖中一有争的工程的重核。江西省政官承工程有可能破坏野生植物与放弃了利用阻止湖水流入江来建水电站的划。

透社道美国商家与24家美国清能公管理来到北京求美国商机构入中国快速的可再生市的途径。副理李克与一行人面做出了极的反。

英国《金融》道中国同意划达230美元的金在尼日利建油精厂及其他油基施借在国的潜在影响力以保60桶油。

据法社援引安第斯通社道判多和中国已基本在一17美元的信上达成款用来在多的雨林区建造一个水电站。

《》引述家在第一次中国生系服的估告中出中国森林生系保的献价十人民的1.5美元或占国内生的三

森·伯 獬能 表 出悲 的情
能 别美丑。而人 待 物的方式 他
不已。 位 物行 学家向詹姆斯· 森 述
了 的感受。

Baboons show grief and chickens can spot beauty, says Jonathan Balcombe, who is saddened by how humans treat animals. The animal-behaviour scientist tells James Randerson a bit about how they feel.



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信 网 Networks of trust

社会媒体改 了企 与 者的交流方式
改 不 体 在公 可持 展 上。
·艾 金 和 里克斯·哈默如是 。

Social media are changing the way businesses and consumers talk to each other, not least on issues of corporate sustainability, say John Elkington and Alex Hammer.



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在三峡" "的化工巨 Chemical reactions on the Yangtze

中国 道 “ 深度 道 ”
者 称 三峡水 兴建化工厂 其有害
物 将威 周 。

Plans to boost production of hazardous substances at the head of the Three Gorges reservoir threaten the sensitive surroundings, says Yang Chuanmin, winner of the “in-depth reporting” category in the China Environmental Press Awards.



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垃圾“ 派” 家 是商人 The fire-starters

“ 派” 威 家在中国 极游 展垃圾焚
工厂。然而 中国 道 “
道 ”得 孟登科 露 家 背后的利
益 葛引人 。

Forceful academics – dubbed the “incinerationists” – are promoting waste-to-energy plants in China. But, says Meng Dengke, winner of the “investigative journalism” category in the China Environmental Press Awards, these experts’ corporate links are raising doubts about their motives.



表 4 comments 看 view discussion

“ 上三峡” :酒泉1200 投 Hot wind in the desert

受中国近年来投 潮 量 在戈
壁 上如雨后春笋 。中国 道 “
影响力 ”得 出 在 追逐可再生
能 利益的 中 金融 却糟忽 。

Vast wind farms have sprung up in the Gobi Desert, born of China’s latest investment frenzy. But in the bid to hit renewable targets, financial risks have been ignored, says Lu Zhenhua, winner of the “biggest impact” category in the China Environmental Press Awards.



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卡特里 的回声 Katrina’s echoes

美国 生的 模溢

分 一。

据《中国日 》 道 几十年
的 度砍伐 后 中国 北 的 始森林 –
兴安 了 助保 生 其 材 量
已 少三分 一

广 省沿 域 染十分 重 特别是珠江
入 口一 而 区 洋 在持
化。《中国日 》 引述省内年度
告 道。

据社 道 内蒙古自治区超 九百 公 的
草 遭鼠 横行。今年的持 干旱和草 退化是
造成鼠 的要 因。

据美 社 道 广州工人重 粉刷市内 百
幢 屋并安上乙 板屋 使其看似西班
牙别墅。 由政 旨在 运会清理
城区。 多市民批 其 面子工程。

社 道 中国四川都江堰市正兴建 熊
猫“野放中 ” 以 少圈 熊猫 人的
依 性 回 野外。

Chinese scientists have won a review of a controversial dam proposed for Poyang Lake, China’s largest freshwater lake, according to news.163.com. Conceding that the project might harm wildlife and the environment, Jiangxi provincial officials dropped a planned hydropower station in favour of a sluice gate to prevent lake water from flowing into the Yangtze river.

US commerce secretary Gary Locke and executives from 24 American clean-energy companies are in Beijing to push open doors for American businesses looking to cash in on China’s fast-growing renewables market, Reuters reported. Vice premier Li Keqiang met with the group and sounded a positive note.

China has agreed to spend up to US\$23 billion to build oil refineries and other petroleum infrastructure in Nigeria, potentially strengthening its hand in the country as it seeks to secure six billion barrels of crude reserves, [The Financial Times](http://TheFinancialTimes) reported.

After difficult negotiations, Ecuador and China have agreed in principle on a US\$1.7-billion line of credit to build a hydroelectric plant in Ecuador’s portion of the Amazon rain forest, Agence France-Presse quoted the ANDES news agency as saying.

The contribution of China’s forest ecosystem to environmental protection has been calculated as being worth 10 trillion yuan (US\$1.5 trillion), or about one-third of the nation’s GDP, [Global Times](http://GlobalTimes) cited experts as reporting in the first such evaluation of Chinese ecosystem services.

After decades of over-felling in the Greater Hinggan mountains of north-eastern China – home to the country’s largest virgin forest -- timber output has been reduced by a third to help sustain the environment, according to



春芽: 掠影

《 色使者》

“Green Emissaries”

《 色使者——在 国
NGO 》一 是中国
本 NGO“ 家园” 研 目
的 出。 于相 域的研究者和
中国本 保工作者、参与者
首次向 者呈 了目前 在中
国的13家 要 NGO在 展
的 史 令 者了 到 如何在
推 中国 保展的同 也完成
了自身的本 化演 。

更多...

Green Emissaries, produced by the Chinese NGO Green SOS, is a unique practical handbook for those researching the international NGO sector or those Chinese who work in, or are active in, it. The book gives readers, for the first time, a detailed look inside 13 major environmental organisations working in the country, explaining how they are promoting protection of the environment in China, while also becoming localised.

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《迪拜 金的 子》

“Dubai: Gilded Cage”

在短短四十年中 迪拜从荒凉的小
港 成了一个全 性都
市 到 林立 迪拜塔 如梦幻
般的建筑。但 里
一个 全 性都市非 独特 迪拜是
一个“ 客的城市”。

更多...

Within 40 years, Dubai has been transformed from an obscure regional port into a global city glistening with iconic architecture, such as the Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest building. But, Syed Ali argues, it is a unique kind of global city: “a city of transients”.

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《北极争 》

“The Scramble for the Arctic”

1997年俄 斯在北极点插上国
旗 宣布 片 区及其丰富的
油 的 有。从那开始
里就吸引了全世界的目光 一
探 的 就 展开。在

油 染 捕 船 而 不 于 一 灾 。 同 也 我 想 另 一 灾 。 吉 姆 · 布 在 奥 良 您 道 。

The great oil-spill off the southern shore of the United States spells disaster for fishing fleets and brings to mind a terrible legacy, writes Jim Gabour in New Orleans.



表 1 comment 看 view discussion

告别被 化的 候 化 Heated debate

克 胡 姆 出 在 决 候 化 的 程 中 很 多 事 情 都 不 是 非 即 彼 的 。 所 以 我 决 不 能 再 找 替 罪 羊 必 上 开 始 切 的 探 。

There's no such thing as right and wrong when it comes to tackling climate change, says Mike Hulme. That's why we need to stop looking for scapegoats and start engaging in honest discussion.



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垃圾 藏 Mountains of rubbish

青 藏 的 开 通 使 西 藏 面 量 白 色 垃 圾 的 侵 喜 拉 雅 来 重 的 。 何 宁 和 郭 燕 道 。

The Qinghai-Tibet railway has brought an influx of non-biodegradable waste to the Himalayan plateau, posing serious environmental challenges. He Haining and Guo Haiyan report.



表 6 comments 看 view discussion

China Daily.

Seawater pollution – particularly in the Pearl River estuary -- remains serious in the coastal waters off Guangdong province, where the marine environment continues to deteriorate, China Daily quoted the province's annual monitoring report as saying.

A rat plague is threatening more than nine million hectares of grasslands in Inner Mongolia, Xinhua reported. This year's persistent drought and grassland degradation have been blamed.

Workers are repainting hundreds of buildings in Guangzhou and topping them with roofs made of vinyl sheets molded to look like tiles on Spanish villas, The Associated Press said. The effort is part of a government-led campaign to clean up the city for the Asia Games, and many residents have criticised it as emphasising superficial appearances.

China is building a new centre in Dujiangyan city, Sichuan province, to train giant pandas born in captivity to become less dependent on humans and eventually to live in the wild, Xinhua reported.

本 里 理 · 塞 和 金 · 波 塔 波 夫 一 区 的 史 、 居 民 、 野 生 植 物 和 政 治 上 的 重 要 性 行 了 深 入 的 。

更多...

When Russia planted a flag at the North Pole in 1997, claiming the territory – and its rich gas and oil resources – the world watched with concern. A race for drilling rights began. Richard Sale and Eugene Potapov examine the history of the region, its inhabitants, wildlife and geopolitical importance.

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A deadly white dust (1) – Melody Kemp

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A deadly white dust (2) – Melody Kemp

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Preparing for an ice-free Arctic (1) – Linda Jakobson

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Bankrolling change

John Briscoe

May 24, 2010

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China's investment in developing-world infrastructure is a good thing, since it liberates many poor countries from unreasonable requirements set by western financing agencies, argues John Briscoe, kicking off a week-long series on dam construction.

China, India, Brazil and other middle-income countries (MICs) are appropriately using the financial crisis to push for reform of the **Bretton Woods** institutions, the global financial organisations established towards the end of the Second World War to help rebuild the world economy. In particular, they **advocate** changing the voting shares of countries on the governing boards of the **International Monetary Fund** and the **World Bank** to give emerging economies a greater say. The logic of such reform – the small countries of Belgium and the Netherlands **until recently** had the same weight as China – is undisputable. But, in the case of the World Bank, such changes alone will not fix much.

"It would be even greater if China were to export not only its superb construction capabilities, but also its world-leading capability in the sensitive area of resettlement."

To understand why this is the case, one must look to events of recent decades. A vast gap has opened up between the practices of countries that have successfully grown and reduced poverty – the MICs – and the priorities of the World Bank and the aid community more broadly. The MICs have focussed heavily on getting right the basics, such as fiscal stability, infrastructure and agriculture, by setting priorities and sticking to these priorities. No country has more clearly demonstrated the wisdom of following this path than China. But with the **Millenium Development Goals** (MDGs) as the guiding principles, the World Bank and other donors have given little attention to such basics, have increasingly put the social cart before the economic horse and have adopted a faddish policy approach, constantly inventing new "flavours of the month".

Consider the two examples of infrastructure and agriculture. All countries that are rich today invested heavily in infrastructure during their high-growth periods. But, starting in the 1980s, environmental and social non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in rich countries – supported by aid officials from wealthy countries – relentlessly attacked the World Bank's work on infrastructure and modern agriculture. The results were bizarre. The bank's lending for cheap, renewable hydropower, for example, **fell** by 90% over the course of the 1990s, while lending for agriculture has **dropped** by 75% over the past 25 years.

The MICs, however, took a different path and continued to invest in these areas, a move that led to continued growth and poverty reduction. The poor, aid-dependent countries suffered enormously both because of the priorities set and because of the continuous introduction of new initiatives.

One of the main reasons this situation was allowed to develop was the set of incentives embedded in the structure of the World Bank Group. Although the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (**IBRD**) is the institution's main lending arm – accounting for 75% of its disbursements in the form of hard loans – about half of the bank's budget comes from

John Briscoe is the Gordon McKay professor of environmental engineering at Harvard University. He worked for 20 years at the World Bank, where his last assignments were as senior water advisor and country director for Brazil. His role in reforming the World Bank is highlighted in Sebastian Mallaby's landmark history of the Bank, *The World's Banker*.

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donations from rich countries. Most of these contributions go towards the administration of the International Development Association (IDA), which provides virtually interest-free loans to help boost growth in the world's poorest countries. IDA has become the tail that wags the IBRD dog – discussions at the IBRD board, where emerging economies will now have a greater voice, are not nearly as important as the closed-door negotiations of the permanent IDA.

Take the emotive issue of dams, for example. Rich countries have developed 80% of their hydro capacity, while Africa has only developed around 3%. The United States has 6,000 cubic metres of water-storage capacity per person, while Pakistan has 150 cubic metres and Ethiopia just 40. MICs find this gap immoral and have said so in discussions at the World Bank. When the issue was raised at the board in the late 1990s, the Bill Clinton-appointed US executive director did not speak up but immediately thereafter phoned the responsible vice-president, saying that if this were the position taken by the Bank, then it would be difficult to obtain support for IDA from the United States government.

A silver lining to this dark cloud is that the MICs are now partially filling the gap left by the World Bank and others. In recent years, the World Bank has only financed two major dams in the developing world, but China now finances over 200 such projects in Africa and Asia. This is a great service to the developing world. It would be even greater if China were to export not only its superb construction capabilities but also its world-leading capability in the sensitive area of resettlement. (To the surprise of many, the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group and others have shown that China has by far the best record in the developing world in resettling those who are relocated by large dams.)



What this all means is that changes in voting shares on the board of the World Bank will have little influence. What is needed is a fundamental re-engineering of the business processes and incentives to which staff respond. The first requirement is a major overhaul of the suffocating plethora of rules, or "safeguards", which have been put in place over the last 20 years. The second is reform of the Kafkaesque independent "Inspection Panel", which enforces these rules. And the third is a dismantling of the groups of staff who live off the transaction costs imposed by each of these rules.

The fourth necessary step is to put a firewall between rules which govern the IDA, where donors can impose what they wish, and the IBRD, where the bank's borrowers sit. More broadly the MICs should use their new-found clout to force the World Bank culture to change from one in which managers and staff are pre-occupied with sins of commission, which are punished severely, and sins of omission are ignored.

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Homepage image from [International Rivers](#)

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