



NEWSLETTER



GLAWCAL

Issue 1, 2014

Focus on:

China's Climate Challenges. Fracking in UK.

Environmental Hazards' Perception.

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Focus on

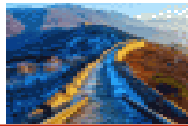
CHINA'S CLIMATE CHALLENGES, FRACKING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS' PERCEPTION

Among the three main topics of this newsletter, the Chinese situation occupies a preminent position: our articles will cover a wide range of climate risks that must be tackled by the Asian giant, from air pollution to the water crisis. While the general picture remains grim, there are hopes for a future improvement, something which can be already observed in the rising importance of China's recycling industry and its newborn efforts against certain forms of air pollution (such as the historical fireworks ban, which was recently announced)

We will then move to UK and take a closer look at the latest energy challenge in the country, the use of fracking as a way to obtain energetic independence. With more and more wells announced to be established, the real questions regard the dreaded environmental impact of this technique and the promised benefits it will bring to British citizens.

Finally, the newsletter will analyze global topics, with a particular focus on environmental risks' perception: many companies (including some of the biggest market players) have begun to comprehend the importance of their internal policies to better prevent any potential climate hazard and are thus reforming their activities, cutting their greenhouse gas emissions and shaping their Corporate Social Responsibility to solve the water global crisis.

We won't have a society if we destroy the environment. (Margaret Mead)



China

A BREATHLESS DRAGON: POLLUTION DRIVES CHINA TOWARDS EPOCHAL FIREWORK'S BAN

The Skyrocketing Level of Pollution Observed During Every New Year's Celebration Has Led the Chinese Government to the Publication of a Severe Ban on Fireworks, Hoping to Reduce its Environmental Impact.

The skyrocketing level of pollution observed during every New Year's celebration have led the Chinese government to the publication of a severe ban on fireworks, hoping to reduce its environmental impact.

In a country like China, heavily imbued with folklore and tradition, New Year's celebrations are considered an extremely important moment which could be properly enjoyed only with tonnes of fireworks. Despite the dreadful consequences of this uncontrolled phenomenon (deaths, mutilations and even the destruction of entire buildings), no ban had been applied so far; however, the pollution's concern might achieve what the health's one has never obtained: the Chinese government has promised a radical ban on fireworks in Beijing, should an "orange alert" (a forecast of three continuous days of heavy pollution) be announced.

Such an event is all but certain, since there had been only four separate days (out of 15) where the pollution level was classified as "heavy" last year, but the promised sanction is still China's most concrete and powerful step towards the pollution's containment of such an ancient tradition. The reasons behind this

Beijing is one of the most polluted places on earth, with peaks of 700 micrograms of particulate per cubic meter, against the 25 recommended by the World Health Organization to be safe on a daily basis; moreover, recent studies have concluded that high levels of air pollution might reduce the average lifespan as much as a shocking 16 years, data that have pushed many towards a rethinking of their opinion on climate problems.

Other cities have followed the capital's example: both Nanjing and Hangzhou have strongly cut the number of days the fireworks may be set off, while the former has also increased the number of "fireworks-free" areas in the city. The real unknown aspect is the market's resulting loss: many have predicted a huge reduction in customer demand, with as much as 50% sales drop expected for this year.

Chinese Fireworks Displays





China

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE: CHINA KEEPS EXPANDING ITS INDUSTRY.

An Interview with Author Adam Minter Reveals How China Has Become One of the Most Recycling Countries of the World and How It Keeps Importing Large Quantities of Waste from Western Countries.

Adam Minter, writer of “Junkyard planet”, reveals his opinion on China’s role in the recycling market in an interview for “China Dialogue”. First of all, he dispels the myth that recycling is an endless and perfect operation – in fact, each operation can only regain a certain amount of the original resource and, most of all, has an environmental impact. Speaking of attitude, Minter observes how China’s efforts for effective recycling are mostly driven by an economical interest, rather than an ideological one, like in Europe. This is explained by China’s traditional thriftiness and by the general level of poverty, which makes the monetary incentives received by recycling more and more appealing; thanks to this approach, China has way higher recycling percentages than Europe, getting close to the almost mythical 100 % in certain products.



A Chinese Peddler — Image: Sansumbrella



China

The author identifies three main reasons behind China's dominance in this sector: first of all, the government wisely acknowledged that valuable resources are getting fewer by the year and has consequently invested a lot of time and money in the creation of an efficient and rewarding recycling industry; secondly, U.S. and Europe have progressively lost (because of their surging wealth after World War II) their thrifty attitude and have begun not to care about everyday recycling, while Chinese people have kept their tradition strong. Finally, environmental regulations have progressively made recycling in the Western countries more expensive and difficult, a result of which was the total delocalization of the copper refining industry from U.S. to China, for example.

The industry's structure is actually variegated: even though the Chinese government has tried to concentrate it in the hands of few, extremely powerful players (in order to control them better), the nature of the activities involved requires a thorough network of peddlers and traders checking every street, a network whose micromanagement could never be effectively overseen by industrial giants.

However, these small businesses are often the most polluting ones, as well, thus increasing the environmental impact of the industry as a whole. Even though China's legislative framework is laxer than Western ones, in 2013 the so-called "Operation Green Fence" shut down most of the smallest plastic recycling traders, denying them the required licences due to their excessive polluting operations.

Finally, Minter observes how China is getting ready to face its two greatest objectives: reduce the amount of imported waste (nowadays, almost 40% of U.S. annual waste is shipped to China) to focus on its internal sources and modify the industry's operations in order to be able to recycle the hardest product in the world (mainly computer and other electronic devices, which are increasing their share in wastes' composition worldwide).



China

WHAT LIES BENEATH: CHINA'S WATER POLLUTION GETS DEEPER

Reports from Both the Chinese Government and Scientific Organizations Show that China's Level of Water Pollution is Getting Worse and the Entire Northern Part of the Country May Soon Be Left Without Access to Safe Drinking Water.



A Heavily Polluted River in the Town of Zhugao

This scenario may sound actually paradoxical, since China is one of the most water-rich countries in the world; however, the distribution is extremely uneven, since the quasi-totality are located in the southern half of the country, leaving the northern regions without an adequate access to safe drinking water. Moreover, China controls the headwaters of several historic and important rivers in Asia, like Brahmaputra and Mekong: damming or trying to control the connected waterways will inevitably create tension between other bordering states and, as such, can't be considered as an ideal solution.

The Chinese government is not sitting idle and has launched two major operations to tackle the crisis. The first and most ambitious one is the construction of the "South-North Water Transfer Project", an enterprise that, with its 80 billion dollar budget, will be even more expensive than the Three Gorges Dawn, the world's biggest hydroelectric project.

Water pollution has become a real crisis in China, where climate change and a surging urbanization have been creating a huge demand for water; however, data from various government sources claim that up to 40 % of Chinese rivers were seriously polluted in 2011, a phenomenon caused by the diffusion of various chemical plants (to supply the blitzing industrialization) along the Yangtze river, which contaminated the water course with huge amounts of toxic substances, like cadmium and chromium. Water pollution is so widespread nowadays that more than 4 million hectares of land are periodically irrigated with contaminated water, with obvious reflections on product quality and crop yields. The most shocking report comes from the Ministry of Environmental protection: 25 % of China's major rivers are so polluted that their water can no longer be used neither for agricultural nor for industrial purposes.



China

The objective is to move 45 billion cubic meters of water from the southern half of the country to the northern one each year, but there are many unresolved problems: more than 300.000 villagers will have to be relocated to make way to the impressive canal, in some cases far from their original homes. Moreover, such an ambitious project will probably severely alter the ecosystem of the local rivers, with negative effects on people's health.

The second solution involves a massive work of desalinisation, which would require massive amounts of energy and would only be effective as a "quick fix" solution, while all experts agree that the best course of action should consist in political decisions: heavy fines for polluters and a more rational use of the available supplies through the enactment of new rules .



Child Swims in Polluted Reservoir in Pingba



China

CHINA'S TWO FACED STANCE ON AIR POLLUTION

EPI's Results Show How China Has Managed to Cut Greenhouse-gas Emissions, but It Still Has to Solve the Skyrocketing PM2.5 Levels in Its Cities.

On January 25th, the universities of Columbia and Yale launched the ambitious 2014 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), which was officially presented at the World's Economic Forum in Davos: among the parameters through which 178 different countries are compared, performance in wastewater treatment and the use of satellite data were added this year. The results, as usual, are wavering: while it's true that most countries have undergone positive changes about the access of safe drinking water and the reduction of child mortality, areas like wastewater treatment and air quality are still characterized by worrying trends.

China (undoubtedly the world's worst polluting country) sits 118th in this report, above some of its direct competitors (India most of all), but way below economical giants like Russia or Brazil. However, this average position hides a two faced nature: thanks to satellite data, scientist have been able to observe the fine particulate matter (PM2.5) levels in the country over a 12 year span, coming to the unsurprising conclusion that China is stuck on the last rank of the air's quality ranking. In Shanghai, the PM2.5 have reached a 10 times higher level than the one deemed safe, more than once in a month.



This Picture of Shanghai Was Taken When PM2.5 Level Were 10 Times Higher than Levels Deemed Safe.

On the other hand, China has managed to sensibly cut its greenhouse-gas emissions, while maintaining an enormous economic growth rate in the same period. This impressive economy decarbonisation was the result of an effective boost of renewable energies and a demounting of old and inefficient industrial activities. The results obtained by the red giant are a tangible proof of China's will to contribute to the tackling of greenhouse-gas emissions, but it will take a lot more time and efforts before this policy has any ricochet effect on local air pollution's levels.



UK

FRACKING-BASED ENERGY INDEPENDENCE: FROM CHIMERA TO POSSIBLE REALITY

Incoming Data from U.S. Suggests that the Benefits Resulting from Fracking May also Be Enjoyed by European Countries, Especially UK.



Fracking Site in Lancashire.

FRACKING: A CLOSER LOOK

This technique involves the fracturing of a rock through the use of pressurized water, mixed with sand and chemicals, injected at high pressure into a wellbore. This causes the resources (mainly shale gas) trapped in the rock to flow in the well and be extracted in a much easier way. However, those who oppose this method claims that it causes contamination of ground water, depletion of fresh water, surface contamination from spills and might even increase the risk of earthquakes.

The effect of the so-called “shale revolution” in the U.S. have led many to believe that, through this way, UK might find a reliable, low cost and clean source of energy and maybe even achieve the sought after energy independence . The results are clear: the flow of shale gas has changed the U.S. role in the energetic market, turning it from one of the biggest hydrocarbons importer to a net exporter; a similar pattern is observed in the chemicals’ field (thanks to the use of gas as both a raw material and a cheap source of energy). Finally, the most obvious consequence has been the cut in carbon dioxide emissions, which are now at their lowest since 1994, thanks to the replacement of coal with shale gas for power generation.

Naturally, this process has a high cost. The shale gas industry requires growing amounts of raw materials, ways to transport them and highly specialized equipment to refine them; in order to increase the overall level of efficiency and production, the U.S. government has commissioned an independent organization, the Research Partnership to Secure Energy for America, to develop technology and processes which increase production.



UK

So far, the results have been encouraging, with both an increase in production and a reduction of the industry's environmental impact.

This last achievement comes from the partnership with another organization, the Environmentally Friendly Drilling program (EFD), which aims to help the public to understand the technology, assess the risks involved and the improvements in progress and acquire a deeper knowledge of such an important matter. Their latest project is the development of a series of gaming simulators for schools, universities and museums: the effect of their campaigns are already tangible, especially if it is considered that citizens are already familiar with the technology as parents, friends and relatives are involved in the industry.

UK has three main challenges in the incoming future, in order to repeat the success of the U.S. model: set up an efficient industrial infrastructure that doesn't have a dramatic environmental impact; ensure that a proper and specialized training is given to the technical personnel who will form the workforce of this industrial sector and, finally, organize accurate and widespread public awareness campaigns, since UK does have a much bigger understanding gap than U.S.





UK

GOING BACKWARDS: UK GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO ADOPT A RENEWABLE ENERGY GOAL PAST 2020

The Government's Decision Will Have an Extremely Negative Impact on the Renewable Energy's Development, Say Experts.

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ven though 2020 EU-wide target will compel UK to make sure that 27% of energy nationwide is produced by renewable sources, the government has refused to set another goal past that date, claiming that the cuts in the carbon budgets will naturally require the development of alternative sources. However, this support might come from highly dangerous and/or polluting sources as well, like nuclear energy or gas, and experts think that “letting the market decide” will not give any assurance to sustainable development at all.

Furthermore, many coal-fired stations will be closed in the following years, an event which could provide a major shortfall in energy production, unless alternatives are provided. So far, UK government's suggestions have been met with skepticism: its incentives towards shale gas exploration will likely be challenged under European state aid rules; the development of new gas-powered stations will increase the production of non-renewable energy far beyond 2020 and, finally, its negotiations with the EDF, a French nuclear company, have been considered “unfair”, since its offer was nearly double current electricity prices.



Wind and Solar Power Now Make Up 15% of Electricity Generation in UK



UK

Obviously, renewable energy companies were shocked and enraged upon hearing this decision and claimed that the setting of specific goals have always helped soothing the damage caused by “negative rhetoric from ministers”, an example of which was offered last week, when the German energy giant RWE Npower, said it would halve its planned renewable investments in the UK. Nina Skorupska, chief executive of Renewable Energy Association (REA), severely criticizes the government’s decision, observing that it, while perfectly reasonable if observed from a theoretical point of view, will cause heavy damages in real-life economics. Generally speaking, the setting of specific goals have always provided two beneficial effects: a rise in long-time investors’ confidence, which in turn acceleratetechnology-cost reduction; and a push in the investment’s flow when politicians’ decisions are unsteady.

In conclusion, a series of elements make hopes for an ever-growing sustainable development falters, at least in UK.



UK

CUADRILLA KEEPS FRACKING: TWO NEW SITES PLANNED IN LANCASHIRE

The Company Announced the Drilling of Two New Sites, Claiming to Compensate and Take into Account Local Communities and Avoid the Heavy Environmental Impact of the Previous Operations, Which Were Suspended Due to Earth Tremors.



An Engineer Displays a Lump of Shale Rock

Shale gas exploration company Cuadrilla has recently outlined its new fracking plan, which involves the drilling of eight wells between two different locations in Lancashire; the region was already the heart of the company's operations, with three established sites, one of which was the first (and only one, so far) to be equipped with modern hydraulic fracking equipment in UK. However, due to small earth tremors originated by the drills and fears for the future of migrating birds, such sites have been dismantled: two of them will permanently shut down, while one will be turned into a seismic monitoring centre. The company is going to submit the required application for planning permissions this summer and if all goes as planned, drilling operations might begin at the beginning of the next year, with four wells to be established in each site: Cuadrilla has also decided to give monetary compensation to the local community, on a £100 000 per well basis.

The company claims that it will take every concern into account and, following the government's warnings after the earth tremors, has promised to install seismic monitoring equipment at each site. Moreover, Cuadrilla's chief executive, Francis Egan, has claimed that they will contact residents and community representatives before beginning the operations and said that "...we have decided to focus on just two sites at this time. This will allow us to reduce the potential impact on the local area during exploration while still gathering the important information we need to determine how much gas could be recovered. We're committed to being a good neighbour and to talking with the community at every stage of the process." Such an expensive and ambitious project (the exploration's cost for each well is estimated to be around £10m) has been met with favour by trade and industry bodies, such as UK Onshore Operators Group and Shale Gas Europe, whose representatives stressed how such operations are vital to obtain the data required to assess whether UK can reach gas independence or not.

However, anti-fracking campaigners have promised a fierce opposition, as confirmed by Friends of the Earth's north-west campaigner, Helen Rimmer. According to her, fracking is not a solution to the energy crisis, since experts' reports have not found any positive impact on climate change and even Cuadrilla has stated that such technique will not yield any cut in energy bills. Despite the rising opposition against Cuadrilla's operations (which were initially met with a generally positive response and few, disorganised protests in 2011), a recent governmental survey shows that 27 % of the British public are in favour of shale gas extraction, while 21 % is contrary. The most worrying percentage is thus the one of those who do not have a clear idea on the matter (more than 50 %), even though fracking is currently at the centre of the energy debate



World Environment

E-WASTE DUMPING: UN WARNS AGAINST THIS TOXIC STREAM

U.N. Researches Show How Electrical Waste is Increasing and Its Environmental Impact is Rising, Due to Illegal Dumping.

United Nations' latest environmental alarm regards the ever increasing amount of "e-waste" that appears to be often illegally dumped in developing countries. The global volume of waste, which is already threatening (50m tonnes worldwide last year), will continue to increase at a blitzing pace, releasing huge concentrations of toxic substances, like lead, cadmium, arsenic and mercury. While the lion's share of pollution is reserved to economical giants, like China (11,1m tonnes) and U.S. (10m tonnes), smaller and unsuspecting countries like Norway and Lichtenstein occupy the first positions of the "amount of waste per person" chart.

The most shocking aspect of this phenomenon is that the majority of these broken electrical devices is neither recycled nor disposed of in their countries of origin, but rather illegally dumped in poorer and less developed areas (mainly west Africa, Asia and South America), where smugglers and hoarders employ an unexperienced and ill-equipped working force, coming from local areas, in order to extract the most valuable materials, a method that causes severe environmental pollution and harms the health of the workers.

The main reason behind the increase of "e-waste" is the growing speed of technical innovation, which in turn greatly shorten the average lifespan of many electrical devices. An example of this can be observed in the cellphones market, where the average shelf life of any given model is less than two years, often ending after only one year. And yet, in 2011 only 10% (12m out 120m) of old mobiles which was replaced with newer models had actually been recycled, a problem that is in part due to the increasing smallness and complexity of the items' structures.



E-Waste Dumping Site in Africa



World Environment

THE GREENER THE BETTER: WORLD'S TOP COMPANIES RECOGNIZE CLIMATE RISK

More and More Companies Understand the Danger of Climate Risk and Are Ready to Adopt Effective Policies and Persuade Their Suppliers to Do So, as Long as There Is a Coherent Regulatory Framework, Says CDP' Study.

A recent study from CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project) shows that, even though emissions' reduction programs have still to be fully implemented, companies worldwide have acknowledged the potential threats coming from climate change and are considering the financial benefits which stem from sustainability investments. More than 2800 companies contributed to the survey, including important firms like Hewlett-Packard and Royal Philips, and the results show how a huge percentage (around 75 %) of the businesses are well aware of the current or future nature of climate risk; however, an even bigger percentage (90 %) claims that the lack of a clear and universal regulatory framework is the major obstacle to emissions' reduction programs. As for the available solutions, policies promoting energy efficiency are the most favored ones, followed by mandatory carbon reporting and "cap and trade" programs.

Gary Hanifan, member of Accenture (which co-published the study with CDP), clearly affirms the need for a consequent political action: a coherent and efficient regulatory regime, with global effect, is not only necessary to let the more eco-friendly companies enjoy monetary savings as a result of their policies, but will also give such companies an effective tool to persuade their chain of suppliers: in the current situation, in fact, the efforts of the top companies are thwarted by their inability to convince their suppliers to follow their lead.



Utopia or Possible Reality?



World Environment

STREAM OF CONSCIENCE: A NEW APPROACH ON WATER CSR

Despite a rise in the level of perception of water as a major business risk factor, very few companies have actually adopted serious policies to fight the water crisis, policies which should focus on changing the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in companies.

The recent upheaval caused by the water crisis has increased the companies' perception of water as a business risk, but there was not a similar rise in the effects of the policies adopted in response. The data are alarming: only 63% of the respondents to the CDP 2013 Water Questionnaire have set concrete water reduction targets for their direct operations, and the percentage of those who have gone further (setting goals for supply chain and public policy on water) is even lower. And yet, surprisingly, more than 75% of the responding CEOs believe that their strategies have been acceptable and effective; this leads to a major conclusion: there is a serious problem when it comes to the actual assessment of the water risk's.

Experts have identified three main reasons behind this lack of tangible efforts: first of all, CEOs tend to treat water's consumption as coal's one, ignoring that the latter is a fungible source, while the former (depending on the spatial and temporal nature of a given basin) can have different impacts on different areas; moreover, it should always be remembered that water's consumption strategies must take into account the fact that this source must be shared with every other stakeholder in the area.



An Example of the Principles Composing CSR

The second point is the severe lack of pressure and incentive coming from governments and investors: in fact, this factor is one of the strongest barrier against any serious policy, since CEOs don't feel pressured by their most valuable stakeholders and so don't realize how profitable an eco-friendly strategy would be.

Finally, there is a misconception that runs rampant in business firms: CSR would be nothing more than a "philanthropic" effort, one that doesn't bring any effective value to the business. However, data contradicts this theory, unfortunately: in China, the fastest-growing economy in the world, 75% of diseases are caused by polluted water and more than 38% of key lakes and reservoirs and 57% of groundwater are too toxic for human touch; it is clear that if this situation is left unchecked, companies will soon start to feel the monetary impact of the water crisis. When faced with this impending disaster, companies are presented with a choice: adopt the ostrich's tactic and wait for the inevitable damage or choose a proactive approach and focus on improving the framework of their CSR's structure, making sure that every stakeholder is involved.

gLAWcal Activities in 2013

Papers

gLAWcal Working Paper Series, IUSE (Turin)
Working Paper Series. October 11, 2013

FEEM (Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei) Working
Paper No. 95.2013

A COMPARISON BETWEEN SHALE GAS IN CHINA AND UNCONVENTIONAL FUEL DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES: HEALTH, WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

(Paolo D. Farah and Riccardo Tremolada)

Abstract

“China is appraised to have the world's largest exploitable reserves of shale gas, although several legal, regulatory, environmental and investment-related issues will likely restrain its scope. China's capacity to successfully face these hurdles and produce commercial shale gas will have a crucial impact on the regional gas market and on China's energy mix, as Beijing strives to decrease reliance on imported oil and coal, while attempting to meet growing energy demand and maintain a certain level of resource autonomy. The development of the unconventional natural gas extractive industry will also endow China with further negotiating power to obtain more advantageous prices from Russia and future liquefied natural gas (LNG) suppliers. This paper, adopting a comparative perspective, underlines the trends learned from unconventional fuel development in the United States, emphasizing their potential application to the Chinese context in light of recently signed production-sharing contracts between qualified foreign investors and China. The wide range of regulatory and enforcement problems in this matter are accrued by an extremely limited liberalization of gas prices, lack of technological development, and political hurdles curbing the opening of resource extraction to private investors. These issues are exacerbated by concerns related to the risk of water pollution deriving from mismanaged drilling and fracturing, absence of adequate regulation framework and industry standards, entailing consequences on social stability and environmental degradation. “

LINK: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2341738

Journal of International Economic Law 16(3), 707–740.
September 2, 2013.

ENERGY TRADE AND THE WTO: IMPLICATIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE OPEC CARTEL

(Paolo D. Farah and Elena Cima)

Abstract

“Energy has become increasingly important in international trade relations. However, the World Trade Organization (WTO) does not deal specifically with this sector, and this creates several problems when it comes to regulating trade in energy goods and services. The situation is further complicated, on the one hand, by the need to foster the diffusion of renewable energy to address the current environmental concerns and, on the other, by the total and overwhelming control exercised by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) over the oil market. It is true that, recently, the WTO has shown an increasingly open approach towards environmental issues. However, free trade is still the backbone of the Organization and trade liberalization its main goal. This explains why the WTO Panel and Appellate Body are still reluctant to justify measures adopted to support the renewable energy sector that may conflict with international trade law. Different might be the case with fossil fuels, the main competitor of renewable energy. OPEC exploits several strategies to control oil prices, which, at least in theory, clash with international trade rules. However, whatever the reason, such practices have never been challenged in front of the WTO. The way WTO provisions are interpreted and applied by the Panel and the Appellate Body when environmental concerns are involved can be used as a starting point to forecast a hypothetical judgment in case OPEC's practices were eventually challenged.”

LINK: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2330416

gLAWcal Activities in 2013

Conferences and Workshops

- **Paolo Farah** has presented a paper on “**Shale Gas in China: A Comparison With Unconventional Fuel Development in the United States: Health, Wealth and Environmental Risks**” at the “Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship”, Vermont Law School, Montpelier, USA, 11th October 2013.
- **Paolo Farah** has been Chair, Moderator and Discussant in the Workshop “**Influences and Perspectives on Legislation and Rulemaking**” at the Conference “**New Approaches and New Questions in Chinese Law**”, European China Law Studies Association (ECLS), University of Oxford, Oxford, 18-20th September 2013.
- **Paolo Farah** has presented a paper on “**Le futur de l'économie chinoise (The Future of the Chinese Economy)**” at the Round Table «**Quel avenir pour la Chine? (Which Future for China ?)**», Summer University in Mercantour (UIEM) at Saint-Martin Vesubie (Alpes-Maritimes), France, 6th September 2013.
- **Paolo Farah** has presented a paper on “**Towards an International Legal Framework for Energy: the OPEC and the World Trade Organization**” at the International Law Association Annual Conference, ILA Hellenic Regional Conference 2013, “Imperium Iuris: Governance, Trade, Resources”, Cape Sounion, Athens, Greece 29-31 August 2013, 31st August 2013.
- As part of the Research Project on “**Evaluating Policies for Sustainable Energy Investments: Towards an Integrated Approach on National and International Stage**” – EPSEI, part of the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Commission, gLAWcal organized the **Workshop on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Investments**. The workshop was held at Peking University School of Government, in Beijing (China) on July 21st, 2013. The event comprised three sessions: the first one on "The International Debate on Sustainable Energy and Climate Change; the second one on "Sustainable Energy Policy and Energy Investment Law in China" and the third one on "Sustainable Energy and Environmental Risk Analysis: The Scientific Support to Decision Making in Europe and Asia".

Among other speakers, gLAWcal' staff gave their contribution to the discussion.

Ms. Elena Cima gave a presentation on “**Renewable Energy Subsidies and the WTO. An Environmentally-Friendly Approach**”.

Dr. Paolo Farah gave a presentation on “**Climate Change, Environment and Energy from the Perspective of International Law and WTO Law: How to Use the General Exceptions of Article XX GATT**”.

Mr. Riccardo Tremolada gave a presentation on “**China's Shale Gas Development: Trapped between the Absence of an Adequate Legal Enforcement and Environmental Degradation**”.

gLAWcal Activities in 2013

Conferences and Workshops

- As part of the Research Project on “**Liberalism In Between Europe And China**” - LIBEAC - **Assessing the Socio-Cultural and Politico-Legal Dimensions of the Differences in Terms of Interpretation and Enforcement of Economic, Social and Environmental Rights in Europe and China**”, part of the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Commission, gLAWcal organized, jointly with other institutions, the **Workshop on Political, Philosophical and Legal Aspects of Liberalism in a Comparative Perspective**. The workshop was held at Peking University School of Government, in Beijing (China) on July 22nd, 2013.

Among other speakers, **Dr. Paolo Farah** gave a presentation on “**Globalization, Liberalism and Western Concepts of Intellectual Property Law: A Need of Protection of the Rights of Indigenous People and the Cultural Diversity in Contemporary World**”.

- As part of the Research Project on “**Partnering Opportunities between Europe and China in the Renewable Energies and Environmental Industries**” – POREEN, part of the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Commission, gLAWcal organized, jointly with other institutions, the **Workshop on China and the Good Governance of the Markets in the Light of the Economic Development**. The Workshop was held at Peking University School of Government, in Beijing (China) on July 23rd, 2013.

Among other speakers, gLAWcal staff gave their contribution to the discussion.

Ms. Elena Cima gave a presentation on “**Chinese Laws and Policies in the Raw Materials Sector**”.

Dr. Paolo Farah gave a presentation on “**How to integrate the Good Governance Concepts in the context of the Global Governance and Laws**”.

Ms. Angela Moriggi gave a presentation on “**Environmental Activism in China: Two Case Studies**”.

gLAWcal Activities in 2013

Lecture Series on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development

- As part of the **Lecture Series on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development**, gLAWcal has been organizing the following events, held at Peking University School of Government, in Beijing (China).
- On August 15, 2013 **Dr. YANG Fuqiang**, Senior Advisor on Climate, Energy and Environment for the China Program of **NRDC** (Natural Resources Defense Council) delivered a lecture on "**Climate Change, Energy and Water Issues in China**".
- On August 7, 2013, gLAWcal, in partnership with **China WET** (China Water-Energy Team), organized a conference on "**Global Choke Point: Water-Energy-Food Confrontations in the World's Two Largest Economies**". The event is part of a series of roundtable discussions among diverse groups of U.S. and Chinese experts, gathering information and data to identify research, legal, policy, and NGO priorities for China to begin dealing with water-energy confrontations and to explore opportunities for further U.S.-China cooperation on these issues. To see the full list of the topics discussed and the full profile of the speakers, please find the full agenda here [files/China_WET_Roundtable_Topics_and_Speakers_Profiles.pdf](#)
- On August 6, 2013, gLAWcal organized a lecture on "**China's Response to Climate Change: an Analytical Lens to Understand China's role in Global Sustainable Development**", featuring **Ms. Changhua WU**, Greater China Director at **The Climate Group**.
- On July 19, 2013, gLAWcal organized a lecture on "**Climate Protection in China: the Contribution of Chinese Civil Society Organizations**" featuring **Dr. Patrick SHROEDER**, International Advisor for **CANGO** (China Association for NGO Cooperation) and for **CCAN** (China Civil Climate Action Network).
- On July 17, 2013, **Mr. LI Rusong**, China Programme Director of **CDP** (Carbon Disclosure Programme) gave a lecture on "**Measuring Sustainability: CDP as a Case Study**".

gLAWcal Activities in 2013

Lecture Series on Globalization, International Economic Law and Development

- As part of the **Lecture Series on Globalization, International Economic Law and Development**, gLAWcal organized the event on "**The World Trade Organization: World Trade Values and Non-Trade Values**". The lecture was hosted at the WTO (World Trade Organisation) in Geneva, on April 15, 2013, featuring Prof. Dr. Gabrielle MARCEAU, Counsellor of the Legal Affairs Division at the WTO, Dr. Jayashree WATAL, Counsellor of the IP Division of the WTO and Dr. Danio CAMPANELLI, Legal Affairs Specialist at the Council and TNC Division of the WTO.

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GLAWCAL → GLOBAL LAW INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WHO WE ARE

gLAWcal is an independent non-profit research organization (think tank) that aims at providing a new focus on issues related to economic law, globalization and development, namely the relationship between international economy and trade, with special attention to a number of non-trade-related values and concerns.

Through research and policy analysis, gLAWcal sheds a new light on issues such as good governance, human rights, right to water, rights to food, social, economic and cultural rights, labour rights, access to knowledge, public health, social welfare, consumer interests and animal welfare, climate change, energy, environmental protection and sustainable development, product safety, food safety and security.

All these values are directly affected by the global expansion of world trade and should be upheld to balance the excesses of globalization.

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