

CHINA: NEXT CLIMATE CHANGE LEADER?

U.N. commends China's leadership following a meeting to support Paris climate accord

The G20 – under China's leadership – issued a statement this week committing to back the Paris climate accord and pledge domestic measures to [bring it to force](#) as soon as possible.

Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said this week that U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was “encouraged by the strong political momentum” behind the Paris Agreement,

which will be signed by 130 nations at a ceremony at [U.N. headquarters](#) on April 22. Both China and the United States, the world's top emitters accounting together for 38 percent of emissions, have promised to sign.

However, signing the agreement is only the first step. The accord requires formal approval from 55 nations. In many countries, that requires a parliamentary vote. Some predict that President Obama is hopeful about reaching the 55 percent threshold before leaving office in January 2017.

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@SICMGMT TWEET OF THE WEEK

 Coal Slump Sends Mining Giant [Peabody Energy](#) Into Bankruptcy <http://bloom.bg/1NnJAYL> via @business

GPIF GETS SERIOUS ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

The Japanese Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF) would like to begin engaging with companies directly on stewardship issues. The fund has released its first ever survey of companies on the JPX Nikkei Index 400 to “evaluate the stewardship activities of its external asset managers and to grasp [the]

real situation of constructive dialogues.” In an announcement about the survey, the fund said “we would be pleased to meet directly with any companies who are interested in meeting with us to discuss their views or concerns.”

[READ MORE \(subscription required\)](#)

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

150

countries will switch to an oral polio vaccine, the first time a worldwide vaccine change has been attempted.

130

countries are expected to sign the Paris Climate Change Agreement this month.

80

percent of water from wells across China are unfit for drinking or bathing.

57

London underground (tube) stations are classified as high flood risk.

50

US coal mining companies have resorted to bankruptcy protection since 2012 (subscription required for link).

10

million US dollars were divested from fossil fuel companies by the Yale endowment plan.

9

US energy companies have received shareholder proposals recommending that they analyze the financial risks if governments limit the global temperature rise to 2°C (subscription required for link).

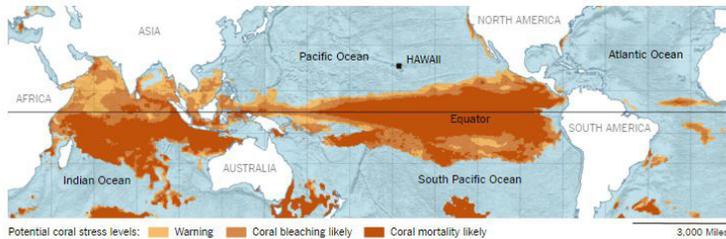
ANTIBIOTICS UPRISING BY INVESTORS

A group of investors representing USD 1.41 trillion in assets have launched a campaign to [curb antibiotics](#) in meat and poultry. Ten US and British restaurants – including [McDonalds](#), [Domino's Pizza Group](#) and [JD Wetherspoon](#) –

are being asked by the group to set a timeline to reduce and eventually stop the use of antibiotics in their supply chains. The investors hope that this action will reduce the surge in alarming drug-resistant 'superbugs'.

INFOGRAPHIC OF THE WEEK

Damaged or dying [coral reefs](#) around the world have become a major concern:



Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, GEBCO
By The New York Times

SLOWING RENEWABLE ENERGY GROWTH?

Despite falling costs of renewable energy technologies, it is expected that clean energy growth rates will slow over the next ten years. Capacity is expected to [increase 11 percent](#) this year but growth will slow to 7 percent between 2016 and 2025 after averaging 21 percent from 2006 to 2015.

Why? "The pace of growth compared to historic levels is slowing - in part due to base-effects, but also as mature renewables markets reign in support for renewable energy and adopt more sustainable mechanisms to encourage investment," noted [BMI research](#).

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

As if we needed another reason to love cheese. A new bio-methane plant in Cumbria will be Europe's first anaerobic digestion plant to generate biogas from cheese production residues.

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DID YOU SEE...?

A recent [NASA](#) study has revealed the answers to a mystery about our "wobbling" earth. First, earth does not spin evenly on an axis running through its poles – and this has to do with drought and land water storage. Moreover, scientists now suggest that the loss of mass from Greenland and Antarctica's rapidly melting ice sheet could be causing the eastward shift of the spin axis.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We are headed towards a decarbonization of the global economy, no doubt about it.”

– Christiana Figueres, the executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)