

This week we feature our workshop at the annual Sustainable Apparel Coalition meeting, the new Blue City Water Quality Index, investigations in the e-commerce snack industry & more [View this email in your browser](#)



As this newsletter goes out, two of our colleagues are wrapping up a successful week at the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) annual meeting in Barcelona. This year, IPE hosted a teach-in for brand representatives to try searching suppliers in our database right there at the conference, for a hands-on experience with Blue Map supply chain management tools. The event drew over fifty participants from brands of all sizes and inspired a number of prospective partners!

Huge thanks to our active partners for talking about their accomplishments through IPE's supply chain program at the event, and to SAC for the opportunity to share our work. Check out details of the event below, along with features on our new national water quality index and an investigation into the snack food industry.

In this month's newsletter:

- [Blue EcoChain workshop inspires leaders in sustainable apparel](#)
- [Introducing the Blue City Water Quality Index](#)
- [Snack brand investigations open the debate on e-commerce environmental responsibility](#)
- [Media Updates](#)

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Blue EcoChain workshop inspires leaders in sustainable apparel

This June, IPE was invited by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) to host a workshop on scaling up sustainability efforts at their 2019 global member meeting held in Barcelona, Spain. IPE's senior fellow Dr. Linda Greer and green supply chain program manager Shanshan DING jointly led the workshop and introduced the innovative Blue EcoChain tool to well over 50 SAC members.



The automated data-based system allows brands to track the environmental performance of their suppliers in real-time and enables suppliers to take the initiative on rectifications, public explanations and accountability as soon as a violation occurs. So far, nearly 60 brands from diverse industries have integrated Blue EcoChain into their supply chain responsibility programs and sourcing practices.

Active users H&M, Li & Fung, VF, GAP and Adidas shared their own experiences scaling up impact and driving changes in their supply chain sustainability through Blue EcoChain at the workshop. Looking forward, IPE is interested in closer alignment with industry efforts such as those taken by SAC to streamline the process of environmental supply chain management. Additionally, IPE will embark on expanding its database coverage to South and Southeast Asian countries including Vietnam and India.

Check out materials from the SAC teach-in on our [Document Download Center](#). Interested in hosting an IPE workshop? Drop us a line at gsc@ipe.org.cn

Introducing the Blue City Water Quality Index



IPE added a number of water quality functions on the Blue Map last year, including features for government-designated black and smelly rivers and drinking water sources. This year, we took the analysis a step further and released the first comprehensive [Blue City Water Quality Index](#) (Chinese) or BCWQI. The BCWQI collates national and local data on surface waters, groundwater and drinking water sources for an overall city score, which are assigned colors from purple to blue, with blue as the highest quality.

Once water quality protection rose to a top priority for the government, national monitoring and data disclosure experienced outstanding growth. Now, nearly complete monitoring networks from all levels of government provide the foundation of over 600,000 data points for the IPE Water Quality Index to analyze 337 prefecture-level and 25 county-level cities.

Want to check out your city's water quality index? Simply update to the latest Blue Map APP and click Map, then Water to see the national distribution.

Don't have this app yet? Follow the link [here](#) for an overview and free download.

Snack brand investigations open the debate on e-commerce environmental responsibility

To celebrate Children's Day on June 9, IPE bought a boatload of fun snacks from China's three leading snack food brands: Three Squirrels, Be & Cheery, and Bestore. We couldn't help but also do some quick research on their supply chain impacts, and the results didn't go well.

Suppliers of all three brands in almost all snack categories, including candied fruit, nuts, biscuits, bread, savory snacks and dairy products all had supervision records, with violations ranging from solid waste mismanagement to procedural violations. Shanghai Meiji Food Co. Ltd., a packaging company for Three Squirrels, was punished for an inadequate air pollution control system as late as January 2019. Unfortunately, almost none of the guilty suppliers have submitted any feedback or corrective action plans, nor did the brands respond to our inquiries on the above.

These snack giants watched their business boom alongside e-commerce in China. They operate as retailers, which source products from different suppliers and rebrand products under their own name, thereby building a wide consumer base without catering to the specific environmental standards or procedures required of an official food manufacturer.



As e-commerce continues to grow in China, the environmental impacts of these companies will increase in tandem, but the online platform creates another layer of distance between rising demand and industry pollution. Snacks are also just a drop in the bucket for greater e-commerce giants. The movement to hold these companies accountable starts now!

For the full analysis and pictures, read our WeChat article [here](#) (Chinese).

Media Updates

Seen IPE in the news lately? Two international publications featured our Founding Director Ma Jun this month: the June 2019 [print edition](#) of *National Geographic* magazine, and the online publication *GovInsider*, which is [showcasing](#) public sector innovation across the Asia-Pacific.

"The turning point came in 2011 when government agencies began to seek collaboration. I still remember the time we got a phone call in Shandong, saying that the head of the local Environmental Protection Bureau wanted to have a conversation with us," says Ma. "We were a bit nervous." The government officials extended an invitation to tackle pollution in the province. "The head of the bureau said, "We need people to join the effort.""

Jasmine Gan, *GovInsider*

POLICY UPDATES & RESOURCES

Policy Updates

- Early in June, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) officially issued the [Standard for Fugitive Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds](#), which came into effect on July 1, 2019. The standard offers specific requirements for emissions control during the transportation, storage, and monitoring of VOCs.
- For a more in-depth look, read the [Emissions Standard of Air Pollutants for the Pharmaceutical Industry](#), which was published at the same time as targeted policies for the coatings, ink and adhesive industry and will [support](#) China's greater air pollution prevention and control framework.

Policy Resources

- [Environmental Protection Tax Law of the P.R.C.](#) (English)
- [Soil Pollution Action Plan \("Soil Ten"\)](#) (Unofficial English translation)
- [Amendments to China's Air Law \(passed in August 2015\)](#) (English translation)
- ["Water 10" Action Plan \(issued in April 2015\)](#) (English translation)
- [Made in China 2025](#) (policy summary)
- [EU-China Environmental Governance Project Policy Resource Center](#) (Bilingual)
- [China Hazardous Chemicals Management Resource Center](#) (Bilingual)
- [China Law Translate](#) (crowd-sourced English translations of Chinese laws)

RELATED NEWS AND REPORTS

[China to launch new round of environmental inspections](#)
Reuters, June, 2019

[Developing countries turn away from plastic waste imports](#)
china dialogue, 12 June 2019

DOWNLOAD IPE'S BLUE MAP APP!

IPE's Blue Map 5.0 now available in English! Download by scanning the QR code below:



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If you have feedback or comments for this newsletter or IPE, we want to know! Please send a message to ipe@ipe.org.cn.

