

ASIA IN THE NEWS 2012

Source: The Guardian

Tibet

China detains hundreds of Tibetans for 're-education'.

Tourism

The number of travellers from emerging economies with growing middle classes – such as China, Brazil, and India – is projected to grow by 135%, 274%, and 50% respectively by 2016 when compared to 2010.

Bangladesh

Authorities in Bangladesh are looking abroad for land to grow food to meet the country's increasing demand and to create jobs for Bangladeshi migrants. Bangladesh officials are in talks with Ukraine for wheat production, are considering Cambodia for rice, and are visiting parts of sub-Saharan Africa to explore similar ventures.

Japan

Japanese experts warn of earthquakes that could produce 34-metre tsunamis.

Cambodia

The country's rich artistic culture was destroyed in the 1970s by the Khmer Rouge regime. Today, a revival is taking place and is gaining international recognition.

Sumatra

Rare Sumatran orang-utans dying as fires rage in Indonesian swamp forest.

Japan

Fukushima reactor shows radiation levels much higher than thought.

Indonesia

Indonesia's smoking epidemic – an old problem getting younger. Many male smokers now start their habit at age seven, with activists blaming weak regulations and the tobacco industry.

Earth Hour 2012 Kuala Lumpur

Hundreds of millions of people, businesses and governments around the world unite each year to support the largest environmental event in history – Earth Hour.

<http://www.earthhour.org/>

China

Death penalty in China is high – <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2011/mar/29/death-penalty-countries-world#zoomed-picture>

The number of old people in China is soaring. There will soon be fewer young workers to support them. China's economic miracle was fuelled by young people. So how can a country that is still developing cope with what some call a demographic time bomb.

Air pollution could become China's biggest health threat. Leading respiratory disease specialist warns of consequences if government fails to monitor and publicise the dangers.

Diagram: Death penalty statistics, country by country

