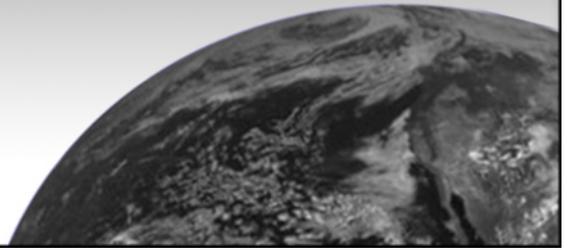


news for a changing world



## State of the World Report: China and India Hold the Balance

The growth of China and India presents the biggest threat—or opportunity—facing the world, says the Worldwatch Institute in its *State of the World* report. The choices countries make now will lead the world either towards a future of growing problems—or on a path of efficient technologies and control of our resources.

“Rising demand for energy, food, and raw materials by 2.5 billion Chinese and Indians is already having ripple effects worldwide,” says Worldwatch. “Meanwhile, record-shattering consumption levels in the U.S. and Europe leave little room for this projected Asian growth.”

“The US (and Canada) still consumes three times as much grain per person as China and five times as much as India. Our carbon dioxide emissions are six times the Chinese level and 20 times the Indian level. If China and India were to consume resources and produce pollution at the same levels, it would require two planet Earths just to sustain them.

A growing number of leaders in China and India now recognize that the resource-rich model for growth can't last forever. Already, China's world-leading solar industry provides water heating for 35

million buildings, and India's use of rainwater harvesting brings clean water to tens of thousands of homes. China and India are set to become leaders in sustainable energy and agriculture within a decade.

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In 2005, China used 26 percent of the world's steel, 32 percent of its rice, and 47 percent of its cement. Though per person, resource use is still low, with such huge populations, China and India are joining the US and Europe as ecological superpowers whose demands on the world's ecosystems will outstrip those of other countries.

The report calls for better ties between China, India, Europe, and the US to develop energy and agricultural systems, maximize resources, and continue progress in decision-making in China and India. Also, it is urgent that China and India be invited into key international bodies such as the G-8, says the report. “The rise of China and India is the wake-up call that should prompt people around the world to take seriously the need to build sustainable economies,” the book concludes.

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