《中国准备加大醉驾处罚力度》

Despite already having tough laws against drunk driving, China's leaders are now considering whether to make the penalty for drinking and driving even stiffer. Doug Kanter/Bloomberg

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Under current rules, intoxicated drivers with blood-alcohol concentrations between 0.02% and 0.08% (20-80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood) , are penalized with license suspensions of three to six months and fines of up to 500 yuan, or roughly $77. People caught driving with blood-alcohol levels of 0.08% and above the most common standard for drunk driving in the U.S. -- can be detained for up to 15 days and fined up to 2000 yuan.

??????????????????????0.02%?0.08%??(?100???????20?80????)????????????????????????????500????(???77??)????????????0.08%(??????????)???????????15???????2000?????

According to a report in the state-run China Daily, legislators in Beijing are debating a new law that would up the maximum fine for drunk driving to 5,000 yuan, or nearly $770, and allow authorities to revoke the offender's license for up to 10 years.

??????????????(China Daily)????????????????????????????????????5,000?(?770??)????????????????????????10??

The report does not say when lawmakers will announce a final decision.

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Consideration of the new law comes as the number of cars in China has exploded. By the end of 2010, there were more than 200 million cars plying China's roads, with another 20 million more expected to be added this year, China Daily reports.

Cara Anna/Associated Press???2010?10?29???????,?????????????????????????.??????????????????.???????????????????,??????,?????????????????????“?????”.?????????????????.??2010??????????????2????????????2,000???

With the increase in cars, the number of drunk drivers has also been on the rise. Police caught 526,000 boozing cruisers in 2010, up 68% from the year earlier, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

????????????????????????????????????2010????????52.6???????????2009????68%?

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After doing little to address the problem in the early years of the car boom, China has recently begun to put its foot down on drunk driving. In 2009, Chinese courts handed the death sentence to a 30-year-old company executive who killed four people and injured one more while driving drunk in the western city of Chengdu. The man, Sun Weiming, appealed the decision and was resentenced to life in prison.

??2009????????30?????????????????????????????????? ???????????

Despite such penalties, drunk driving continues to be a problem. The China Daily reports that 65,000 people were killed in traffic accidents last year. It does not specify the number of deaths caused by drunk driving.

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One of China's most infamous drunk-driving incidents occurred last October, when 23-year-old Li Qiming killed a college student while driving under the influence. Mr. Li was cruising around the Hebei University campus when he struck two roller-skating students with his Volkswagen sedan, killing one of them. Mr. Li, whose father, Li Gang, was a deputy chief of a district police bureau, drove on. He was later stopped by university guards, to whom he shouted: "Charge me if you dare. My father is Li Gang." That line soon became catchphrase for abuse of power as the case sparked widespread outrage online.

??10?????????????????????23?????????????????????????????????????(Volkswagen)???????????????????????????? ?? ????

To the consternation of many, Li Qiming was eventually convicted of "causing traffic casualties," a light charge carrying a maximum sentence of seven years behind bars,

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Alcohol companies that operate in China are becoming increasingly aware of the problem. The world's biggest brewer Anheuser-Busch InBev is reviving next week an advertising campaign it launched in 2010, reminding China's Budweiser drinkers to tap a designated driver when planning to imbibe out on the town.

??????????????????????????????????????-????(Anheuser-Busch InBev) 2010?????????????????????????????(Budweiser)??????????????????????????“????”???????

The ad features Chinese comedian Eason Chan in a loud bar, attempting to tell his friend that he can't drink because he's driving. He gestures as though he's driving and it catches on as a dance in the bar.

????????????(Eason Chan)???