



## DrumBeat: December 29, 2006

Posted by [threadbot](#) on December 29, 2006 - 10:05am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

### [Globalization in Retreat](#)

Another factor unraveling the globalist project is its obsession with economic growth. Indeed, unending growth is the centerpiece of globalization, the mainspring of its legitimacy. While a recent World Bank report continues to extol rapid growth as the key to expanding the global middle class, global warming, peak oil, and other environmental events are making it clear to people that the rates and patterns of growth that come with globalization are a surefire prescription for ecological Armageddon.

### [Belarus delegation heads for gas talks in Moscow](#)

MINSK - A Belarus delegation headed for Moscow on Friday in a last-minute attempt to settle a gas pricing row with Russia, which could threaten supplies to Europe in the New Year.

### India: [4-hr domestic power-cuts to tide over energy crisis](#)

HYDERABAD: Stung by the farmers' protests over inadequate power supply to agriculture sector, the State Government on Wednesday initiated a series of measures including imposition of four-hour duration power cut in the domestic sector to tide over the ongoing energy crisis in the state.

### [Iran's IOOC sets record in crude production](#)

LONDON, December 28 - Average crude exploited by Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) has set a record figure in the company's history, production manager at IOOC stated on Wednesday MNA reported.

"By developing the potential oilfields in the region, their capacity has increased from the previous 766,000 bpd to current 805,000. This is mainly due to simultaneous production coordination," Gholam-Abbas Jokar noted, adding that maintaining the present level of oil extraction is on the company's priority list.

## China: [Crude imports 'to surge'](#)

China's crude oil imports are expected to surge this year and exports will fall year-on-year as a result of market demand and trade policy adjustments, a leading industry analyst said yesterday.

## [Russian Energy Supermodels](#)

The Russian Energy Inc powerhouse is taking shape, and man oh man, it is a formidable juggernaut capable of disrupting the global balance of power. Major Western energy giants struggle to keep pace, join forces in incestuous unconstructive fashion, and have become increasingly "bit players" in the scheme of things. The Seven Sisters from the US & Western Europe seem like rented high school prom queens by comparison. The Russian dames are supermodels on the runway, not much on earning style points (rude, pushy, intimidating) but incredibly impressive chassis to behold (nice bodies)!!!

## [Russia pondering ways of spending oil revenues](#)

MOSCOW - The Russian Finance Ministry has proposed establishing an Oil and Gas Fund based on the Stabilization Fund, to ensure long-term budget stability through a balanced use of oil and gas reserves.

## Russia: [Elections and Oil Hold Key to 2007](#)

This year, Brent crude prices were especially buoyant, averaging \$67 per barrel after a historic peak of more than \$73 in July. In recent months, however, the price has leveled off. Brent was trading at \$60.90 per barrel in London on Thursday morning, and most economic forecasts for next year, including those written into the federal budget, are based on the assumption that it will stay above \$60 per barrel.

Alfa Bank strategist Erik DePoy said this assumption hinged on a pair of highly unpredictable factors -- "the two Ws: weather and war."

## [Analysis: Unrest curtails Africa oil](#)

Petroleum-rich Nigeria led all of Africa's oil-producing states in two crucial categories in 2006: barrels produced per day and violence against foreign energy firms.

## [Interest high in Barnett Shale](#)

Action by Congress in the final hours of its last session of 2006 signals to some oil and gas experts that the nation will likely focus its energy-hungry eyes on the Barnett Shale

in North Texas.

### [Fuel Scarcity in a Land of Oil Abundance](#)

While the country is rich, the people are poor. Fuel unites them, but the petrodollars seldom trickle down.

### Raymond J. Learsy: [An Energy Agenda For a Newly Energized Congress \(Part V\) -- Preaching Energy Conservation From The Bully Pulpit](#)

In a recent news conference shortly before the Christmas holidays the President encouraged the assembled newsmen and those TV viewers throughout the land to "go shopping". This at a moment when sending additional troops to Iraq was the issue of the day. Said in an offhand way, it nonetheless struck a sour chord, as being out of place and out of sync with the nations mood.

Just imagine, instead of urging us to go shopping, he would have said:

"Our situation in Iraq is grave and our soldiers are sacrificing so much. The little we can do this Christmas season in solidarity with them is to make a concerted effort to keep our use of energy to the bare minimum, to learn to live with less, to begin as a national community to make individual efforts to regain our self reliance and our self respect. The price we are paying for our dependency is too high in blood, money and the environments' destruction. Each of us must do our share!"

### [Congressional Leaders Urged to Shift R&D Funds to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programs](#)

Washington, DC -- In a letter delivered Dec. 27 to congressional leaders, 103 business, consumer, environmental, energy policy, and other groups urged that federal energy research and development funds be shifted from fossil fuel and nuclear power programs to those supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency.

### [Renewable Energy Roadmap: Rural America Can Prosper](#)

Report from the University of Tennessee finds the 25x25 goal will boost farm income and create millions of jobs.

### [Environmentalists Revive German Speed Limit Debate](#)

BERLIN - German environmentalists hope the country's stewardship of the Group of Eight and the European Union in 2007 will help steer the car-crazy nation towards

imposing speed limits on its unrestricted autobahns.

### [Renewable Energy Set to Explode...with Government Backing](#)

A bomb went off in the renewable energy world two months ago, but almost nobody heard it. It has stunning implications for the energy business, both the traditional hydrocarbon side and the renewable side.

### [Munich Re Sees Natural Catastrophes on the Rise](#)

FRANKFURT - Munich Re sees the number of severe weather-related natural catastrophes increasing in coming years because of global warming, among other reasons, the German reinsurer said on Thursday.

### [A grass-roots push for a 'low carbon diet'](#)

[David] Gershon put his nose to the grindstone, and a slim workbook titled "Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5,000 Pounds" was the result. Replete with checklists and illustrations, the user-friendly guide is a serious attempt at changing American energy-consumption behavior.

### [It's the energy and the economy, stupid: An open letter to US policymakers](#)

The 21st century will likely be defined by three overarching forces: climate change, Peak Oil, and macroeconomics. The twin issues of climate change and Peak Oil are intertwined variables, and each represent extremely important phenomena that have slowly gained some public awareness. However, the third issue, macroeconomics, and more specifically the global trends regarding multiple *petrocurrencies* remains essentially unreported by the five US corporate media conglomerates.

### [Top 10 sustainability stories of 2006](#)

### [Amory Lovins Stepping Down as Rocky Mountain Institute CEO](#)

### [Wind energy turns out to have a complication: reliability](#)

Engineers have cut the cost of electricity derived from wind by about 80 percent in the last 20 years, setting up this renewable technology for a major share of the electricity market.

But for all its promise, wind also generates a big problem: Because it is unpredictable

and often fails to blow when electricity is most needed, wind is not reliable enough to assure supplies for an electricity grid that must be prepared to deliver power to everybody who wants it — even when it is in greatest demand.

### [Ice mass snaps free from Canada's Arctic](#)

"This is a dramatic and disturbing event. It shows that we are losing remarkable features of the Canadian North that have been in place for many thousands of years," Vincent said. "We are crossing climate thresholds, and these may signal the onset of accelerated change ahead."

### [Russia tightens grip on gas, threatens to cut supply](#)

LONDON — It's getting cold in Europe, and Russia is threatening to turn off the heat — for the second straight winter.

Gazprom, Russia's state-controlled natural gas monopoly, has told Belarus to pay double the current price for gas by New Year's Day or supplies will be cut. Gazprom also demanded a stake in the pipeline carrying gas from Belarus to other European customers.

Belarus has rejected the demands. Moscow warned Poland, Germany and Lithuania on Wednesday to expect shortages if the dispute continues. It also warned Belarus not to siphon gas from the Yamal-Europe pipeline.

### [Honda says fuel-cell cars can be mass-produced by 2018](#)

...challenges include how to reduce the amount of noble metals used for fuel cells, how to improve hydrogen storage and how to make hydrogen at lower costs.

### [China's Chery confirms deal to build cars for DaimlerChrysler](#)

BEIJING - Chery Motors, one of the few Chinese car makers with its own brand, has confirmed it will build small cars for German-US giant DaimlerChrysler, state media has reported.

### [Cleaner diesel engine rules take effect](#)

Federal regulations that take effect Monday mandate cleaner diesel engines in new trucks and school buses, dramatically cutting pollution but raising costs.

### [Tea Leaves 2007:](#)

The price of a barrel of oil will fall below \$50.

As a result, ethanol mania will cool.

One euro will cost \$1.50. (It's \$1.31 now.)

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will receive the first application for building a new nuclear power plant since 1973.

### [Exxon Mobil asks court for leases](#)

JUNEAU, Alaska - Exxon Mobil Corp. wants a federal court to overturn the state's decision to revoke its leases in the North Slope's Point Thomson oil and gas field.

### [Linde probed over suspected bribery](#)

MUNICH, Germany - German prosecutors said Friday they are investigating industrial gas company Linde AG on suspicion it bribed the regime of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein while taking part in the U.N. oil-for-food program.



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