



## DrumBeat: January 6, 2007

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

### [Peak Oil Passnotes: Is 2007 Time to Get Out of Oil?](#)

There is a chance - this time - that those lows are going to be breached. The unfortunate fact for the executives of our international oil companies is that any price fall could not come at a worse time for the oil industry.

Because the recent run up in prices have meant that companies have been falling over themselves to put on extra barrels of production. Of course this cannot be done overnight so we are now seeing the first wave of new output about to hit the market.

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### [The greening of the oil sands](#)

Facing a reinvigorated Liberal Party and Canadians' focus on the environment, the Conservatives are in a hurry to get green. It is a race companies in the oil sands have been running for years, some of them for decades. While the Conservatives appear ready for a sprint — Mr. Baird declared Thursday that “This year, I'm going to clean up the environment” — this race is clearly a marathon, a difficult and challenging slog, where the costs begin in the hundreds of millions of dollars and many of the solutions are unproven.

### [Planning for a Post Carbon Era](#)

It doesn't matter where in America you live; it doesn't matter what your job is. Let's imagine, for an instant, that tomorrow you wake up and the nation has entered a Post-Carbon Era.

### [Oprah's academy: Why educating girls pays off more](#)

"With education, the girl child will grow up and be a better mother - she will be better able to understand the importance of her own children being educated, and will be better able to provide for her children," says Sarah Crowe, a spokesperson for UNICEF in Johannesburg. "Men and boys are often out of the home," she notes, so that fathers are less able to teach their children what they have learned.

### [AES executive joins alternative energy group's board](#)

AES, one of the largest power companies in the world, is bringing its muscle to a national group that's an advocate for alternative energy.

### [Alternative-Energy Spending Fizzles Out](#)

Congress ends without funding research programs, as the United States falls behind in alternative technologies.

### [Next IEA Chief Tanaka Vows to Spur Dialogue with Oil Market](#)

Tanaka, originally from Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, said he sees it as important to ensure transparency in the oil market, but that he does not support the idea of "controlling" speculative funds in the market, which some see as the reason for increasingly high prices.

### [Europe to suffer as the world warms up](#)

Chilly northern Europe could reap big benefits from global warming, while the Mediterranean faces crippling shortages of both water and tourists by the middle of the century, according to the first comprehensive study of its effects on the continent.

### [RFF Scholars Awarded Prize for Economics of Climate Change](#)

### [Out of habit from when energy was cheap, open windows in winter](#)

BERLIN: If you ever visit countries like Ukraine, Moldova or Georgia during the winter months, try to avoid spending much time in government buildings. They are sweltering. Ask that the temperature be turned down and your host will immediately oblige — by opening the window. Thermostats are nonexistent.

### [Geothermal power moves ahead as reliable source of renewable energy](#)

LONDON: Homes in Unterhaching, a town south of Munich, will be warmed by hot water piped from 3,300 meters, or 10,800 feet, underground starting in May. The town of 22,000 people is at the leading edge of a shift toward geothermal power generation that may swell Germany's capacity 1,000-fold within a decade.

## [German Renewable Energy Usage at Record High in 2006](#)

[Japan to provide \\$2 billion in energy aid to Asia: Goal is "the eradication of energy poverty."](#)

### [Who gives a dam?](#)

This is where political math becomes more complicated - while a political party espousing the cause of a hydroelectric project can expect to lose the support of people displaced, it cannot expect to gain patronage of people who stand to benefit until after the project is completed, by which time governments would have changed hands more than a few times.

### [Local action: a new initiative aims to deglobalize the Bay Area's economy](#)

In what some experts are hailing as a first for sustainability movements in the United States, a coalition of policy organizations has unveiled a comprehensive campaign to reduce the Bay Area's reliance on global markets in favor of a more locally based economy.

### [Bunning, Obama Re-Introduce Blueprint For Energy Independence: Will Form Senate Coal-to-Liquid Fuel Caucus](#)

**Washington, DC** - U.S. Senators Jim Bunning (R-KY) and Barack Obama (D-IL) today introduced the "Coal-To-Liquid Fuel Promotion Act of 2007." This bipartisan piece of legislation is based on the bill first introduced by Senators Bunning and Obama last spring and would help create the infrastructure needed for large-scale production of Coal-to-Liquids (CTL) fuel. It is a comprehensive bill that expands tax incentives, creates planning assistance, and develops Department of Defense support for the domestic CTL industry.

### [New Congress juices energy bills](#)

WASHINGTON -- U.S. lawmakers unveiled a raft of energy-related bills in the early hours of the 110th Congress aimed at boosting fuel ethanol use, extracting liquid fuels from coal and tightening automobile fuel efficiency rules.

But instead of heaping all their ideas into a behemoth energy bill like they did in 2005, this year's Congress looks poised to pursue energy legislation on a piecemeal basis.

### [Unfazed by Oil Price Fall, OPEC Sits Tight for Now](#)

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' officials, so far unfazed by this week's sharp decline in global crude oil prices, say they will sit tight to see if the downward trend continues before discussing an emergency meeting or whether they need to deepen existing supply cuts.

### [Interview with Paul Gipe, Wind Energy Pioneer](#)

First of all, Americans have to cut their consumption. There's no way around that. Then any renewables you put into the system do more good.

### [The Future's so Bright...I'm Going Solar!](#)

Listen: At this point, unless you hate money, there's no reason you shouldn't be playing at least a few renewable energy stocks in 2007. It's just a no-brainer.

### [Bolivia Gas Exports Spike in 2006, But Party May Be Over](#)

Bolivia's natural gas export sales rose spectacularly in 2006, but the party may soon be over.

While the thirst for gas in neighboring Brazil and Argentina continues unabated, virtually no fresh investment is being made in new production as companies lick their wounds after last year's oil and gas nationalization.

### [India's PM Says West is Environmentally Wasteful](#)

CHIDAMBARAM, India -- Slamming the West for its "environmentally wasteful lifestyle", Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called on Wednesday for industrialised nations to look at alternative energy sources to save the environment.

"We, in the developing world, cannot afford to ape the West in terms of its environmentally wasteful lifestyle," Singh said at a science conference in Chidambaram, 195 km (120 miles) south of Tamil Nadu's state capital, Chennai.

"Equally, developed industrial economies must realise that they too must alter their consumption patterns so that few do not draw upon so much of the Earth's resources."

### [Gauging The Demand](#)

The hype is racing ahead of consumer appetite for alternative-fuel vehicles, industry experts say. Only a small fraction of the cars on the roads are hybrids and diesels, which

get better fuel mileage than gasoline-only cars and burn cleaner than they used to. While such vehicles have distinct advantages, consumers for the most part seem unwilling to pay their higher prices. As a result, carmakers will push ahead cautiously before deciding to turn out large numbers of the vehicles.

### [From a Collapsing Wall to a Pipeline](#)

The unprecedented cooperation between Russia and China over the last few years is a waving red flag that could signal future complications for the U.S.

### [Saudi raises crude selling price for February](#)

Saudi Arabia has hiked the official selling prices of its heavier crude oil grades for February term supply to Asia, possibly setting the stage for further term supply cuts.

...Saudi Arabia will announce February term supply allocations shortly, and traders expect the kingdom to deepen term supply reductions in line with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' decision to further tighten the market.

But they're lowering light crude prices: [Aramco, light crude cuts](#)

Saudi Aramco has cut the price of its light crude oil varieties that will be exported to Asia next month due to rising diesel and kerosene stockpiles, reported Bloomberg.

### [Australia and China ratify nuclear fuel deal](#)

SYDNEY - Australia and China have ratified a nuclear agreement clearing the way for the export of uranium to feed Beijing's giant nuclear power programme, Canberra has said.

### [Bartlett will introduce 15 bills to Congress](#)

Peak Oil Resolution -- Reintroduction of H. Res 507 that expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States, in collaboration with other international allies, should establish an energy project with the magnitude, creativity, and sense of urgency that was incorporated in the "Man on the Moon" project address the inevitable challenges of "Peak Oil."

### [Junior minister in bother after airlines attack](#)

LONDON - A junior government minister has been told to make no further comments, after accusing British, Irish and US airlines of failing to take global warming seriously.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said it was to avoid fuelling the controversy further, after Ian Pearson branded no-frills carrier Ryanair "the irresponsible face of capitalism".

### [Warmer Seas Leave Fish Gasping](#)

Difficulty in taking up oxygen via respiration and blood circulation, caused by the warming waters, proved to be the key factor in diminishing the size of the fish stock.

[Use and abuse of oil discussed](#) - More on the Indiana Energy Conference in Crawfordsville. It takes place over four weekends.

### Pakistan: [Import parity pricing to increase LPG production](#)

KARACHI: The decision to take up the cost of locally produced liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to import parity price (IPP) will encourage investment for its production and allow consumers to choose between different fuels, an Ogra official told The News on Friday.

Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) on Wednesday announced the base stock price of LPG benchmarked with Saudi Aramco Contract Price (CP) for the first time ever, provoking marketing companies to term the move unjustified and against the consumers' interest.

### [Big Oil profits in danger as price of crude slides](#)

NEW YORK - Energy stocks have taken a beating as crude oil prices plummeted this week, but oil producers will really feel the pain on the bottom line, threatening to wipe out billions of dollars in profits.

### [Lukashenko's Lost Cause](#)

The attempt by Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko to fight a hike in the price of natural gas from Russia has German newspapers predicting a quick end to his resistance -- or his country's independence.

### [Book Review: The Downside of Up - Catagenesis](#)

It's such a good read: San Fran in 1906, the day after the earthquake as the survivors try and stop the fires; jump/skip to a keystone in one arch of Rome's Coliseum and how it got there, Rome's rise as an empire and long decline; Americans in Iraq, the suburbs grown from cheap oil; our amazing, complex, emergent, globalized world, astonishingly, beautifully alive in the ecologist's eye, caught on video, for just a precious moment, before the peak.

#### India: [Govt upset with ONGC's poor recovery](#)

The country's largest upstream company — Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) — appears to have fallen foul of the government.

Petroleum Secretary MS Srinivasan today said he was unhappy with the company's inability to increase recovery of crude oil from proven reserves.

“The recovery rate seems to have been stuck at 28 per cent. I wrote to them a week ago regarding this,” said Srinivasan.

#### [Falling oil prices should help drivers](#)

NEW YORK - U.S. drivers could start seeing lower prices at the pump as early as this weekend, thanks to the cascading price of crude oil and a seasonal dip in gasoline, analysts say.

#### [Pentagon to train a sharper eye on Africa](#)

Strife, oil, and Al Qaeda are leading the US to create a new Africa Command.

#### [What future for BC's offshore oil and gas?](#)

Provincial and national policy should acknowledge and prepare for the growing risks of US take-over.



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