



DrumBeat: January 13, 2007

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Venezuela to nationalize 'absolutely all' energy sector](#)

Chávez tells parliament: 'We have decided to nationalize the whole Venezuelan energy and electricity sector, all of it, absolutely all.'

[Climate Change and the Coming Energy Crisis](#)

Imagine this situation: Two of your dearest friends, a retired couple, have just returned from vacationing on a remote, sparsely populated island on another continent. They invite you to dinner and announce their surprising plans. They intend to move to that country with their grown children, reduce their consumption, grow their own food, and help their grandchildren survive the terrible years ahead.

Within ten or twenty years, they believe, Canada will be a miserable place to live because of fuel shortages. The price of oil will skyrocket. Houses will be unheated, and hardly any cars, planes, tractors, or trucks will be moving. The economy will be paralyzed. Millions will starve or freeze in poverty, especially in northern cities. Violence will prevail as marauders try to seize the necessities of survival. That's why your friends have decided to leave.

[Oil's Vital New Power](#)

The U.S. sees its alliance with a republic of just 8.4 million people--about the same population as New York City--as key to securing energy supplies at a time when China and the rest of Asia are competing for new sources. The Caspian, which is largely unexplored, probably accounts for 7% of the world's oil reserves, and the oil flowing through the new West-bound pipeline still represents a mere 1% of global supply. But ultimately some of the gas from Khazakstan and Turkmenistan's much larger natural-gas fields across the Caspian from Baku could flow through BP's pipelines, turning to the West rather than to Asia. "The pipeline is changing the strategic map in a very major way," says a senior State Department official.

[Snatching Victory from the Jaws of Defeat: How the Democrats can Keep from being Arrested](#)

Call it the downsizing of America. When you throw in peak oil and global warming, it seems inevitable. Conventional wisdom has it that Americans do not want to hear that tough times are coming, and that somebody inevitable will be scapegoated for the loss of empire and easy motoring -- the most likely scapegoats being those identified as liberals and lefties, including the Democrats, whether they like it or not. The ground has been prepared by a generation of demonization of liberals. Hence their terror.

[Cheap oil's life is likely to be short](#)

The slide in petroleum may or may not have run its course for now, but whatever happens in the next few months, it would be unwise to expect long-term relief from expensive energy.

[Biofuel demand will make WTO accord possible](#)

The booming demand for corn as a fuel source will make it easier for the US to agree to cuts in farm subsidies, making a new global trade agreement possible this year, the US ambassador to the EU said.

[Greenfuel Technologies teams with IGV in Germany to turn greenhouse gases into biofuels](#)

Under the terms of the agreement, GreenFuel and IGV will share proprietary algae bioreactor technology in an effort to accelerate the commercialization of biofuel production from recycled carbon dioxide in power plant flue gas emissions.

[Hydrogen cars still a long way from take-off](#)

The dream of hydrogen-powered cars emitting only water vapour is slipping further into the future as car companies grapple with some of the problems.

[European Energy Group Says Wind Power Now Cost Competitive](#)

Wind power in Europe is emerging as a cost-effective option to the more conventional power choices of coal and natural gas, as these power plants face increased costs and fuel risks, according to a new briefing from Emerging Energy Research (EER), an advisory firm that tracks emerging technologies in global energy markets.

[Investing Cautiously in Solar Energy](#)

Towards the beginning of the summer, as fuel prices were skyrocketing, the public and government started to seriously consider alternative forms of energy. The government

has been offering tax-rebates for buyers of hybrid cars in an effort to promote the changeover. With this type of legislation, we can expect to see progress made in other types of environmentally friendly initiatives.

[U.S. Sustainable Energy Announces Patent Pending for New Organic Biofuel](#)

The new biofuel, referenced internally as SoyMazia 128, demonstrates several properties superior to any other green fuel source available, including a heating value of 128,000 BTU per gallon.

The USSE biofuel costs less than fifty cents per gallon to produce, and 1 bushel of soybeans can create literally 5 gallons of biofuel - in comparison to 1.5 gallons for any other biodiesel on the market.

[Syria says oil production witnessing gradual decrease](#)

Syrian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Sufian Alaw said on Friday that the country's oil industry is facing great challenges as the production was witnessing a gradual decrease.

[Venezuela minister threatens oil belt takeover](#)

Venezuela's new economy minister warned yesterday the Opec nation could "nationalise" the multibillion dollar heavy crude projects in the Orinoco oil belt run by US and European companies if talks for the state to take a majority stake in the enterprises break down.

[Africa: Continent 'Entitled to Reap the Benefits of Atomic Energy'](#)

There must be no restrictions on African use of peaceful nuclear technology, speakers said at the continent's first conference on nuclear energy's contribution to sustainable development.

[China's Middle East journey via Jerusalem](#)

The crucial Saudi role in the proposed buildup of China's strategic oil reserves should not be underestimated. China is planning to build four strategic reserve bases at Zhenhai, Daishan, Xingang and Huangdao, which when completed next year will be able to hold the equivalent of one month's national oil imports. Beijing plans to expand the reserves to the equivalent of three months' net oil imports by 2015.

[16 Asian nations to agree on boosting energy security](#)

Leaders of 16 nations from South Korea to Singapore are expected to agree to boost Asia's energy efficiency and combat climate change by seeking new fuel sources, particularly biofuels, according to a draft document seen on Saturday.

[Energy inefficiency could kill pure cellular](#)

Noting that energy costs represent the third most expensive operating expense (OPEX) for carriers today — and that energy costs continue to fluctuate and could rise — the authors claim that the increase in data traffic resulting from the rise of mobile broadband "will push per-subscriber energy OPEX for cellular solutions past acceptable barriers".

[Chavez promises Nicaragua 200-year oil supply](#)

Venezuela will supply Nicaragua with 10,000 barrels of affordable oil per day, and build a refinery and 32 power stations that will produce 80 megawatts of electricity.

'The oil that Nicaragua will need for the coming 200 years lies in Venezuela,' Chavez said.

[Senate measure might threaten TXU's plans](#)

A bipartisan Senate bill introduced Friday would place mandatory caps on global-warming gases and could threaten utility companies across the country that own coal-fired power plants — including TXU's plans to build new coal-fired plants in East Texas.

[Ethanol questions continue](#)

With three ethanol plants proposed for the Cape Fear region, some people want to know what else might arrive with the new jobs and tax revenue.

[Pakistan: Nepra slams govt for forcing higher tariff](#)

In an unprecedented move, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has protested against the government for what it called bulldozing the regulatory process by forcing higher tariffs in the name of energy crisis without providing even the basic information.

[Pakistan: Need to expedite exploration of alternate energy emphasized](#)

The seminar was aimed at initiating a constructive debate on the issue and finding out possibilities of viable energy and water options for the country. The speakers were of the view that rich Coal reserves in Pakistan can help meet the demands for over five decades.

[American Chamber of Commerce says Dominican energy crisis grows](#)

The Dominican Energy Consortium (CDEEE) is seeking a solution in the wrong place by pursuing renegotiations of contracts, when instead the solution lies in fighting fraud.

[Lloyd's boss demands action on climate change](#)

Governments and businesses must act now against climate change, and the United States needs a bigger public debate about its risks, the chairman of the Lloyd's insurance market said.

Peter Levene warned that vast storms bigger than Hurricane Katrina are likely to batter the United States in coming years despite a relatively calm 2006 Atlantic hurricane season.

"Today the insurance industry faces the prospect of a 100-billion-dollar megacatastrophe twice the size of Katrina," Levene said in a speech at Washington's National Press Club.

[Global Warming Scare Hits Ski Country](#)

Residents of Park City, Utah Turn Out in Force to Hear About Global Warming, and the News Wasn't Good

[2nd Annual Indiana Energy Conference continues Saturday](#)

The first speaker presentation will be from Richard Heinberg, a leading expert and author on the subject of Peak Oil. His presentation will focus on ways the average citizen can prepare themselves, and their communities, for a world that will be forced to be less dependent on petroleum for everything from transportation to agriculture.

[Peak Oil Passnotes: Oil Down, Browne Down](#)

The oil market is, as usual, performing a strange dance. It has opened the year showing great weakness with little signs of abating. As we mentioned last week this was not

unexpected. But what is the most interesting development is that the \$54.50-\$55 floor price that has been so resilient over the past 18 months has finally been broken.

Someone wants to [start a peak oil task force in Minneapolis](#).

[Rich in oil and gas, Texas looks to geothermal](#)

HOUSTON - Texas is known for oil and gas, but the state said on Friday it will sell its first leases for development of geothermal energy.

[Aramco postpones Khursaniyah oil and gas project](#)

According to an official at Saudi Aramco, the oil giant postponed the commissioning of the 500,000 bpd Khursaniyah oil and gas project to the fourth quarter of the year, a few months later than the previously announced date without giving the reason for the delay, Arab News reported.

[Bulgaria wants to reopen two nuke units](#)

Bulgaria will try to push the European Commission to let it reopen two nuclear reactors closed due to safety concerns.

[Globalization Promotes Oil Depletion](#)

Due to globalization and "free trade", more and more businesses are shutting down factories in nations with higher wages, moving production to low wage countries in East Asia, Eastern Europe, and Central America. People in higher-wage nations should not only look at this in terms of employment loss, but in depletion of oil and increased pollution.

[Russia cuts duty on Belarus oil exports](#)

MOSCOW - Russia has reportedly agreed to slash the duty on oil exports to Belarus by 70 percent and Belarus will share with Moscow a substantial amount of profits from the refined oil products it sells to Europe.

[9 South Korean workers in Nigeria freed](#)

LAGOS, Nigeria - Nine South Korean pipeline workers and a Nigerian kidnapped in southern Nigeria were released Friday with the help of a youth group in the restive oil region, the regional government said.

[Energy and China](#)

According to the figures I've seen, we reached the peak of world oil production in December 2005. If that is so, what does it mean for China?

[Administration: No Plan To Strike Iran \(AP\)](#)

We believe that we can interrupt these networks that are providing support through actions inside the territory of Iraq, that there is no need to attack targets in Iran itself," Gates told the panel, adding that he continues to believe that "any kind of military action inside Iran itself, that would be a very last resort.



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