



DrumBeat: February 11, 2007

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[In Niger, Trees and Crops Turn Back the Desert](#)

Recent studies of vegetation patterns, based on detailed satellite images and on-the-ground inventories of trees, have found that Niger, a place of persistent hunger and deprivation, has recently added millions of new trees and is now far greener than it was 30 years ago.

These gains, moreover, have come at a time when the population of Niger has exploded, confounding the conventional wisdom that population growth leads to the loss of trees and accelerates land degradation, scientists studying Niger say.

The vegetation is densest, researchers have found, in some of the most densely populated regions of the country.

[After So Many Deaths, Too Many Births](#)

After the 1994 genocide, in which more than 800,000 Rwandans were slaughtered, it seemed difficult to believe that overpopulation would ever be a problem. Yet Rwanda has long had more people than its meager resources and small area can support.

[China's Influence in Africa Arouses Some Resistance](#)

Mr. Hu's stop in Sudan, where China has extensive oil interests, reignited criticism that Beijing has helped shield its ally and oil supplier from global outrage over attacks on civilians in Darfur.

[Summit takes a look at a world without oil](#)

The future of energy has to be one without oil.

But what direction energy production may take depends on economic, political and environmental factors, as well as what people and businesses are willing to do.

No matter what course is taken, it has to be a definitive solution, said Paul Roberts, a

journalist and author of "The End of Oil."

"If we go for a patchwork solution, we'll be back here in five to 10 years," he said. "This is an opportunity to reinvent the way we use energy, produce energy and think about energy."

[Arab nuclear ambitions stir arms race jitters](#)

Arab fossil fuel reserves will run out one day. Nuclear power would allow a larger share of oil and gas to be exported, boosting hard currency revenue, and help counter global warming.

...“It’s important that China is ready to assist in nuclear technology transfer in exchange for oil. In terms of financial resources, you have to ask what is the cost of not going nuclear,” he said, citing rising prices of oil, gas and coal.

[Nuclear programmes in Middle East](#)

Many Middle Eastern countries, including some which are worried about Iran's nuclear programme, have declared an interest in developing atomic energy resources.

[Exxon Mobil Warming Up To Global Climate Issue](#)

When it comes to the issue of climate change, Exxon Mobil says it has been misunderstood.

"Many people want to stick us in a bucket that says we want to deny this," said the company's vice president for public affairs, Kenneth P. Cohen, during a conference call this week. "That is flat wrong."

[CSIRO's horror climate forecast](#)

HEAT waves that kill thousands, gigantic bushfires and regular 100-year storms are part of a frightening new climate change forecast for Australia.

A leaked CSIRO report into the impact of global warming predicts a century of climatic horrors for Tasmania and the rest of Australia. The doomsday scenario will form the basis of the Australian chapter in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, the Federal Government's key stocktake on global warming due for release in April.

[Tokyo sets snowless record](#)

Tokyo has set a record for its longest snowless winter amid growing worldwide concerns about global warming, according to meteorologists.

The metropolitan area of the capital has not had snow this season, making it the longest snowless winter since statistics were first kept in 1876, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

[G7 finance ministers make little headway on climate](#)

Group of Seven finance chiefs made little headway here on energy and global warming questions, the German finance minister disclosed at the end of a meeting that closely followed a major warning on climate change from the United Nations.

[Pat Sajak: Global Warming Denier \(ssh!\)](#)

Imagine being absolutely certain we are the verge of a man-made catastrophe and not doing everything within your power to help reverse it. Anyone who truly believes it and still uses anything more than the lowest-wattage single bulb or drives one mile more than absolutely necessary is nothing short of a monster! A skeptic's actions can be blamed on ignorance; a believer's can only be chalked up to a shocking disregard for his children's futures.

[Putin visits Saudi Arabia](#)

"Lukoil (Russia's largest privately held oil producer) and Saudi Aramco are seeking areas of cooperation to explore oil wells in the south of the Kingdom," said Koudriavtsev.

...Russia's energy giant Gazprom is also showing interest in energy projects in the country. Saudi Arabia is estimated to be tendering \$20 to \$25 billion worth of investment in the natural gas sector.

[Energy crisis: For gas, why forget Russia?](#)

The fast growing Indian economy has created the growing need for energy, which is hard to come by. Iran has held the gas hope, but there are twisted roads to be traversed. The other and better option for India is Russia — its long time, trusted ally.

[90 firms eye Iran blocks](#)

A senior Iranian oil official said 90 foreign firms had shown an interest in 17 new onshore and offshore blocks that were offered to investors earlier this month, state radio reported.

[Gas: Iran turns up the heat](#)

It is seldom that the Russian president is publicly contradicted by officials in Moscow. But in the Russian reaction to Tehran's proposal for formal cooperation among the major gas-producing countries, it happened.

[British Energy heralds new nuclear age](#)

British Energy, the nuclear generator, has held talks with Europe's largest power companies about building a new generation of nuclear reactors in the UK.

[Seoul Wants 6 Nations to Shoulder Burden for Energy Aid to North Korea](#)

But one thing that has not changed is the U.S. hope of not repeating the "mistake" it made with the Geneva agreement.

From 1994 to 2002, Pyongyang received 3.56 million tons of heavy oil, equivalent to \$500 million, from the now-defunct Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), and the United States shouldered the largest share of \$347 million.

[Hyperinflation in food and energy and deflation in everything else – the new world economic order – how can you deal with it?](#)

The food prices will quadruple in the next five to ten years. The energy prices will also quadruple in the next ten years. The rest of the world economies will suffer severe deflation and depression because of hyperinflation in oil, natural gas and food will drain the economies out. The corn prices have already doubled in the last three months because of its need in producing Ethanol – a gasoline substitute. The sugar and all grain prices are headed higher. The meat complexes like pork, chicken and eggs are also appreciating prices. Orange Juice, Cocoa, Coffee – you name it, they are going higher.

[Study: Coal plants would foul D-FW air](#)

Pollution created by new power plants planned for East and Central Texas will harm Dallas-Fort Worth's air quality and probably put Waco and Austin in violation of federal clean-air laws for the first time.

[Oil industry finds hot rock resource](#)

Major players in the oil sands, under political pressure to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, have quietly formed an industry-wide consortium to explore using heat in the Earth's crust as a clean alternative to natural gas.



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