



Peak oil in unindustrialized countries is starting now

Posted by [Yankee](#) on September 15, 2005 - 1:07pm

Topic: [Supply/Production](#)

As I [noted the other day](#), non-industrialized countries are effectively battling peak oil right now, regardless of whether the world has hit the peak or not. For these countries, access to oil at current prices is prohibitive, and it's affecting every aspect of their societies.

[Big Gav](#) points us to an in-depth article about [the energy situation in Guatemala](#). It's not at all pretty (in fact, it wasn't pretty even when oil was cheap), but Gav also makes the observation that "this article (like [Matt Simmons yesterday](#)) notes that some third world countries may adapt better as they don't have so far to fall."

I got slammed on the old site when I [dared to suggest](#) that we might think of Cuba as a model for how to deal with peak oil (the comments are still there even though [haloscan](#) says o). I still think that we might have something to learn from unindustrialized countries—practices that could be put in place not only if the crisis gets bad enough, but in order to cushion the fall (urban farming would be a start). I don't hope that someday we turn into an impoverished, crime-ridden society like Guatemala, but I also don't think we can deny that we who are on the top now only have longer to fall should the worst case scenario come true.

Technorati Tags: [peak oil](#), [oil](#)



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](#).