



Drumbeat: August 21, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on August 21, 2009 - 10:07am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Mexico oil output falls 7.8 pct yr/yr in July - Pemex](#)

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexican oil output fell 7.8 percent in July compared to the same month a year ago as the its efforts to replace production capacity lost at the Cantarell field continued to lag the giant's natural decline.

State oil monopoly Pemex said on Friday it produced 2.561 million barrels per day of crude oil in July, an increase on June of 42,500 bpd. Output in June was affected by planned maintenance at its two largest oil fields, the Cantarell and Ku Maloob Zaap offshore deposits.

Pemex expects to raise oil production to 2.65 million bpd by the end of the year by adding new wells at its Chicontepec project. But analysts are skeptical that the company has mastered the technical and logistical challenges of developing the unconventional crude there.

[Exxon Evacuates Nova Scotia Gas Platforms Ahead of Bill](#)

ExxonMobil Canada said it is evacuating personnel from production facilities at five natural gas fields it operates off the coast of Nova Scotia, ahead of Hurricane Bill's expected arrival on Sunday.

"ExxonMobil is closely monitoring the progress of Hurricane Bill," spokeswoman Margot Bruce-O'Connell said Thursday. "Based on the current predictions of the storm's severity and with the safety of our work force as our first priority, ExxonMobil has decided to evacuate all personnel from the Sable facilities."

[Dresdner/Commerzbank blames oil speculators](#)

Wow, the commods analysts at Dresdner/Commerzbank have taken a rather bold — if slightly self-congratulatory — stand on oil speculators.

In a note published on Thursday, analysts Eugen Weinberg, Barbara Lambrecht and Carsten Fritsch, are very clear: oil speculators *have* driven up oil prices, and pending an

imminent clampdown by the CFTC, those oil prices will now be going down — closer to their fundamentals.

[When governments fail, the public must set the agenda](#)

The consequences of a lack of vision are not trivial. There is no need to detail the impoverished mess which is public transport in Sydney, or the daily inconveniences suffered by passengers obliged to use it. With every day that Sydney wallows in its conceptual chaos, the city is less and less prepared for great challenges which are rapidly approaching. Climate change. Peak oil. The epidemic of lifestyle diseases linked to urban design. All these will fall - are now falling - more heavily on this city because it lacks the vision to plan its transport and the will to act on its plan.

The failure has already cost the state dearly. It led earlier this year to an astonishing public shaming of the State Government by its federal counterpart - of one Labor government by another. Canberra had billions to allocate in the last budget for infrastructure spending; NSW received virtually nothing for its capital city, Australia's global city.

[Watching Myths Unwind](#)

A few generations from now our descendants will wonder, "What took them so long to figure out that we'd reached the limits to growth?" The answer, of course, is that growth is the core of the myth holding the American psyche together. If it's false, what's the meaning of "life, the universe, everything?"

[Always the basic mechanism is the same ... Free Market exuberance!](#)

It is probable, or at least possible Learsy himself takes seriously what he claims as facts in this "trenchant" piece. Basically he asserts the IEA or International Energy Agency has been taken over by dark forces which inject the world's media, and politicians heads with dangerous, or at least wrongheaded propaganda to drive up oil prices.

The Learsy IEA is a friend of oil speculators who cynically and greedily manipulate oil prices, usually upward, before they implode their hedge funds, investment banks or other dark nests of dubious financial deeds and run to governments for generous bailouts. The same Learsy IEA, for the same reason also credibilizes peak oil pranksters, like Matt Simmons who can double any peak oil price forecast you would care, or dare to make.

[Fuel oil prices surge 20% as supply tightens](#)

Dubai: Middle East fuel oil prices jumped 20 per cent this week on tight supplies due to peak summer demand for power generation and strong requirements for marine transport fuel.

Premiums for 180-centistoke (cst) fuel oil rose \$1.50 (Dh5.5) to \$9 a tonne versus levels seen the previous week, as the region continued to grapple with limited supplies.

[Bolivians look to ancient farming](#)

Poor farmers in the heart of Bolivia's Amazon are being encouraged to embrace the annual floods - by using a centuries-old irrigation system for their crops.

They are experimenting with a sustainable way of growing food crops that their ancestors used.

It could provide them with better protection against the extremes of climate change, reduce deforestation, improve food security and even promise a better diet.

[Pakistan needs energy help from Iran](#)

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (UPI) -- Tehran and Islamabad should move in harmony to expand bilateral energy relations as Pakistan struggles to overcome a looming energy crisis, officials say.

Islamabad and Tehran in June signed a bilateral deal for the proposed 1,724-mile Iran-Pakistan-India natural gas pipeline. Pakistan would receive 750 million cubic feet per day from the South Pars gas field in Iran to generate electricity under the terms of a 25-year deal.

[Oil industry giants: Saudi Aramco](#)

No country is more synonymous with oil than Saudi Arabia and no company is as synonymous with its home country than Saudi Aramco.

From its headquarters in Dhahran, Saudi Aramco is responsible for the management of 99% of the KSA's oil assets of 259 billion barrels — about 25% of the world's total conventional oil reserves.

While Saudi Aramco does have the world's largest hydrocarbons reserves to draw upon, it still sets the benchmark for how a national oil company (NOC) should be run. The company starting life as a subsidiary of Chevron has helped Aramco to recognise the benefits of operating commercially while still retaining the responsibilities associated with being a state-run entity.

[Number of active rigs climbs by 17](#)

HOUSTON (AP) -- The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the United States rose by 17 this week to 985.

Houston-based Baker Hughes Inc. reported Friday that of the rigs running nationwide, 695 were exploring for natural gas and 280 for oil. Ten were listed as miscellaneous.

A year ago, when oil and gas prices were much higher, the rig count stood at 1,998.

[Oil surges to 10-month high](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- Oil prices soared on Friday to their highest level since October as investors grow hopeful that a recovery of the world economy is in sight.

On Friday, the price of oil for October delivery rose as high as \$74.15, after settling the day before at \$72.42. The price of oil hasn't traded that high since Oct. 20, 2008, when it reached an intra-day peak of \$76.12.

[Iran announces massive oil find](#)

TEHRAN (UPI) -- Though declining to specify exactly where, the outgoing Iranian oil minister announced the discovery of a giant oil field as a new government takes shape.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamhossein Nozari announced the discovery of the field, which the semiofficial Fars news agency reports has in-place reserves of more than "20,000 billion barrels."

"The relevant information on the exact location and volume of reserves of this oil field will be declared in coming days," Nozari added.

[Kiev to slash Russia gas imports](#)

Ukraine, one of the largest buyers of gas from Russia's export monopoly Gazprom, plans to cut imports by a quarter next year, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was quoted as saying today.

Ukraine's imports of gas burden its finances, but provide vital revenues to Russia. The two ex-Soviet states often row over prices and supplies and one dispute led to a New Year gas cut-off for weeks, affecting consumers across central Europe.

"Given that we have bought 33 billion cubic metres of Russian gas this year, next year we will take 25 billion cubic metres," local news agencies quoted her as saying in the

western city of Lviv.

[The Afghan pipe dream](#)

PARIS - America's convoluted, Alice-in-Wonderland interpretation of this summer's top political show - the "free expression of the people" in the Afghanistan election - reads like an opium dream. In fact, it is actually a pipe dream - as in Pipelineistan. With the added twist that no one's saying a word about the pipe that's delivering the opium dream.

As in an opium dream, delusion reigns. The chances of United States President Barack Obama actually elaborating what his AfPak strategy really is are as likely as having his super-envoy Richard Holbrooke share a pipe with explosive uber-guerrilla warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

[Venezuela economy shrinks for first time in 5 years](#)

CARACAS (Reuters) - Venezuela's economy shrunk for the first time in over five years in the second quarter, after a government-driven consumer boom petered out and the global recession finally bit South America's biggest oil exporter.

High public spending by President Hugo Chavez during an oil bonanza meant even the poor had some money to burn, spurring a long shopping spree defined by double-digit growth. But the boom ended abruptly in the April-June period.

Venezuela's finances were hard hit when oil prices started a free fall late last year, while a string of nationalizations has dampened the private sector's appetite for investment.

[Cash for clunkers to end Monday night](#)

DETROIT — Let the national closeout sale begin: Car dealers and consumers have just four days to take advantage of Uncle Sam's \$4,500 cash-for-clunkers rebate before it expires.

The government is ending the program as of 8 p.m. ET Monday, giving dealers and customers time to close pending deals and get the paperwork processed before the \$3 billion program runs out of money.

[Uranium mine called 'World's worst practice'](#)

Uranium mining in the far north of South Australia at the Beverley location near

Arkaroola Wilderness Resort is being openly challenged by Aboriginal Traditional Owner Mrs Enice Marsh.

She is concerned that the new Beverly Four Mile uranium mine is destroying sacred sites, polluting the environment unnecessarily, and promoting a culture of bullying.

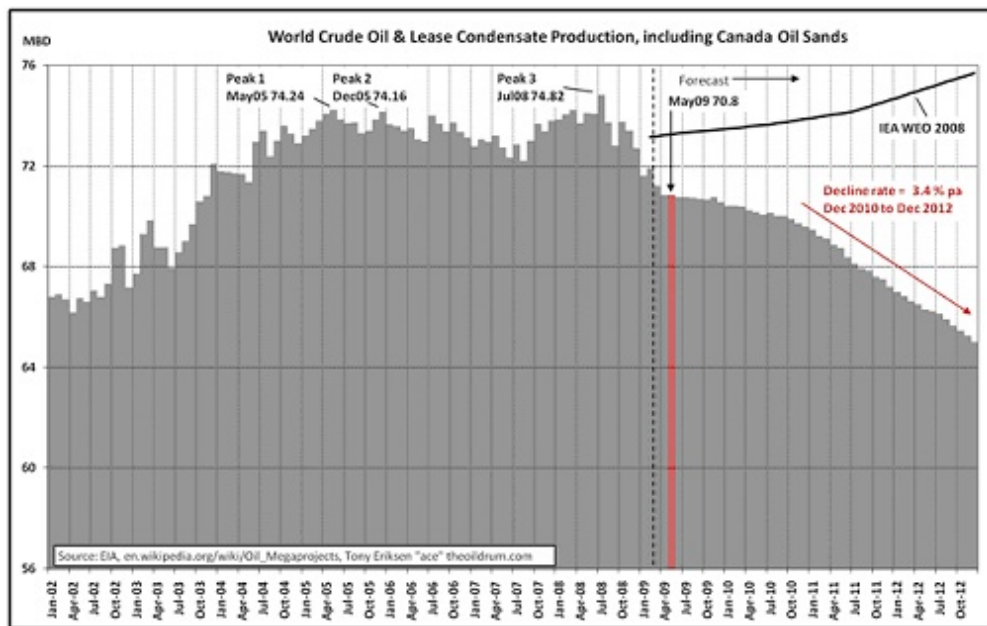
[Ethanol Producers Warily Eye Algae's Bloom](#)

It's been the summer of algae-based fuels, with new technical advances, investments and legislative proposals appearing at regular intervals.

After years of quietly building steam, the algae industry has recently received major, attention-grabbing investments from Exxon Mobil Corp. and Dow Chemical Co. And the industry is starting to find support in Congress with proposals that would provide it tax credits and other incentives gaining bipartisan support.

So you can't blame ethanol producers for being a little defensive.

[“Peak Oil” Has Gone](#)



Still not convinced about ‘Peak Oil’? Then review Figure 2 which charts the expected *combined* flow rates for crude oil, lease condensates and Canadian Oil Sands. As you can see from the grey shaded area, production is about to decline by roughly 5 million barrels per day by 2012.

Ironically, Figure 2 also plots the optimistic (almost laughable) forecast made by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its “World Energy Outlook 2008”. Interestingly, in last year’s “World Energy Outlook”, the IEA stated that in order to fulfill its optimistic projections, the world had to install 64 million barrels per day of *new* supply by 2030 or

the equivalent of six times the Saudi Arabian output! Furthermore, the IEA declared that the energy industry had to invest hundreds of billions of dollars *every year* to achieve this favourable outcome.

[Oil hits 2009 high above \\$74, eyes Fed speech](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - Oil touched a high for this year above \$74 a barrel on Friday ahead of further pointers on the economic health of the United States and as the dollar flagged against a stronger euro.

By 1145 GMT (7:45 a.m. EDT), the new front month U.S. crude futures contract for October delivery was up \$1.04 at \$73.94 a barrel, after briefly touching \$74.05, its highest of the year. London Brent crude for October was up 99 cents at \$74.32.

Oil is on track for a 7.3 percent gain this week, and was last at this level on October 21, 2008 when it closed at \$75.22 a barrel on its way down from a record peak above \$147.

[Is Iran gas ban a step toward war?](#)

As the Barack Obama administration struggles to devise a strategy for dealing with Iran's intransigence on the uranium-enrichment issue, it appears to be gravitating toward the imposition of an international embargo on gasoline sales to that country.

Such a ban would be enacted if Iranian officials fail to come up with an acceptable negotiating plan by the time the United Nations General Assembly meets in late September - the deadline given by the White House for a constructive Iranian move.

Iran, of course, is a major oil producer, pumping out some 4.3 million barrels per day in 2008. But it is also a major petroleum consumer. Its oil industry has a significant structural weakness: its refinery capacity is too constricted to satisfy the nation's gasoline requirements. As a result, Iran must import about 40% of the refined products it requires. Government officials are attempting to reduce this dependency through rationing and other measures, but the country remains highly vulnerable to any cutoff in gasoline imports.

[US Coast Guard steels for role in Arctic as exploration increases](#)

Anchorage (Platts)- The US Coast Guard is strengthening its presence in US Arctic regions, testing equipment and operating strategies for the third summer season, to ensure safety as oil and gas exploration and commercial shipping in the area increases, the agency's commandant told a US Senate subcommittee Thursday.

Climate change and the retreating polar icepack makes the Arctic more accessible, and the Coast Guard must have emergency search and rescue and oil spill responses and be

able to provide security in regions with virtually no infrastructure, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thad Allen told the Homeland Security subcommittee.

[Russia hosts international meeting on Arctic security](#)

An international conference on Arctic security attended by several of the region's neighbours including the United States opened in Russia on Wednesday, Russia's ministry for emergency situations said.

Canada, Denmark, Finland and Sweden are also taking part in the three-day conference in Anadyr, capital of the far eastern region of Chukotka, an unnamed ministry spokesman said.

[Construction to begin on Minn. oil pipeline](#)

MINNEAPOLIS – The U.S. State Department issued a permit Thursday allowing construction of a pipeline that will bring crude oil to the U.S. from Canada's oil sands, where environmental groups say extraction and refinement methods are contributing to global warming.

With the permit in hand, Enbridge Inc. plans to start construction work on the Alberta Clipper pipeline, which will run through Minnesota and the northeastern corner of North Dakota from Superior, Wis., to Hardisty, Alberta.

[Oil Sands May Get Cleaner as Shell, Exxon Bubble Tar to Froth](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Exxon Mobil Corp., the world's biggest energy companies, are rolling out technology intended to eliminate the environmental disadvantage of Canadian oil sands.

A new process known as high-temperature froth treatment cuts carbon emissions from extracting crude from sand and mud by 10 to 15 percent, said Brad Komishke, a Shell chemist who leads 50 scientists developing new oil-sands techniques in Calgary.

[Petrobank and Tristar become PetroBakken](#)

They are showing that they can upgrade thick heavy oil (8-12 API) to light crude quality (36 API) using underground THAI/CAPRI technology. (Underground upgrading of oil). If successful and scaled up THAI/CAPRI could revolutionize the recovery and economics of heavy oil and oilsands reserves. The Canadian oilsands which is an amount of oil several times Saudi Arabian oil reserves could become cheaper and cleaner to

develop and basically push off peak oil for a decade or two.

[Australia gas deal to get green light 'within week'](#)

SYDNEY (AFP) – Australia will decide "in the next week" whether to grant environmental approval to a project that will supply natural gas to China under Canberra's biggest ever trade deal, a minister said Friday.

[Gazprom Seeks East Siberia Tax Break, Yakutia Permits](#)

(Bloomberg) -- OAO Gazprom Chief Executive Officer Alexei Miller called for tax holidays for natural-gas production in eastern Siberia and urged the government to grant new licenses, after cutting output targets at a field in the region.

Projects should be tax-exempt during their "payback period," while export duties on gas from eastern Siberia and Russia's Far East should be reduced or canceled, Miller said today at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Gazprom's Chayanda field in Yakutia will pump less gas than planned, Miller said, without giving a forecast.

Gas producers in Russia, fighting a decline in energy demand, are pushing for tax breaks as a drop in prices for the fuel curbs revenue and output from older fields dwindles.

[Asia's coal seam gas projects charge ahead, China leads](#)

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Projects to exploit coal-bed methane, once the bane of miners, are surging in Asia, with China out front as it strives to find ways of satisfying its prodigious appetite for energy.

Industry players gathered at a conference in Singapore this week to explore opportunities in a region where CBM is in its infancy, except for Australia, whose coal seam gas industry has flourished over the past decade.

While some CBM projects in the United States have shut down, discouraged by very low gas prices, in Asia, the focus is on conversion of CBM to LNG and it will be priced using traditional Asian LNG formulas linked to oil, Tony Regan, a consultant with Tri-Zen International, said.

[China coal-electricity project to increase coal output](#)

BEIJING (Xinhua) -- China's first large coal-electricity joint project, Huaneng Yimin Coal Electricity Corp. aims to increase its annual coal output to 20 million tones this year, reported Friday's China Daily.

[Militants claim Russia dam disaster](#)

MOSCOW (AFP) – An Islamist group Friday claimed it carried out deadly attacks on the same day this week against Russia's biggest hydroelectric power station and a police station in the Caucasus that left dozens dead.

Russian investigators strongly denied the claim by Riyadus Salikhiin, a militant group with roots in Chechnya, that it had hit the power station as part of a new campaign of "economic war" in Russia.

[Putin orders probe of creaking infrastructure](#)

MOSCOW (Reuters) – Prime Minister Vladimir Putin called for a sweeping probe of Russia's creaking Soviet-era infrastructure on Thursday after a disaster at its largest hydroelectric power station.

A water surge caused aging turbines to explode at a 31-year-old Siberian dam on Monday, starting a chain reaction that sent a cascade of water into a 100-meter (yard) turbine hall and the four floors below it, and dumped 45 tons of fuel oil into the Yenisei River below.

[Russian PM Putin wants electricity prices regulated](#)

CHERYOMUSHKI, Russia, Aug 21 (Reuters) - Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Friday ordered his government to prepare a draft decree on the temporary regulation of wholesale electricity prices after a disaster at a hydro dam this week.

[North Dakota: Flares burn a third of natural gas](#)

Enough natural gas to heat every home in North Dakota through at least two brutal winters was burned off as an unmarketable byproduct in the state's oil patch in 2008, government and industry officials say.

North Dakota produced a record 62.8 million barrels of oil last year, up nearly 18 million barrels from 2007. Natural gas, a byproduct of oil production, was pegged at 86 billion cubic feet, of which 26 billion cubic feet was "flared" because of the lack of collecting systems and pipelines needed to move it to market, said Lynn Helms, director of the state Department of Mineral Resources.

"Although natural gas creates much less revenue than oil, there is still a lot of value there," Helms said. "We don't want to see it go up in smoke."

[NKorea-US talks shift to clean energy](#)

SANTA FE, New Mexico (AFP) – A North Korean delegation held talks Thursday on renewable energy in New Mexico after pushing hard in earlier discussions for one-on-one nuclear talks with the United States.

A spokesman for New Mexico state Governor Bill Richardson, who has been hosting the two North Korean diplomats at his sprawling hacienda overlooking Santa Fe, said meetings were shifting to focus on renewable energy.

[Wisconsin's gas markup law gets new life](#)

MADISON—Wisconsin's controversial minimum markup law for gasoline isn't dead yet.

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Thursday that it would allow a business group to appeal a February ruling that struck down the law, which critics say needlessly drives up the price of gas.

[Utility sweats over bills when air's off](#)

The news that electricity use in the state is down is good on many fronts. People are conserving energy and reducing the output of greenhouse gas and other pollutants from power plants.

But the change is also a symptom of the downturn in the economy. And for Public Service of New Hampshire, the state's largest electric utility, it's a blow to the bottom line.

PSNH is asking the state to change the way the company is required to collect money from its ratepayers to make it less vulnerable to such dips in energy use.

The proposed change relates to what customers see on their bills as delivery charges, which address the cost of maintaining the infrastructure - such as poles and wires - used to deliver electricity to homes and businesses, as opposed to the cost of the energy itself.

[Global Economy: This Ain't No Crisis](#)

Well, I think it is entirely misleading to describe the current state of affairs as a "crisis". The term denotes a sharp, but short-lived condition leaving behind an aural after-taste that everything will be OK pretty soon. Particularly when combined with talk about massive doses of monetary and fiscal sauce being poured over the cooked goose of the economy.

Instead, we should be using a terms like Stagnation or "The Long Emergency" (note: I am NOT fond of Mr. Kunstler's tirades and expletive-laden tent-revival style. But this book is not half bad).

[Getting Real About the High Price of Cheap Food](#)

But we don't have the luxury of philosophizing about food. With the exhaustion of the soil, the impact of global warming and the inevitably rising price of oil — which will affect everything from fertilizer to supermarket electricity bills — our industrial style of food production will end sooner or later. As the developing world grows richer, hundreds of millions of people will want to shift to the same calorie-heavy, protein-rich diet that has made Americans so unhealthy — demand for meat and poultry worldwide is set to rise 25% by 2015 — but the earth can no longer deliver. Unless Americans radically rethink the way they grow and consume food, they face a future of eroded farmland, hollowed-out countryside, scarier germs, higher health costs — and bland taste. Sustainable food has an elitist reputation, but each of us depends on the soil, animals and plants — and as every farmer knows, if you don't take care of your land, it can't take care of you.

[Tim Halbur on sprawl, propaganda, and Obama's approach to urban issues](#)

The picture of cities being dirty, violent, and poor is where I think the propaganda aspect of the films kicks in. Cities were certainly dirty with pollution through the period of the 1930s-'60s, which these films cover. And health issues were a reasonable concern with crowded conditions in big cities back in the early 20th century. But I believe these films were edited to make things look much worse, and again, the solutions they proposed were well-intentioned, but wrong. The issue of cities being "clean" led to the creation of those depressing housing projects with empty stretches of grass around them, where residents would supposedly enjoy being surrounded by a healthier atmosphere. Today we know better.

As to being able to enjoy the advantages of a large city without paying the penalties, I think in some ways yes: we've learned more about how to make downtown urban areas work well. But I also believe that there are always tradeoffs. As David Sucher, who wrote a book called *City Comforts*, put it, people today want an "urban village." And those terms are in many ways contradictory. Urbanity means accepting some chaos, anonymity and proximity to strangers. Village life is about stability and community. You can work to bring aspects of both to city life, but city living is really a choice to embrace vibrancy, which includes a little chaos and grit.

[Are You Prepared for Transition Time?](#)

Our industry is in the midst of some wrenching changes, but a much deeper transition is just over the horizon.

You could be forgiven for thinking the economic crash was bad enough. The next big shift will affect the way we grow our food, manage our buildings, and transport ourselves and the products we use every day. We've reached the end of cheap oil, and the effects were captured in this short video, aired at MPI's 2009 World Education Conference by panelists Elizabeth Valestuk Henderson and Fiona Pelham.

[Cynicism springs eternal, offers little but wasted time](#)

Like Al Gore, Gwynne Dyer and other dour prognosticators, McKeag brings up the oil crisis, that we've reached "peak oil" and have about 30 years left before everything — including food production — grinds to a halt.

What they all fail to consider is that long before oil runs out, it will become so expensive that even the most outlandish hippie pipe dream of alternative energy will look good, and just watch the money roll in if you're in solar panels.

As galling as it could be for some doom-mongers, the free market may solve the oil problem.

Moving on, why do the modern Nostradamuses think that because climate change is caused by humans, it can't be solved by humans?

They're not being creative enough.

[The next big investment bubble - obscure metals](#)

I notice in recent weeks that one entire sector has gone ballistic — lithium. Just about every company that is exploring for this reactive silvery-white metal has seen its stock price double. Why?

[2nd lead poisoning case hits China, 1,300 sick](#)

BEIJING — China has detained two factory officials after 1,300 children were poisoned by pollution from a manganese processing plant, days after emissions from a lead smelter in another province sickened hundreds.

Both cases have sparked unrest and come amid growing anger in China over public safety scandals in which children have been the main victims. Tainted infant formula milk and the mass collapse of schools in a huge earthquake last year have also provoked widespread dissent.

[Election likely to reset Japan climate target](#)

TOKYO (AFP) – When Japan elects its next government this month, climate change campaigners will be watching closely to see which party takes the levers of power in the world's second-largest economy.

[Seattle mayor fighting to hold onto his job](#)

SEATTLE – Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels has been hailed as a visionary and a leader on environmental issues, helping persuade nearly 1,000 mayors around the country to abide by the standards of the Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

But an environmental issue of a more basic sort — the city's inability to clear streets during paralyzing snowstorms last winter — might have set the stage for his political undoing.

[B.C. must curb new gas plant emissions](#)

A proposed \$500-million natural-gas-processing plant in northeast British Columbia will become the province's single-largest source of carbon dioxide unless the government tightens the rules for greenhouse gas emissions, the Pembina Institute said yesterday.

[Agency warns current climate proposals won't work](#)

BRUSSELS – Reversing global warming will cost up to \$185 billion (euro130 billion) a year before 2020 and require more action by world governments than currently pledged, an international environmental analysis group said Thursday.

ClimateWorks Foundation said U.N. climate change talks would fail to reach a meaningful agreement with the proposals made so far, and that a new approach was needed.

"Climate change is a solvable problem, and the solution presents a major opportunity in terms of both economic growth and global development," said a report by the foundation's European branch. But it warned that "current commitments and actions are insufficient" to ensure deep cuts by 2050 in carbon dioxide emissions.

[Poor Farmers Biggest Losers From Warming Planet, Study Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and similarly poor nations have the most to lose as the Earth gets warmer, highlighting the need to supply them with drought-resistant seeds and more effective water irrigation.

A study by Danish professor Bjoern Lomborg showed that faltering crops may cut as much as 4 percent of gross domestic production in southern Asia by 2050. It also said

climate change will impact other sectors including health and energy less.

[A net-benefit greenhouse gas plan](#)

In the beginning, the science of climate change was emphatically apocalyptic, with its images of starving multitudes, global plagues and civilizations lost, like Atlantis, to the relentless rising of seas and oceans. Although the beginning wasn't all that long ago (roughly dated to the 1980s), the scientific consensus is already more muted.

Now, increasingly, science advises people to turn off the alarms. The question arises: Why are so many people still going berserk? Richard S.J. Tol, a distinguished climate scientist, remarked on this phenomenon in a paper published last week. "Projections of ... future climate change have become less severe over time," he observes, "even though public discourse has become shriller."



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