



## Drumbeat: January 31, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on January 31, 2010 - 9:37am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

### [Peak demand vs peak oil, the debate picks up in Davos](#)

(MENAFN - Arab News) Global energy outlook too has been under the hammer at Davos - and despite the freezing cold temperatures outside the huge auditorium - the debate was enough to keep adrenaline flowing. A battle was on - with the crusaders arguing that peak oil was just round the corner. And there were defenders, warning, and rather forcefully, that it's this buzz that would keep the demand - supply balance stretched in the coming years and not any lack of resources.

Indeed many in this part of the world, including this writer strongly believe that the worries over oil production peak have at least been relegated to a back burner, if not totally discarded. Yet the debate in Davos once again reminded us that the peak oil pundits are not going to give up - despite some recent setbacks.

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g projects in the oil and petrochemicals sectors, the company's chief executive told Arabiya TV.

The world's top oil exporter has completed a number of refinery expansions and is now working at meeting the country's gas demands in addition to moving downstream into production of petrochemicals.

### [Saudi Arabia eyes India to enhance its oil technology](#)

Saudi Arabia has decided to take advantage of strong ties with India and its proximity to the region to seek technological assistance to support a massive expansion drive by its state oil operator, the company said yesterday.

Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil producing firm, said it had set up a company in New Delhi to oversee increased imports of oil equipment and expertise for its expansion projects in crude oil, refining and petrochemicals.

### [Mexico shuts Gulf oil ports due to bad weather](#)

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexico's three main oil ports in the Gulf of Mexico were

closed on Sunday due to poor weather, the government said.

### [Mexico Ends 2009 With Fiscal Deficit Equal To 2.3% Of GDP](#)

MEXICO CITY (Dow Jones)--Mexico ended 2009 with a fiscal deficit equivalent to 2.3% of gross domestic product as the government increased spending to cushion the impact of a recession that crimped tax revenue and oil income.

### [The Politicization of Food Aid Under One-Party Rule in Ethiopia](#)

The West has provided hundreds of millions of dollars of food aid to Ethiopia in the past several years. However, donor countries have placed few monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure that the aid provided is delivered to the target populations.

As a result, the ruling party has been able to effectively use relief aid to mobilize support for itself and undermine support for its opposition.

### [Mongolian herders move to cities as snowstorms kill livestock](#)

Snowstorms battering Mongolia since late 2009 have devastated livestock numbers, forcing herders to migrate to urban areas in search of work.

The cold snap and heavy snow have killed more than one million livestock, the herders' main source of income, according to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

The bad weather also has reduced food security, intensified poverty and increased domestic rural-urban migration of many families.

### [Fall in gas-tax funds pinches rural paving](#)

Shrinking gas-tax revenues across the state will mean fewer gravel roads will be paved and northeast Indiana roads in general will receive less maintenance this summer.

Some counties say they could be a few years away from switching roughly paved roads back to gravel because of a chronic lack of money. Allen County, however, has seen its budget increase and plans to pave more county roads.

### [Church Puts Solar Panels On Roof To Promote Green Life](#)

One of the most prominent and historical churches in Yerevan, Armenia uses solar

panels on the top of its roof to promote renewable energy and green lifestyle.

One can agree that it is a very rare phenom to see solar panels on the top of the roof of the house of God. Moreover, when solar energy panels are seen on the roof of an Orthodox church, known for its conservatism, the challenge to reconsider your view on Orthodoxy and its approach to stewardship of creation becomes irresistible.

### [Canada outlines greenhouse-gas targets](#)

Environmentalists and opposition politicians are dismissing the Conservative government's latest pledge to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, with one group predicting they'll actually increase under a new agreement hammered out last year.

### [The 10 anti-anti-commandments and Lord Monckton's verbal bombs](#)

Dr Pachauri has denied all allegations made against him. No charges have been laid. Since becoming head of the IPCC in 2002 he has been an outspoken advocate for international action and co-operation to mitigate the affects of global warming. In 2007, he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the IPCC.

Lord Monckton's Sydney bomb-toss: "Pachauri is being investigated by the [UK] Charity Commission. He faces the possibility of going to prison."

### [Peak demand vs peak oil, the debate picks up in Davos](#)

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Indeed many in this part of the world, including this writer strongly believe that the worries over oil production peak have at least been relegated to a back burner, if not totally discarded. Yet the debate in Davos once again reminded us that the peak oil pundits are not going to give up - despite some recent setbacks.

### [Notes from Davos: World Energy Outlook](#)

On Thursday the Davos World Energy Outlook Panel took place. It's well worth a look, you can find the video or podcast [here](#). The participants were:

Chair: Daniel Yergin - Cambridge Energy Research Associates

Panelists:

Thierry Desmarest - Chairman Total (TOT)

Khalid Al-Falih - CEO Saudi Aramco

Tony Hayward - CEO BP Group (BP)

Peter Voser - CEO Royal Dutch Shell (RDS.A)

Andrew Liveris - CEO Dow Chemical (DOW)

Ilham Aliyev - President Azerbaijan

### [Oil, Coal Barges Back Up on Ohio River on Lock Damage](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Barge traffic on the Ohio River halted at the Greenup Locks along the border between Kentucky and Ohio after a 240-ton gate was damaged, stopping shipments of coal to about 30 power plants and forcing at least one refinery to slow oil-product deliveries and curtail production.

### [Lukoil, Statoil Sign Contract for Iraq's W. Qurnah-2 Oil Field](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Iraq, holder of the world's third- largest crude reserves, signed a contract with a group led by Russian producer OAO Lukoil to develop the West Qurna Phase 2 oil project at a ceremony in Baghdad today.

### [Oil firms missing targets face 'huge fines' - Iraq](#)

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Oil companies have committed themselves to the ambitious targets set in deals signed this month with Iraq and face fines of billions of dollars if they miss them, the Iraqi oil minister said on Sunday.

### [JPMorgan May Not Acquire U.S. Units of Sempra, Times Reports](#)

(Bloomberg) -- JPMorgan Chase & Co. may acquire some of Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc's Sempra Commodities stake while excluding its U.S. activities, the Sunday Times said, without saying where it got the information.

### [Tesla to stop selling electric sports car next year](#)

It sounds like the initial public offering of electric-car maker Tesla is already being greeted with skepticism, but some of the fine print about its plans may give potential investors even greater cause for concern.

A reading of the fine print by Wired's Autopia blog uncovers some disturbing product planning news. To wit, the company only product, the first true freeway-capable, mass-produced electric car of the modern age, will go bye-bye next year

### [Suzlon Energy Expects More Orders on Alternative Energy Demand](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Suzlon Energy Ltd., India's biggest maker of wind-turbine generators, said it expects orders to increase this year as a recovering global economy rekindles investments in alternative energy projects.

### [In Portland, Going Green and Growing Vertical in a Bid for Energy Savings](#)

PORTLAND, Ore. — Urban gardening used to seem subversive. People planted tomatoes in public parks, strung their hops to rooftops to make homebrew and reclaimed empty lots as community farms, never mind the property owner.

Yet here in one of the more thoroughly tilled cities in America, subversive has come full circle: the federal government plans to plant its own bold garden directly above a downtown plaza. As part of a \$133 million renovation, the General Services Administration is planning to cultivate "vegetated fins" that will grow more than 200 feet high on the western facade of the main federal building here, a vertical garden that changes with the seasons and nurtures plants that yield energy savings.

### [Green future](#)

Silicon Valley earned its name and first great fortune as the cradle of the computer age. Then it built a launching pad for the Internet age. Now it has assumed a leading role in the global competition to develop renewable energy and other clean, green technologies.

Cleantech is poised to be Silicon Valley's third great wave of innovation — not just the next big thing, but perhaps the biggest thing ever. Confronting the peril of greenhouse gases and climate change happens to be a multitrillion-dollar business opportunity.

### [Exelon backs Obama's carbon capture initiative](#)

THE biggest US nuclear power generator has joined the government's flagship initiative to clean up coal-fired electricity generation in the face of climate change, signing on to a project other utilities have abandoned.

Exelon said it intended to join the FutureGen Alliance, a US government-backed project to capture and store greenhouse-gas emissions from a coal-fired power plant planned for Mattoon, Illinois.

## [India Pledges to Cut Emissions](#)

NEW DELHI--India committed Sunday to reduce the intensity of its carbon emissions by 20% to 25% by 2020 from 2005 levels, meeting a deadline for developing countries to set voluntary carbon-curbing actions.

In its statement announcing the target, the Environment and Forests Ministry didn't spell out what measures India, the world's fifth largest polluter, would take to meet the goal. The statement also said the targeted cuts won't be legally binding.

## [Copenhagen climate deal gets low-key endorsement](#)

OSLO (Reuters) – Nations accounting for most of the world's greenhouse gas emissions have restated their promises to fight climate change, meeting a Sunday deadline in a low-key endorsement of December's "Copenhagen Accord."

Experts say their promised curbs on greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 are too small so far to meet the accord's key goal of limiting global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times.



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