



## Drumbeat: June 11, 2011

Posted by [Leanan](#) on June 11, 2011 - 10:08am

### [Vietnam plans live-fire drill after China dispute](#)

HANOI, Vietnam - A squabble over territory in the South China Sea escalated Friday when Vietnam announced a live ammunition drill in an apparent response to China's demand that the Vietnamese halt all oil exploration in the area.

The heated verbal clash between the two communist neighbors comes amid a similar spat between China and Philippines earlier in the week over another disputed area of the South China Sea, where several countries are eyeing potentially rich oil and gas reserves.

### [Vietnam welcomes international help as sea dispute escalates](#)

(Reuters) - Vietnam said on Saturday live-fire naval drills scheduled for Monday were "routine" and said it would welcome efforts by the international community, including the United States, to help resolve disputes in the South China Sea.

Tensions in the region have risen in the past two weeks, with China and Vietnam trading accusations of violating sovereignty in the Sea, home to important shipping lanes and potentially large oil and gas reserves.

### [Iran says Saudi crude increase will not change market](#)

(Reuters) - An increase in crude output by Saudi Arabia will not change market conditions as demand is for lighter oil than it provides, Iran's OPEC governor was on Saturday quoted as saying, reiterating Tehran's stance that there is no need to boost production.

### [Libyan assets in Africa far-reaching, little known](#)

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) -- Fancy hotels that dominate the skylines of several African capitals, farms, banks, gas stations, telephone companies and an international airline - the financial tentacles of Moammar Gadhafi's regime are far-reaching and little known across the continent.

## [Conflict in Libya: U.S. oil companies sit on sidelines as Gaddafi maintains hold](#)

It struck some visitors to the Houston office of ConocoPhillips chief executive Jim Mulva as peculiar that he displayed a photograph of himself and Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi.

## [Fighting erupts in Zlitan, Turkey offers Gaddafi exit](#)

(Reuters) - Heavy fighting between pro-Gaddafi troops and rebels broke out in a Libyan city just 160 kilometres east of Tripoli, potentially opening the coastal road to the capital, just as cracks appeared among NATO allies.

## [Egypt to Israel gas pipeline re-opened](#)

TEL AVIV, Israel (UPI) -- A natural gas pipeline from Egypt to Israel has reopened after more than a month of a sabotage-related shutdown, a Merhav company official said.

"The commercial supply of gas began today after two days of testing," said spokesman Zeev Feiner, CNN reported Saturday.

## [Russia declines to set end date for China gas deal](#)

BEIJING: China and Russia are still negotiating a massive natural gas supply pact and it would be inappropriate to set a date for the companies involved to conclude the deal, Russia's ambassador to China said.

## [Bulgarian Socialists Turn Green over Shale Gas](#)

MPs from the main opposition Bulgarian Socialist Party have demanded that the government impose a moratorium on all shale gas drilling in Bulgaria over concerns about its hazardous environmental effects.

## [Special Report: After Japan, where's the next nuclear weak link?](#)

(Reuters) - Imagine a country where corruption is rampant, infrastructure is very poor, or the quality of security is in question. Now what if that country built a nuclear power plant?

It may sound alarming but that is what could happen in many developing countries which are either building nuclear power plants or considering doing so - a prospect that raises serious questions after Japan's experience handling a nuclear crisis.

## [Report Blasts Management Style of Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman](#)

WASHINGTON — Gregory B. Jaczko, the chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the subject of a harsh new investigative report from his own agency, finds himself in the cross-fire of a 30-year political battle over disposal of radioactive waste from the nation's nuclear power plants and weapons program.

## [Ariz. wildfire likely to spread to N.M.; threat to major power lines](#)

SPRINGERVILLE, Ariz. — A massive wildfire in eastern Arizona that has claimed about 30 homes and forced 10,000 people to evacuate is likely to spread into New Mexico soon, threatening more towns and possibly endangering two major power lines that bring electricity from Arizona to Texas.

## [Debunking the Stereotypes of Peak Oil and Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery](#)

For all its importance and universal usage, oil will not be with us forever. The hype and curiosity surrounding oil will one diminish when renewable energy become the norm. Experience has taught us that a single source of energy is inadequate to meet the varying energy demands of mankind. One important factor which will move us closer to the universal use renewable energy is technique at the cutting edge of technology.

Peak Oil may not be wished away and MEOR is exciting news.

## ['US stock markets rigged by bank elite'](#)

Press TV: Well, that makes sense. Going forward how critical will rare earths be in the global economy? Will it challenge oil in some way? - Because as you know we've hit peak oil and oil as a component of the global economy will have to subside or diminish in some way. Are rare earths a next major component of the global economy in the century going forward?

John Kim: I'm convinced that it is right now. I know at various points in time rare earths becomes a hot asset to get into but I also know there's been a huge amount of speculation in rare earths too that makes the price so volatile. I'm not sure at this point that it will become as important as oil and other energy commodities in the future but it's something certainly to keep an eye on.

## [Financial inclusion, Bimal Jalan style](#)

Crude oil prices are also unlikely to come down; we have probably already reached 'peak oil' or are near it. Several steps need to be taken; India has just recently mandated fuel

efficiency norms for cars, something that was done decades ago in the US and which this column has been long advocating as a sensible step. India also needs to immediately place a ban on gas guzzlers and SUVs which do not meet efficiency norms. At the least, a punitive duty should be put on them. Efficient public transport systems must be built without delay or controversy.

### [Debbie Harry: Still bold, still blonde](#)

For example, she is reading a heavyweight economic tome on the "hydrogen economy" that deals with economic thinking post-peak oil. Harry talks new millennium geopolitics with punk rock attitude and it's the first time I've heard anyone start swearing on the subject of solar power.

"You know this could solve the problem of the Middle East if a country like Greece forgot oil and harnessed all their sunshine for energy, so what's the f\*\*\*\*\* hold-up?" she fumes.

### [Small U.S. Farms Find Profit in Tourism](#)

SANTA MARGARITA, Calif. — For all the talk about sustainable agriculture, most small farms are not self-sustaining in a very basic sense: they can't make ends meet financially without relying on income from jobs off the farm.

### [World Food Supply: What's To Be Done?](#)

The overall conclusion of the Beddington report is that, to meet rising demand, the world has no choice but to move to a more intensive agriculture, especially in regions where productivity is low today — but that it needs to do so with maximum concern for the long-term environmental *and* economic sustainability of that intensified production.

[A blend of natural climate swings and global warming appears to be driving a long-term decline in snowpack along the Rocky Mountains rarely seen in the past 800 years.](#)

[...If this shift holds, the study's team adds, it could represent a change that would accelerate the loss of the West's natural freshwater reservoirs – if long-term average temperatures continue to rise with increasing levels of industrial greenhouse gases, as most climate scientists are convinced they will.](#)

### [UAE- Green trading arrives in the Middle East](#)

(MENAFN - Khaleej Times) London-based carbon trading organisation Advanced Global Trading, or AGT, has launched its operations in Dubai that will facilitate trading of the world's fastest-growing commodity in the Middle East region.

### [Poor countries say rich evade new climate pledges](#)

Developing countries have accused rich nations of refusing to negotiate an extension of their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Jorge Arguello, head of a 131-nation group of developing countries, says industrial countries are blocking discussion on renewing emission reductions pledges under the Kyoto Protocol after they expire in 2012.

### [Fewer French Fried: The Paradox Of Urban \(And Global\) Warming](#)

In 2006, their model showed nearly 4,500 *fewer* deaths than expected.

What the French did was (begrudgingly) emulate urban Americans. They *adapted*. The government bought air conditioning (formerly a crass Yankee invention) for retirement homes. They implemented a National Heat Wave Plan that keeps tabs on the elderly, who were left to swelter in 2003. They set up cooling shelters for those without A/C.

...Want proof of our adaptation to heat? Two extremely hot cities, Tampa and Phoenix, have virtually no heat-related mortality, despite sporting the oldest populations in our study. In only one city is mortality increasing. That would be young and vibrant Seattle, where summer heat is still very rare.

### [Peak? What Peak? Greenhouse emissions keep increasing](#)

Back in the early 2000s, when I was starting to study peak oil, I used to think that oil depletion was our main problem. Climate change seemed to me a threat for the remote future and, probably, automatically solved by the depletion of fossil fuels. Over the years, however, I saw more and more data accumulating that show that it is not so. I am now convinced that climate change is a much more serious threat to humankind than peak oil.



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