



Drumbeat: October 29, 2011

Posted by [Leanan](#) on October 29, 2011 - 10:15am

[How solar can save Gulf oil exports](#)

Something rather unexpected is happening in the Middle East. The oil-rich Gulf states, which have earned trillions of dollars in the past few decades exporting crude to the east and west, find they can no longer afford to consume their own oil. They are consuming ever increasing amounts at home, at a huge cost to exports, and are being forced to turn to renewables as a cheaper source of energy.

The Gulf state of Kuwait, the fifth biggest producer in OPEC, has announced it aims to supply 10 per cent of its electricity supply with renewables by 2020 – double what it contemplated less than a year ago. It may not seem a high percentage, but considering that the entirety of its renewable energy generation consists of a single 50kW turbine operated by an environmentally-minded former army engineer, and its energy demands will more than double over the period, this would be quite a feat.

[Cheap Oil Isn't Coming Back](#)

As the world urbanizes, demand for oil could outstrip many nations' abilities to get it out of the ground. Most new discoveries have been made in difficult territory, where the costs of extraction dwarf inexpensive Middle Eastern crude. Consumers may have to get used to high prices at the pump, with or without the threat of conflict between two of the world's largest producers. There's risk for some, but great opportunity for many, so read on to discover what's happening and who's poised to strike a gusher as oil prices continue to rise.

[Crude Oil Pares Biggest Weekly Gain Since March as Japan Output Declines](#)

Crude oil futures fell in New York, paring the biggest weekly gain since February, as a drop in Japan's industrial output prompted traders to lock in profits from yesterday's rally.

Crude dropped 0.7 percent as Japanese factory production declined 4 percent in September, almost twice as much as the median estimate of economists surveyed by Bloomberg News. Oil advanced 4.2 percent yesterday after data showed the U.S. economy grew at the fastest pace in a year and European leaders agreed on a plan to curb the region's debt crisis.

[Iran downplays report India paying for oil via Russia](#)

TEHRAN (Reuters) - An Iranian Oil Ministry source played down on Saturday a report that Indian oil buyers had started paying for their crude through a bank in Russia as a new way to get around sanctions-related difficulties in making international bank transfers.

The semi-official Iranian Mehr news agency said on Friday that importers in India -- Iran's second biggest oil customer after China -- were paying off oil debts through Gazprombank .

[Navy and MMEA rescue hijacked oil tanker](#)

KUANTAN: The Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) and Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) rescued a tanker with RM12mil worth of oil and gas cargo from a group of armed pirates in the South China Sea on Friday.

[Three separate blasts in Iran oil infrastructure kill 1, injure 3](#)

TEHRAN: Three separate explosions were reported on Iranian oil and gas infrastructure Friday, with an oil field blast killing one person, semiofficial Mehr news agency reported.

...Increasing incidents of explosions have hit Iran's oil and gas sector recently, but authorities rarely provide explanations for them.

[Divide Libya into its tribal parts](#)

Who should get Libya's fabulous oil and gas wealth, an amount that could be equivalent to several million dollars per Libyan? With NATO leaving Libya Monday, the West should prepare for the aftermath. The coming chaotic months will see infighting, and perhaps a renewal of civil war, among the many rival tribal and ideological groups. The West should now consider whether to influence - or impose - a just resolution.

[279 gas petrol stations closed because of flooding](#)

The Energy Ministry Saturday reported that the flood disaster in Bangkok and vicinity provinces has caused 279 petrol stations to close.

[30 years to decommission Fukushima nuke plant](#)

TOKYO - Decommissioning the stricken reactors at the Fukushima No.1 nuclear power plant is likely to take 30 years or more, the government's Japan Atomic Energy Commission said in a provisional report released on Friday.

[China's export curbs under scrutiny](#)

China's export restrictions on key raw materials such as bauxite, coke, fluorspar, magnesium, manganese, silicon carbide, silicon metal, yellow phosphorus and zinc have been a point of contention. The failure of consultation to resolve the issue led the EU, the US and Mexico to request for the establishment of a WTO panel on November 4, 2009.

[Tesla's Musk Says Model S Sold Out; Profit Likely in 2013](#)

The company has orders for "more than 6,500" units of Model S to be built next year, Musk said. The premium electric sedan will retail for as little as about \$50,000, half the price of Tesla's current Roadster sports car, he said.

"They're mostly new buyers," Musk, 40, said in an interview on "In The Loop With Betty Liu" today. "Only about 600 people who have ordered Roadsters have also bought the Model S."

[Look out: Fossil fuels may be out-innovating green tech](#)

Scrappy green-tech start-ups aren't the only ones who make big bets on technology.

A spate of articles this week points to the fact that new technologies in the fossil fuel industry are making it harder for alternative clean energy technologies to get a larger foothold

[Less government meddling could unlock green energy's power](#)

The book 'Reinventing Fire' outlines what consumers and industries need to do to make energy independence a reality. Much of the vision involves letting market forces and innovation work their magic.

[After Scandal, Solar Industry Looks On Bright Side](#)

Solar power's image has taken a hit lately with the bankruptcy of Solyndra. The California solar panel manufacturer received more than half a billion dollars in Energy Department loan guarantees before going belly up.

But the industry is still optimistic — that much was apparent at the Solar Power International conference held in Dallas in mid-October. Walking into the big hall of the

Dallas Convention Center, it was impossible not to be impressed by the huge array of black solar panels hanging from the ceiling.

[White House to scrutinize Energy Department loan guarantees](#)

Embarrassed by Solyndra, the White House says it will review all loan guarantees by the Energy Department and asks for recommendations about 'how to improve the loan monitoring process.'

[In 'Setback' for Cape Wind, U.S. Court Vacates FAA Safety Study](#)

The Federal Aviation Administration must reconsider a study that concluded the Cape Wind offshore power project off the Nantucket coast poses no threat to planes.

The agency failed to adequately consider the impact of 440- foot-tall turbines on air traffic in the area, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said in a decision today.

[Batteries at a Wind Farm Help Control Output](#)

ELKINS, W.Va. — Another wind farm opened on another windy ridge in West Virginia this week, 61 turbines stretched across 12 miles, generating up to 98 megawatts of electricity. But the novel element is a cluster of big steel boxes in the middle, the largest battery installation attached to the power grid in the continental United States.

[Rolls-Royce Talking to Developers, Utilities About U.K. Tidal Farms](#)

Rolls-Royce Holdings Plc, the world's second-largest aircraft engine maker, said it's in talks with project developers and utilities to install tidal energy turbines in Scottish and Irish waters.

[A Conversation With Dave Hamilton, Self-Sufficiency Expert](#)

What new idea or innovation is having the most significant impact on the sustainability world?

I think the Transition Towns movement will continue to make an impact in the coming years. The beauty of the Transition movement is its simplicity and adaptability. Transition aims to face the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change by (amongst other things) facing these problems on a local, rather than national or international scale. Unlike many movements which follow a one-size-fits-all principle, Transition aims to make sense wherever it is set up.

[Ground Floor Coverage: Operation Occupy](#)

With peak oil production nudging the price per barrel into a relentless, upward spiral with no end in sight, and very little investment in alternative energy methods, a large percentage of the population will no longer be able to afford adequate utility coverage by next spring. Already, the experts on energy utilization, who once advised Americans to turn their thermostats to sixty five degrees fahrenheit, now insist we can live comfortably at a cool sixty if we just put on sweaters. We are told once more to sacrifice because energy is dwindling, yet the cranking of machinery and the splintering of fracking is still heard in the distance. They wish us to sacrifice for them, at their convenience, and as we cautiously moderate our fuel consumption, the energy companies continue raising the rates so your savings will not show on your monthly bills.

[Global warming: Middle East's vital wet winters are disappearing](#)

Global warming is playing a significant role in diverting much-needed wet winter weather away from the increasingly dry Mediterranean, a new study led by a NOAA scientist suggests.



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