



LKN Keeping You Informed

February 2009 Issue

February 28

Thai Prime Minister tested in economic crisis. *Business Week*

Thailand is the current holder of ASEAN's rotating chairmanship in the diverse region of more than 500 million people and GDP of \$1.2 trillion. "As the financial crisis deepens, the world will look towards our region for action and for confidence," Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

[Full article](#)

Ecuador used for human smuggling into U.S. *NPR*

The Chinese hoping to use Ecuador as a way into the United States by utilizing its human-smuggling business and taking advantage of its open borders.

[Full article](#)

February 27

Microsoft hopeful in Asian Piracy fight. *Business Week*

As more Asians have purchased PCs, the size of the software industry's losses to counterfeiting has soared. In 2007 the BSA says piracy cost software vendors \$14 billion in lost sales compared to \$7.6 billion in 2003.

[Full article](#)

Issues with 2014 Olympics in Russia. *Business Week*

The Winter Games in Sochi have the same significance for Russia as the Summer Games in Beijing did for China. And in this case too, even five years before the Games start, the question is already surfacing: Was it a good idea to award the Games to Sochi?

[Full article](#)

Shell Oil expects oil demand to double by 2050. *NPR*

Oil companies are expecting prices and demand to be higher. Oil company executives were on Capitol Hill this week to discuss offshore drilling.

[Full article](#)

Problems in Mexico worry CIA. *NPR*

Drug related violence in Mexico is escalating and threatening the government of President Felipe Calderon. The violence led the CIA to add Mexico to its list of crises to watch over the next year.

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February 26

New Mobile Internet? *Business Week*

Marketers have long dreamed of zeroing in on shoppers, whether in a mall or a competitor's store, and hitting them with targeted ads or coupons. Google and Nokia are studying consumer behavior to attempt to do this.

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February 20

Coca Cola to emerge from economic crisis. *Business Week*

CEO Kent feels the company will emerge stronger and advertising dollars are more powerful in this environment.

[Full article](#)

Saab files for reorganization. *CNN.com/world business*

Swedish car manufacturer Saab, a fully owned subsidiary of General Motors, announced Friday that it will "file for reorganization ... to create a fully independent business entity."

[Full article](#)

South Korea and U.S. strong alliance. *CNN Politics.com*

There are unconfirmed indications that North Korea is ready to launch of a long-range missile confrontation with South Korea. "Our alliance is stronger than ever," Clinton told CNN's Jill Dougherty in an interview. "

[Full article](#)

February 19

Kyrgyzstan to close a key U.S. base. *NPR*

Kyrgyzstan's parliament voted Thursday to close a key U.S. air base. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the United States would consider paying more rent to continue using the strategic base.

[Full article](#)

February 18

Egyptian political spokesman was freed today. *NPR*

Ayman Nour, a prominent Egyptian dissident who was jailed after challenging President Hosni Mubarak in the 2005 election, was unexpectedly freed.

[Full article](#)

Clinton visited Indonesia. *NPR*

Hillary Clinton wants to improve relations with Indonesia and shows support for the country's hard-won democracy and its efforts to fight terrorism while respecting human rights.

[Full article](#)

Germany to nationalize banks. *CNN.com/world bank*

The German government passed a draft bill Wednesday that will allow the government to forcibly nationalize ailing financial institutions.

[Full article](#)

February 17

Lieberman holds the power in Israel. *NPR*

Lieberman is Israel's new political king. His ultranationalist Israel Beiteinu party finished in third place in the parliamentary elections.

[Full article](#)

Google launches the Android. *CNN.com/technology*

The Google-run handsets are regarded as the chief rivals to Apple's iPhones in the battle for the next generation of mobile devices.

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Japan has new finance minister. *Business Week*

Finance Minister Shoichi Nakagawa submitted his resignation three days after he appeared intoxicated at a G-7 gathering in Italy.

[Full article](#)

Bolivia requested Total to increase investments. *Business Week*

President Morales told Total to increase its investments in Andean gas. He has complained foreign oil companies are not doing enough to

increase production from the country's gas reserves and has threatened to expel them.

[Full article](#)

Venezuela spending cut due to low oil prices. *Business Week*

Venezuela's government will slash public spending to confront the falling price of oil. The country relies on oil for 94% of exports and nearly half the government budget.

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February 15

Venezuela able to run for Presidency in 2019. *NPR*

Chavez' referendum victory removed limits on his re-election and is a mandate to intensify his socialist agenda for decades to come.

"Effectively this will become a dictatorship," opposition leader Omar Barboza told The Associated Press.

[Full article](#)

G-7 meets in Rome. *NPR*

G-7 finance ministers pledged to avoid resorting to protectionism as they try to stimulate their economies in world's worst economic crisis since the 1930s.

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February 14

Advice for the big U.S. banks. *NPR*

Many of the banks that have failed have been small community banks. However, big banks have something to learn from the little ones.

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February 13

New FDI rules in India. *Business Week*

New rules for foreign direct investment take away any indirect holdings foreigners can have in the Indian-controlled firms in which they invest.

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Sarkozy to fund French newspapers. *NPR*

He will give \$800 million in emergency aid for the country's failing newspaper industry. Additionally, he wants to boost the newspaper reading habits among young people in France.

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Google TV ads. *Business Week*

Google has abandoned its efforts to sell newspaper and radio advertising. Given the convergence of TV and the Internet and Google will most likely stay in TV.

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February 11

Russia and U.S. negotiations. *NPR*

Despite a new U.S. administration and some soft words between Moscow and Washington in recent days, progress is likely to come slowly,

[Full article](#)

Livni, Netanyahu both claimed victory in Israeli elections. *NPR*

The winner of the election wasn't clear in part because Livni could try to form a coalition with hawkish parties. Netanyahu's Likud Party won a majority of 65 seats in the 120-seat parliament, which would give Netanyahu the upper hand in forming the next government.

[Full article](#)

February 10

Never done before, Chinese auto sales outdo US. *Business Week*

"China has the potential very easily to become the largest car market in the world," said Tom Wilkinson, a spokesman for General Motors Corp. U.S. auto sales have shrunk from an annual sales rate of around 16 million to sales of 13.2 million vehicles in 2008.

[Full article](#)

Lachky, Anheuser-Busch chief creative officer resigns. *Business Week*

President David Peacock said leaving the creative decisions to brand managers will leverage their knowledge about the products and the consumers who buy them into Anheuser-Busch's advertising.

[Full article](#)

Renewable energy in Europe: the reality. *Business Week*

15% of the Germany's electricity comes from solar, wind or biomass facilities, almost 250,000 jobs have been created and the net worth of the business is €35 billion per year. However the climate hasn't profited from these developments.

[Full article](#)

Europe reaching out to Iraq. *NPR*

Foreign Minister Steinmeier and President Sarkozy have reached out to Iraq to support the peace. Iraqi leaders are eager to have relations with Germany and France partly to avoid the appearing as puppets of the U.S.

[Full article](#)

February 9

Starbucks to offer combo deals. *CNN*

The company will sell pairings of coffee and breakfast for \$3.95. The idea may be targeted to drawing back business lost to retailers like McDonald's and Dunkin' Donuts.

[Full article](#)

Airline Industry survival? *NPR*

Low fuel costs are allowing airline companies, especially airlines to stay in business.

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Google CEO to advise to British politicians. *Business Week*

Eric Schmidt, the chairman and chief executive officer of Google Inc., has been recruited to help Britain's main opposition political party as an international business adviser.

[Full article](#)

February 8

New technology to exploit consumer behavior. *Business Week*

Retailers such as Best buy are looking for small technology investments that produce big results. Best Buy realized storewide financing could be a powerful differentiator in the marketplace.

[Full article](#)

Former President Khatami to run again. *NPR*

Khatami's candidacy poses a challenge to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose mixture of anti-Western rhetoric and nationalism contrasts with Khatami's tempered tones and appeals for global dialogue.

[Full article](#)

February 7

U.S.-Iran relations discussed. *NPR*

There are different points of view on Iran, a country with a 2,500-year history that is now ruled by the world's first modern theocracy. Iran's influence seems to be growing in parts of Afghanistan and Iraq.

[Full article](#)

4 Day workweek in Utah. *NPR*

Utah became the first state to mandate a four-day workweek for many of state employees.

[Full article](#)

February 6

IBM's Project Match. *NPR*

The project allows employees facing layoffs to be transferred abroad to countries such as India, Brazil and the Czech Republic to work at local wages.

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Venezuela lack on oil payments. *Business Week*

Petroleos de Venezuela SA, or PDVSA unpaid invoices jumped 39% in the first nine months of last year to its private contractors.

[Full article](#)

California Furlough Fridays. *Business Week*

Reducing the average state worker's salary by 9.2 percent is an attempt to solve the state's \$42 billion budget shortfall.

[Full article](#)

Car sales improve in Italy. *CNN.com/world business*

The Italian government approved a stimulus package Friday that encourages consumers to purchase durable goods.

[Full article](#)

February 5

Satyam Computer Services has new CEO. *CNN*

The company appointed A.S. Murty to head Satyam. They are at the center of a massive corporate fraud case after its former CEO admitted to inflating profits with "fictitious" assets and non-existent cash. .

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Soviet control in Central Asia? *NPR*

Russia is trying to regain its influence over former Soviet republics in Central Asia.

[Full article](#)

Dairy business on a down slope. *NPR*

Demand in the dairy industry is way down along with the prices farmers can get for their raw milk.

[Full article](#)

February 3

US trying to decrease Venezuela oil dependency. *CNN.com/world*

The United States, a major Venezuelan oil consumer, needed petroleum "like air, like oxygen to live, to survive," Chavez said.

[Full article](#)

Digital TV delayed. *NPR*

The U.S. House of Representatives is trying to postpone the scheduled mid-February move from analog to digital television.

[Full article](#)

February 2

India and IAEA make nuclear agreement. *Business Week*

It permits U.S. businesses to sell nuclear fuel, technology and reactors to India and reverses a three-decade ban on atomic trade with the fast-growing nuclear-armed Asian power.

[Full article](#)

Kazakhstan to nationalize its banks. *Business Week*

The government has plans to acquire a 78% share in Kazakhstan's biggest lender, BTA Bank.

[Full article](#)

IBM to expand business in Iowa. *NPR*

Dubuque, Iowa will be a new home for the remote computer services center for IBM, in place of offshoring the services.

[Full article](#)

Phillips Farms' Enoki mushrooms recalled. *CNN.com/health*

Listeria contamination in the mushrooms can cause flu-like symptoms and sometimes gastrointestinal symptoms.

[Full article](#)

February 1

Women's movement occurs in Iran. *NPR*

Since the overthrow of the Shah of Iran, life has been interesting for women in this country, yet women speak out.

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