



LKN Keeping You Informed

March 2009 Issue

March 30

**Peugeot lets go of CEO.** *CNN.com/world business*

"Given the extraordinary difficulties currently faced by the automotive industry, the Supervisory Board decided unanimously that a change in the senior leadership position was necessary," said Thierry Peugeot, chairman of the PSA Peugeot Citroen.

[Full article](#)

**Spanish government takes over Bank of Spain.** *CNN.com/world business*

The takeover is the first since the financial crisis hit Spain. Its Socialist government has lauded its banking sector for weathering the storm due to strict regulations and extra-cash provisioning measures.

[Full article](#)

**African National Congress power tested with vote.** *NPR*

The voting is expected to be the biggest test yet of the country's young democracy.

[Full article](#)

**Afghanistan is the focus of International Summit.** *NPR*

More than 80 nations are expected to participate in the summit at the Hague. U.S. officials hope Iran intends to play a positive role in regards to Afghanistan.

[Full article](#)

March 29

**Turkey elections favor Erdogan.** *NPR*

Local elections Sunday in Turkey appear to deliver a victory to the party of Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan.

[Full article](#)

March 27

**Royal family succession changes in U.K.** *NPR*

Prime Minister is attempting to lift a centuries-long ban on Catholics marrying into the royal family.

[Full article](#)

**Israel Presidency finalized.** *NPR*

Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to complete forming his new government next week. Netanyahu is prepared to negotiate for peace with the Palestinian Authority.

[Full article](#)

March 25

**Israel-Egypt relations changing?** *NPR*

Thursday marks the 30th anniversary of the historic Camp David treaty that saw Egypt become the first Arab state to make peace with Israel. Many Egyptians feel that keeping peaceful ties with the Jewish state has damaged their country's standing.

[Full article](#)

**Japan exports decrease tremendously.** *CNN.com/world business*

Japan, the world's second-largest economy, relies heavily on exports such as cars and electronics. Shipments to the United States decreased 58% last month and to Europe 54%.

[Full article](#)

**Youtube blocked in China.** *CNN.com/technology*

Google, which owns YouTube, said it began noticing a decline in traffic from China about noon Monday and has no idea why China blocked the website. This is not the first time users in China have been unable to access the site.

[Full article](#)

March 23

**Disputes over Afghanistan's election and Karzai.** *NPR*

"All the apparatus of his government and ... American taxpayer money is being abused to rig this election," says Sultanzoi, one of a growing number of people likely to run against Karzai this summer.

[Full article](#)

**Middle East invests in Daimler Chrysler.** *NPR*

Aabar Investments of Abu Dhabi bought more than 9% of the auto manufacturer, making itself Daimler Chrysler's biggest single shareholder.

[Full article](#)

**World's cheapest car?** *CNN.com/world business*

The four-door Nano is currently being built in "limited numbers" by Tata Motors in India.

[Full article](#)

**Sony Ericsson CEO resigns.** *Business Week*

"Under Najmi's leadership we have redefined our North American strategy, built operational excellence and strengthened our total presence considerably in this very important market."

[Full article](#)

**Merck and its biotech venture capital fund.** *Business Week*

The company is starting a biotechnology venture capital fund that will invest \$55 million in emerging companies during the next 5 years.

[Full article](#)

March 22

**Ecuador economy changing.** *NPR*

Ecuador is a tiny, oil-producing country has close trade ties with the United States and is one of Latin America's most open markets. However it may become the most closed Latin American country with economical changes worldwide.

[Full article](#)

March 21

**Communism in El Salvador.** *NPR*

The Marxist leader, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) won the presidential election in El Salvador.

[Full article](#)

March 19

**Argentine farmers protest over taxes again.** *CNN.com/world*

Farmers once again mounted roadblocks after lawmakers failed to reach quorum in Congress to debate a bill that would reduce the 35 percent soybean export tax. President Fernandez said \$1.776 billion from the fund would be used for social infrastructure.

[Full article](#)

March 18

**IBM and Sun Microsystems may merge.** *Business Week*

Sun is one of the most important Silicon Valley innovation companies. Placing two innovation leaders, IBM and Sun, together, would create a national player.

[Full article](#)

March 17

**Mexico, U.S. trade dispute.** *NPR*

The issue of Mexican trucks on U.S. highways goes back to the signing of the NAFTA in 1994. In retaliation of going against the agreement, the Mexican government plans to impose tariffs on many U.S. products entering Mexico.

[Full article](#)

**Will Chinese tourism help Taiwan economy?** *NPR*

Taiwan is welcoming many Chinese in the hope that their relations and economy can improve.

[Full article](#)

**Hearst Corp., Seattle Post Intelligencer on the press no more.** *NPR*

It isn't disappearing entirely; it'll be published online only.

[Full article](#)

**Southern African rejects new Madagascar leader.** *NPR*

Andry Rajoelina is an army-backed politician who ousted an elected president. United States may reconsider aid to the country.

[Full article](#)

March 16

**Facebook and Twitter team up.** *Business Week*

Users of Facebook and Twitter will soon be able to see messages from both sites side-by-side through TweetDeck. TweetDeck is among the most popular of the dozens of applications from outside developers used for browsing and posting updates to Twitter.

[Full article](#)

**China and India in better positions than others.** *NPR*

Both countries have been affected less than the U.S. and Europe. Their slow pace of reform has protected its citizens from feeling the pinch.

[Full article](#)

**Mexican tariffs raised on several U.S. exports.** *CNNMoney.com*

The new trade restrictions are in retaliation for the canceled U.S. commercial trucking project. Mexico's Economic Secretary Gerardo Ruiz Mateos called the cancellation of the program a breach of the NAFTA.

[Full article](#)

March 15

**Leftist party wins El Salvador presidency first time in history.** *NPR*

Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front formed in 1980 as a band of Marxist guerrillas attempting to seize power. He promised to build strong ties with President Barack Obama and promote investor confidence

[Full article](#)

**Is Cisco's Project California the answer?** *Business Week*

Demands on data centers are rising as jobs move from PC software to the Internet and customers are looking for more efficient ways to build those data centers.

[Full article](#)

**Cheap alcohol degrading British lifestyle.** *Business Week*

Alcohol consumption has fallen since 1970 in many European countries, but has increased by 40 percent in Britain, where beer, wine and spirits have remained relatively cheap

[Full article](#)

March 12

**Best Buy Central Focus Groups.** *Business Week*

Best Buy picked four groups of salespeople and asked them to come up with businesses the electronics retailer could roll out quickly and cheaply.

[Full article](#)

**Mozilla Firefox without Google?** *Business Week*

Google accounts for more than 88% of Mozilla's revenue, which totaled \$75 million in 2007. Firefox has about 22% of the browser market, making it by far the strongest competitor to Internet Explorer, which maintains a 67% share

[Full article](#)

March 11

**Google to use behavioral targeting to trigger ads.** *Business Week*

Behavioral targeting uses electronic markers on people's Web browsers called cookies to track what sites people visit.

[Full article](#)

**G-20 meeting could test Obama's leadership.** *NPR*

The United States thinks other governments should be spending more on economic stimulus programs. The United States and China are the only large countries willing to spend 2% of their GDP on stimulus programs over the next 2 years.

[Full article](#)

March 10

**Interest rates are at their lowest ever.** *Business Week*

Many of the world's central bankers are now looking at ways to boost the quantity of money instead of just tweaking the price of it.

[Full article](#)

March 9

**Merck Co. buying Shering-Plough Corp.** *NPR*

This deal unites the maker of asthma drug Singulair with the maker of allergy medicine Nasonex to form the world's second-largest prescription-drug maker.

[Full article](#)

**Venezuela Coca Cola to cooperate with Chavez over relocation.**

*Business Week*

Coke is optimistic that conversations with the government would "bring about proposals and alternatives that benefit everyone."

[Full article](#)

March 8

**World Bank states global economy will shrink in 2009.** *NPR*

Richer nations are borrowing more, developing nations are being squeezed out, and many financial organizations that have provided financing to lower-income countries "have virtually disappeared."

[Full article](#)

**Paul Castro lets go of top cabinet members.** *NPR*

One of these members was a possible successor of his presidency.

[Full article](#)

March 6

**Hillary Clinton to meet with Russia.** *NPR*

She's meeting her Russian counterpart in Geneva on Friday to try to capitalize on the improving U.S.-Russian relations.

[Full article](#)

March 5

**Exxon's plan.** *CNNmoney.com*

The world's largest publicly-traded oil company outlined a list of new investments and strategies to financial analysts at the NY Stock Exchange.

[Full article](#)

**Russia and Ukraine in energy dispute.** *CNN.com/Europe*

Putin warned Thursday that Russia would cut off natural gas to Ukraine and Europe. Russian energy giant Gazprom said its Ukrainian counterpart had "fully paid" for gas shipped in February worth \$50 million.

[Full article](#)

**U.S. and its allies agreed to revive high-level talks with Russia.** *NPR*

Hillary Clinton used her to NATO trip as secretary to make known the Obama administration is ready to talk with allies as the U.S. finalizes how to deal with Afghanistan and Pakistan.

[Full article](#)

**New international climate talks will take place in Copenhagen.** *NPR*

The Flying Dutchman travels the world trying to forge a climate deal that would replace the current ineffective climate treaty.

[Full article](#)

March 4

**No more AT&T monopoly over iPhone.** *Business Week*

Consumer groups, wireless carriers, and internet companies are taking the At&T and iPhone agreement to the U.S government as anticompetitive.

[Full article](#)

**Emerging markets' stocks performed better than developed markets'**

*Business Week*

These markets are volatile and highly correlated to developed markets at the moment, but over time these countries will reassert themselves.

[Full article](#)

**Eastern Europe development in problem with financial downturn.** *NPR*

Countries such as Hungary, Ukraine, and Latvia are in the most financial trouble.

[Full article](#)

**High speed trains in the U.S.** *NPR*

Obama's stimulus plan includes creating high speed railroads in comparison to the Spanish railroads, which are faster than airplanes.

[Full article](#)

March 3

**Argentina government and farmers make agreement.** *CNN*

The agreement did not alter export taxes on soybeans, which was the area of disagreement that led farmers to protest a year ago.

[Full article](#)

**P.M. Brown said we need to show the world can come together.** *NPR*

Confidence in international banking system can be restored and the global economy turned around if nations establish new and better standards of accountability.

[Full article](#)

**U.S. and Russia relations reinitiated.** *NPR*

Obama said, "Russia needs to understand our commitment to the independence and security of countries such as Poland or Czech Republic.

[Full article](#)

March 2

**Mexican peso dropped to 15.4 against the U.S. dollar today.** *Business Week*

Mexico sends 80% of its exports to the U.S. and has been pummeled by the U.S. downturn.

[Full article](#)

**Cuban top cabinet officials replaced.** *Business Week*

Cuban has made several major changes in its top levels of government.

[Full article](#)

March 1

**EU help members countries as needed in bad economy.** *CNN.com/word business*

The E.U. has predicted overall EU economies would shrink by about 1.8% in 2009.

[Full article](#)

**Latin American ministers met to prep for G-20 Summit.** *Business Week*

"The Ibero-American countries want to ensure their 'active participation ... in the new international architecture'..."

[Full article](#)

