



LKN Keeping You Informed

April 2009 Issue

April 30

Japanese exports increase. *Business Week*

Output at Japanese factories and refineries was up in March for the first time in six months. However, Japan is still suffering from its worst postwar recession.

[Full article](#)

Time 2009, 100 most influential people. *Time.com*

Individuals such as Edward Kennedy, Gordon Brown, and Christine Lagarde are included in the list of most influential leaders and revolutionaries of 2009.

[Full article](#)

Texaco sued by Ecuador. *NPR*

All this happened in what was once virgin Amazonian jungle, the world's greatest biosphere and an area that still contains huge oil reserves. The plaintiffs say Texaco, in 18 years of full-scale production, have dumped wastewater into rivers and that pipeline breaks spilled 17 million gallons of oil.

[Full article](#)

April 29

Google, a monopoly? *Business Week*

While companies can become monopolies in the U.S. without breaking any laws, titans like Google often find rivals and regulators banding together to rein them in. Google has accused of using its market power to squash competition from rival search providers.

[Full article](#)

Cuba reaction to Obama's suggestions. *NPR*

U.S. has allowed unlimited travel and money transfers for Americans with family in this country and eased restrictions on telecommunications between the United States and Cuba. Cuba suggested it is not willing to appease Washington by embracing small political and social reforms on the island.

[Full article](#)

50% tax cut in U.K. *NPR*

Individuals such as composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and actor Michael Caine are speaking out against the tax increase, which is directed at the wealthy.

[Full article](#)

SocGen Chairman resigns. *CNN.com/world business*

Daniel Bouton said: "Like any manager, I have certainly made mistakes" while he led France's second largest bank, "but the strategy adopted by Societe Generale has made it one of the finest banks in the euro zone."

[Full article](#)

Chinese protectionism to cripple economy? *Business Week*

The encouragement of "indigenous innovation" in ICT had created "protectionist policies that may discriminate against foreign companies and ultimately retard the pace of China's own innovation."

[Full article](#)

April 28

Eastern Gas pipeline extension. *Business Week*

Bulgarian President Parvanov said South Stream agreement should be signed when Russia and Bulgaria resolve their differences. Bulgaria signed an agreement to explore options of buying gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Egypt via Greece. [Full article](#)

Failure of EU workers bill. *Euroobserver.com*

The aim was to revise the 1993 legislation to limit countries opting out from the 48-hour maximum working week that the law imposes.

[Full article](#)

April 27

Peru grants asylum to Venezuelan politician. *CNN.com/world*

Venezuela's government said in a statement Monday. "It's a decision that thwarts international law, inflicts a blow to the fight against corruption and is an affront to the people of Venezuela."

[Full article](#)

International flu pandemic. *CNN.com/worldbusiness*

The move from level three to level four on the WHO's six-level threat scale means the world body has determined the virus is capable of significant human-to-human transmission.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/04/27/swine.flu/index.html>

April 26

Portugal, drugs are legal? *Time.com*

Under Portugal's new regime, people found guilty of possessing small amounts of drugs are sent to a panel consisting of a psychologist, social worker and legal adviser for appropriate treatment instead of jail.

[Full article](#)

North Korea military joined by son of leader Kim. *CNN.com/asia*

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il tapped his son to join the powerful National Defense Commission. This move comes two weeks after Kim added his brother-in-law Jang Song Thaek to the military board.

[Full article](#)

April 24

Restructuring of H-1B Visa. *Business Week*

Two U.S. senators are reintroducing legislation aimed at revamping the H-1B Visa program for guest workers in the U.S. Dick Durbin states, "The...program is plagued with fraud and abuse and is now a vehicle for outsourcing that deprives qualified American workers of their jobs."

[Full article](#)

First female PM of Iceland? *Business Week*

Iceland's women blame men for the economic crisis that drove their nation to the verge of collapse.

[Full article](#)

Foodzie helps to sell your food. *Business Week*

It sells products from small producers in 25 states, relies on attractive photos and an uncluttered design to appeal to customers' palates. "What was lacking in online (food stores) was an experience that makes you hungry," CTO Nik Bauman says.

[Full article](#)

U.S and Russia to replace START agreement. *NPR*

The treaty expires in December, and both sides say they are serious about reaching a deal before then.

[Full article](#)

India's New Parliament. *NPR*

Elections are underway in India to choose a new parliament. Nearly one in four of the members of the country's parliament are charged with at least one criminal offense.

[Full article](#)

A Chinese Sonic Wonderland. *NPR*

Construction is due to start soon in the central Chinese city of Hefei on a \$150 million hotel and restaurant complex equipped with voice-activated sound systems that would allow guests to summon sounds of waves or birdsong, for example, at any time.

[Full article](#)

Cellphones grow bamboo plants? *CNN.com/technology*

Many phone manufacturers have unveiled eco-friendly handset designs made from recycled plastic bottles attempting to gauge market interest in Earth-conscious cellphones.

[Full article](#)

April 23

Wells Fargo sued. *Business Week*

California Attorney General Jerry Brown has sued subsidiaries of Wells Fargo & Co. for selling more than \$1 billion in securities through allegedly deceptive advertising.

[Full article](#)

Iraq and Iran to build pipeline together. *Business Week*

The agreements mark another step in strengthening relations between the two majority Shiite countries that fought a deadly eight-year war in the 1980s.

[Full article](#)

Myspace CEO to step down. *CNN.com/world business*

DeWolfe will be a strategic adviser to the company and will continue to serve on the board of MySpace China.

[Full article](#)

April 22

Changes in Network TV. *Business Week*

The array of entertainment options: Youtube clips of improbable Scottish singers, online games, pirated movies, and TV shows, is luring away from destination television.

[Full article](#)

TV reinvents itself. *Business Week*

With growing competition and decreasing TV ad money, the big TV networks will be forced to make major changes quickly. NBC, currently the most challenged of the Big Four networks, has been the first to rethink its strategy.

[Full article](#)

April 21

New EU members want the Euro. *Business Week*

Most of the EU's new member states from Central and Eastern Europe didn't want to be bothered

with joining the eurozone. Suddenly, joining the eurozone changed from something that might be kind of nice to do in the next decade to entering into one of the few safe harbors in the howling winds of the worldwide financial crisis.

[Full article](#)

Pepsi to buy bottler. *Business Week*

The deal, if successful, will give PepsiCo control of 80% of its North American beverage distribution network, help it cut more than \$200 million in pretax costs annually, and improve margins.

[Full article](#)

Tesco profits. *CNN.com/ world business*

Chief Executive Terry Leahy said: "At a time when customers everywhere are feeling the economic strain, we are responding to their changing needs in all our markets by lowering prices, introducing more affordable products and offering even sharper promotions.

[Full article](#)

April 20

19 countries in deep trouble. *U.S. News*

U.S. News looked at some countries that are currently facing severe economic disruption that endangers their standards of living, attractiveness to foreign investors, and political stability.

[Full article](#)

Chaos at UN Conference. *NPR*

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad triggered a walkout Monday at a U.N. anti-racism conference in Geneva, when he accused Israel of being a "most cruel and repressive racist regime."

[Full article](#)

Oracle to buy Sun Microsystems. *Business Week*

The deal to better integrates its own software with Sun's servers and its Solaris operating system, which power data centers in government, the telecommunications industry, and on Wall Street, This puts Oracle at the center of the world's most demanding computing applications.

[Full article](#)

"Fair Trade" markets? *NPR*

Companies which observe "fair trade" practices buy raw materials from suppliers that meet certain environmental and labor standards.

[Full article](#)

GSK acquires Stiefel Laboratories. *CNN.com/world business*

The deal would create a new world-leading specialist dermatology business with combined revenues of \$1.5 billion.

[Full article](#)

Zuma, South Africa's next president? *NPR*

Zuma is a polygamist, who has faced rape and corruption charges. He is a populist and respected for his part in the battle to win black rule in South Africa.

[Full article](#)

April 19

Business women in Iraq. *NPR*

Since 2005, more than 1,800 Iraqi women-owned businesses have been registered to offer goods and services to the U.S. government.

[Full article](#)

April 18

Latin America and the USA. *NPR*

President Obama is attending a summit meeting with 33 other leaders from North, South and Central America in Trinidad. He says he wants to move forward with a new sense of partnership.

[Full article](#)

April 17

Commerzbank takeover of its rival, Dresdner Bank. *Business Week*

The balance sheets of both banks still have €55 billion (\$73 billion) in toxic securities. During the world's largest financial crisis since 1929, Martin Blessing is expected to navigate one of the biggest mergers in German banking history.

[Full article](#)

Great Britain's new identity. *NPR*

In Britain's post-empire era, forces threaten that sense of common identity. There is growing Scottish and Welsh nationalism and an influx of immigrants. Britain is a part of the EU politically and economically, but not in spirit.

[Full article](#)

April 15

Protecting the US economy? *Business Week*

Production of intellectual property is the highest-valued good that create great jobs and strong growth. Erecting immigration barriers, political or cultural, to protect knowledge workers is nothing more than IP Protectionism, a modern-day version of Smoot-Hawley.

[Full article](#)

Former Thailand Prime Minister passport revoked. *CNN.com/asia*

Thailand's government revoked the passport of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was accused of helping stoke anti-government hostility. The "red shirts," the anti-government protestors, have been working to dislodge current Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and get Thaksin back into power.

[Full article](#)

Burger King Advertisement complaint in Spain. *Reuters*

Burger King said the ads were meant to show a mixture of influences from the southwestern United States and Mexico, not to poke fun at Mexican culture, but said it would replace them "as soon as commercially possible."

[Full article](#)

EBay unveils Skype IPO plan. *Business Week*

A share offering might turn out to be the best way to return value to investors, analysts say. "As an independent company, management could take it to a new level," says Nitzan Shaer, a former Skype executive.

[Full article](#)

April 14

Koreans to help GM? *CNN.com International*

The Korean company is making the cells for GM's new hybrid electric car — the Chevy Volt. The Volt is not yet in production, but the manufacturing lines are churning.

[Full article](#)

Pemex to build new refinery. *Business Week*

Pemex will invest \$9.1 billion to build its first new refinery in three decades. Mexico is the world's

sixth largest oil producer, Mexico imports about 40% of its gasoline and relies on U.S. refineries to process much of its crude.

[Full article](#)

April 13

Widgets in the TV industry. *Business Week*

Yahoo's Connected TV platform is now available on selected Samsung televisions, with sets to come later this year from Sony, LG, and Vizio also.

[Full article](#)

Cuban restrictions lifted by the USA. *NPR*

Obama will allow unlimited travel and money transfers between Cuban Americans and their family members in Cuba.

[Full article](#)

April 11

ASEAN Summit cancelled. *NPR*

Thailand has declared a state of emergency in the town of Pattaya, where protesters crashed the Summit meeting. The demonstrators say Abhisit took power illegitimately and want fresh elections. They accuse the country's elite, the military, judiciary, and other unelected officials of undermining democracy by interfering in politics.

[Full article](#)

April 10

A lesson from Jay Leno. *Business Week*

Jay Leno is a good example for leaders to follow. My point is not to turn you into a jokemeister, but rather to help you find ways to look at life from a different perspective.

[Full article](#)

Yahoo and Microsoft merger? *Business Week*

Several people have suggested the attractiveness of a larger partnership between the two companies, in which Microsoft would handle all search ads for the two companies and Yahoo would take over display ads for the pair.

[Full article](#)

April 9

In-N-Out Burger reason for success. *Business Week*

The Founder's son, Rich Snyder, wanted each associate to understand his job and how he could do it better. The result was that many part-timers came for a summer job and stayed for a career.

[Full article](#)

The "B" in BRIC. *CNN.com/technology*

"There's been a transformation from a sleepy outpost in Sao Paulo to perhaps the city's most dynamic area in terms of new growth, new buildings and new companies," observes Bill Hinchberger, the founding editor of an online travel guide to Brazil.

[Full article](#)

ING plans to divest billions. *CNNMoney.com*

Dutch financial services group ING Group plans to divest operations worth up to \$10.6 billion to reduce risk and will focus its banking activities on Europe. Hommen says it is making them focus on making sure they get through the crisis and also to setting themselves up after the crisis.

[Full article](#)

Nationalization of German banks. *CNN.com/world business*

[Full article](#)

Fiat and Chrysler merger? *NPR*

Everybody is working hard to the same objective: to achieve good positioning with all of the constituents involved and to get on with the business of building great cars and trucks and making customers satisfied.

[Full article](#)

Vevo.com. *NPR*

YouTube and Universal Music Group are teaming up on an online music video venture, Vevo.com. Advertisers and brands are more comfortable with video as a vessel for their message and their advertising spending.

[Full article](#)

North Korean Kim back in office. *NPR*

Kim Jong Il laid to rest speculation about his health with a triumphant return to parliament Thursday for his appointment to a third term as North Korea's supreme leader.

[Full article](#)

April 7

Cupcakes at 1-800-flowers.com. *Business Week*

Founder and CEO Jim McCann has always sold non-floral goods however he has created more diversification to the extent that 50% of his sales come from non-floral items.

[Full article](#)

April 6

Tibet opens to foreigners. *CNN.com/asia*

Twenty-five tourist groups were to arrive Sunday in Lhasa, the capital of the autonomous region in China.

[Full article](#)

Time Warner offer to bondholders for AOL sale. *Business Week*

Citigroup analysts Jason Bazinet and Mitchell Revsin said a spin-off of AOL is likely, given that the new chief executive and Time Warner is focusing on content creation rather than Internet access and Web advertising.

[Full article](#)

Exxon expanding business. *Business Week*

Chairman and Chief Executive Rex Tillerson said the world's largest publicly traded oil company expects to spend \$129 billion on new projects over the next five years. "Our business plans are developed with a very long view in mind."

[Full article](#)

Turkey and U.S. allies again? *NPR*

President Obama is in to Turkey to try to rebuild ties with the secular Muslim ally that was deeply alienated by Bush administration foreign policies.

[Full article](#)

April 3

U.S. and Mexico meet about Border Security. *NPR*

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Eric Holder are in Mexico strategizing with officials there on how to fight the arms trade fueling Mexico's drug war.

[Full article](#)

60th Anniversary of NATO and France post de Gaulle. *NPR*

NATO gathered at a summit on the French-German border to celebrate the transatlantic defense alliance's 60th anniversary and France's full return to NATO's integrated command structure after President Charles de Gaulle withdrew his country in defiance of U.S. domination..

[Full article](#)

April 2

TV and PC to work like Wii. *Business Week*

Companies are looking to free consumers from keyboards and remote controls in favor of more natural interaction with computers, TVs, and mobile devices.

[Full article](#)

Twitter latest breakthrough. *Business Week*

Twitter is looking to roll out a more integrated search feature, which will include the ability to save searches and view them on the right side of the page, and currently view popular topics.

[Full article](#)

Leaders seek agreement to North Korea controversial rocket launch. *NPR*

Presidents Obama and Lee Myung-bak agreed on the need for a stern, united response from the international community if North Korea launches a long-range rocket, and to work together in the course of that.

[Full article](#)

April 1

Memories of kidnapping from Spain's Franco. *NPR*

The dictatorship may have ended more than 30 years ago, but for many Spaniards, the tyranny of silence endures.

[Full article](#)

Facebook CFO leaves the company. *Business Week*

Facebook said Gideon has played an important role in helping us achieve our financial success, building a strong finance team, and establishing the core financial operations of our company. They "will be looking for someone with public company experience."

[Full article](#)

Netherlands and South Korea boost WTO role. *Business Week*

At the G-20 Summit, South Korean President Myung-bak and Dutch Prime Minister Balkenende said that world's emerging and most developed nations will agree on steps to "reform supervision and regulation in global financial markets."

[Full article](#)

