



LKN Keeping You Informed

June 2009 Issue

June 30

EPA approves stricter California pollution laws. *NPR*

The EPA decision Tuesday to grant California a formal waiver clears the way for the state to implement a 2004 state pollution law to combat global warming. The Bush administration repeatedly rejected the waiver request, which was required by the federal Clean Air Act.

[Full article](#)

North Korea economy better than South Korea. *Business Week*

South Korea's economy is known for its exports of Hyundai cars, LG Electronics phones, and Samsung Electronics semiconductors. Meanwhile, under the guidance of Kim Jong Il, the North Korean economy's export prowess is limited largely to nuclear weapon technology and counterfeit dollars.

[Full article](#)

June 29

Anti-gay law in India. *CNN.com/asia*

"We are against calling homosexuality a criminal activity, but we are certainly in principle against legalizing it, because that would mean the state endorsing same-sex relationships," said Babu Joseph, spokesman for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India.

[Full article](#)

2010, Universal cell phone charger enters Europe. *CNN.com/technology*

With concerns over the level of waste generated by redundant or outmoded chargers, European legislators have considered forcing manufacturers to adopt universal technology.

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Porsche and VW merger. *Business Week*

Porsche holds a roughly 51% stake in Volkswagen, but ran up hefty debts in accumulating that holding and is now seeking a merger with the larger company.

[Full article](#)

June 28

Military-led coup ousted Honduras President. *CNN.com*

Micheletti, the head of Congress, became president after lawmakers voted by a show of hands to strip Zelaya of his powers, with a resolution stating that Zelaya "provoked confrontations and divisions," within the country.

[Full article](#)

June 27

Midterm election challenges President Fernandez. *CNN.com/world*

Some Argentines say a shift away from the Kirchners' populist policies could help the government fight crime, unemployment, and inflation.

[Full article](#)

Last day to complain in Iran. *CNN.com/world*

Moussavi, Ahmadinejad's chief rival, called the results fraudulent and asked for a cancellation of the vote. Karrubi and another candidate, Mohsen Rezaie, have raised questions about the fairness of the election. Rezaie has since withdrawn his complaint.

[Full article](#)

Honduras controversy over election ballot. *CNN.com/world*

It would ask voters to place a measure on November's ballot allowing the formation of a constitutional assembly that could modify the nation's charter to allow the president to run for another term.

[Full article](#)

June 26

India cursed with drought. *CNN.com/asia*

India is suffering from lack of rainwater. In developed countries, irrigation is common and electricity is readily available, but both are a luxury for most Indian farmers.

[Full article](#)

GE CEO to improve U.S. exports. *NPR*

General Electric doesn't just sell light bulbs and refrigerators to the American public. The company is a global giant in energy, transportation and financial services.

[Full article](#)

June 25

U.S. and Venezuela reinstate diplomats. *CNN.com*

The expulsion of each others' ambassadors was a low point in what has been a tense relationship between the United States and Venezuela. Chavez has

accused the United States of meddling in his affairs and supporting his political opponents, and is known for making inflammatory comments against U.S. leadership.

[Full article](#)

Ford of Europe, what's next? *Business Week*

The happy combination of government stimulus and spiffy new compacts has sheltered Ford from the worst of the industry's woes in Europe. However, what happens when the cash-for-clunkers programs run their course in most European countries this fall?

[Full article](#)

Why so many corporate bonds in China? *Business Week*

Chinese companies now issue more corporate debt than their counterparts in Japan, making the yuan-denominated bond market the world's No. 3, after those for dollars and euros.

[Full article](#)

New Europe financial rules affect U.S. companies. *Business Week*

Why is Europe reaching across the Atlantic? European policymakers, like those in the U.S., want to show decisive action in the wake of the financial crisis and prevent another.

[Full article](#)

June 24

Railroad improves business in Syria and Iraq. *NPR*

The new railway is a sign that Damascus and Baghdad are eager to revive business ties, says Samir Seifan, a Syrian economist.

[Full article](#)

Time Warner, Comcast begin Internet TV trials. *Business Week*

Eventually, "we want to be able to have all our shows on demand and on the Internet," said Comcast CEO Brian Roberts at the same press conference.

"This marks the very logical next evolution of where cable television has come from."

[Full article](#)

June 23

Free Market ideology debate in economic crisis. *NPR*

The steps taken during these times have challenged longstanding assumptions about the operation of modern free-market capitalism and the role of the government in the economy.

[Full article](#)

World population 65+ increases. *Business Week*

The number of senior citizens has already jumped 23% since 2000 to 516 million, according to U.S. census estimates. That is more than double the growth rate for the general population.

[Full article](#)

IBM aims for battery breakthrough. *Business Week*

IBM is also eager to reclaim U.S. leadership in battery tech from Asia. It aims to design batteries that will make it possible for electric vehicles to travel 300 to 500 miles on a single charge, up from 50 to 100 miles currently.

[Full article](#)

Update of Coca Cola China expansion. *Business Week*

Coke's challenge now is how to be part of the Chinese market without Huiyuan, one of China's top local brands and the country's largest maker of 100% fruit juice. Having the Huiyuan brands in the Coke stable would have instantly made Coca Cola the market leader in the fast-growing pure juice segment.

[Full article](#)

WTO files claims on China exports. *Business Week*

The U.S. and the European Union on June 23 formally accused China of illegally hampering exports of raw materials in order to benefit its own manufacturers.

[Full article](#)

Affects of Retweeting. *CNN.com/technology*

Retweets about Iran are a prime example of how the act of passing on someone else's tweet combines elements of broadcast media and person-to-person interaction, said Dr. Nicholas Christakis, an internist and sociologist.

[Full article](#)

Burka ban in France. *CNN.com/europe*

"The problem of the burka is not a religious problem. This is an issue of a woman's freedom and dignity. This is not a religious symbol. It is a sign of subservience; it is a sign of lowering. I want to say solemnly, the burka is not welcome in France," Nicolas Sarkozy told lawmakers.

[Full article](#)

Iran elections disputed. *CNN.com*

Opposition candidate Mehdi Karroubi strongly criticized Iran's state-controlled media and supporters of hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, likening them to the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan.

[Full article](#)

June 22

Get an MBA from Jack Welch. *Business Week*

Jack Welch, former CEO at General Electric, has announced plans to start an MBA program based on the business principles he made famous teaching managers and executives in GE's Crotonville classroom.

[Full article](#)

Apple's health affected by Jobs' health? *CNN.com/technology*

Investors have been painfully aware of how any development regarding Jobs' health can affect Apple's stock price. Experts say Apple has been taking steps to ensure that its fortunes are not linked with Jobs taking an active role in the company.

[Full article](#)

Farmers protest EU. *Business Week*

Dairy farmers say they need drastic steps now because a 50 percent drop in milk prices over the last year is forcing them to sell milk below cost.

[Full article](#)

HP printer-computer hybrid. *CNN.com*

Aren't we moving past the printed age? Obama is making health care paper-free. Environmentalists decry paper waste and printer ink pollution. You can scan coupons from a smartphone, airline boarding passes are going electronic and news is rapidly migrating onto the Internet. Why print?

[Full article](#)

June 20

Nokia buys Nortel. *Business Week*

"After careful review Nortel has decided the sale of its businesses is the best path for Nortel to deliver on its stated objectives of maximizing value while preserving innovation, customer relationships and jobs to greatest extent possible," Nortel spokesman Mohammed Nakhooda said.

[Full article](#)

Investigating Bhutto's assassination. *CNN.com/asia*

"The duty of determining criminal responsibility of the perpetrators of the assassination remains with the Pakistani authorities," the U.N. stated during its investigation.

[Full article](#)

Google speaks Farsi. *CNN.com/technology*

Google started translating Persian, also known as Farsi, in a move that could dramatically help spread information on the Iranian election crisis, but the service is far from perfect.

[Full article](#)

June 19

Low demand, but high oil prices. *NPR*

In the oil market, the law of supply and demand is just one of the factors affecting the price. It is not just the users of oil who buy it; it's also people who play the market.

[Full article](#)

June 18

Coach is recessionary times. *Business Week*

Coach's quest is to design a line of purses and accessories that could be priced to fit the times without cheapening, or otherwise damaging, Coach's image. For Coach this shift is a social experiment, a managerial challenge, and a financial necessity.

[Full article](#)

Tivo, the Google of TV. *Business Week*

By leveraging its still potent brand name and cache of more than 140 patents, it is trying to remake itself as the Google of television helping viewers navigate the increasing crush of entertainment choices and selling ads to boot.

[Full article](#)

Peru's indigengous win victory over lands. *CNN.com/world*

Peru's Congress voted overwhelmingly to revoke two decrees that indigenous groups had said would result in the exploitation of their native lands for oil drilling, mining and logging.

[Full article](#)

Mekong River construction plans endanger wildlife. *CNN.com/asia*

Carl Middleton, from the environmental group International Rivers, told CNN "These dams, if built, would block the major fish migrations that feed the entire region."

[Full article](#)

China GDP positive future. *CNN.com/world business*

The 7.2% projection for China's GDP follows it's November announcement that it would inject \$585 billion into its economy to offset declines in industrial and export growth.

[Full article](#)

Petsmart COO promoted to CEO. *Business Week*

Robert Moran has been COO and president since 2001. Previously, he had been with Toys "R" Us Ltd. of Canada; Sears, Roebuck and Co.; and Galerias Preciados of Madrid.

[Full article](#)

June 17

The repair of GM. *Business Week*

Chairman former AT&T boss Edward E. Whitacre Jr. declined to discuss his new role, but Treasury officials say they are counting on him to help Henderson turn GM into a more consumer-focused company, like Whitacre did at AT&T.

[Full article](#)

The “Twitter Revolution” in Iran. *NPR*

In Iran, tyranny has run afoul of technology in the form of the Internet, turning a protest into a movement. Iran has now become the latest arena in the struggle for control in cyberspace.

[Full article](#)

Tata Group holds Innovation Competition. *Business Week*

"There's a difference between being brilliant and being innovative," says Kyle Zimmer. "There are never enough of either category. But the institutions that are really going to flourish are going to be the innovators. And that's a cultural thing."

[Full article](#)

June 16

Russia vetoed U.N. mission in Georgia. *CNN.com/europe*

After the veto Monday night, a statement from the office of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the U.N. would "take all measures required to cease the operations of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia effective 16 June."

[Full article](#)

Globovision charged by Venezuela government. *CNN.com/world*

"The station violated a statute that makes it illegal to use telecommunication channels to further criminal acts," said Roselyn Daher, one of the government officials who served the complaint papers."

[Full article](#)

June 15

Exxon to pay double for damages of Alaska spill. *Business Week*

The case grew out of the 1989 crash of the Exxon Valdez, a supertanker that dumped 11 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound, fouling 1,200 miles of coastline.

[Full article](#)

Chrysler reopens Detroit plant. *Business Week*

The Conner Avenue assembly plant in Detroit is the first to begin making vehicles since May 4, when the company shut down all of its plants after it filed for bankruptcy protection.

[Full article](#)

Retailers expand to capture more target markets. *Business Week*

Several major chains are expanding their specialty offerings to capture business from Latinos, the country's fastest-growing population and already almost one-sixth of the U.S. total in 2008.

[Full article](#)

FDI in China declines. *Business Week*

It was the first time since the 1998 Asian financial crisis that three top investment indicators: actual foreign direct investment, contractual foreign investment and new approved foreign companies all declined, Yao said.

[Full article](#)

Tehran tension with election outcome. *CNN.com/world*

"Elections in Iran are the soundest, the healthiest of their kind," Ahmadinejad told his cheering supporters. "Some people inside or outside the country say that the vote has been disrupted, there has been fraud. Where are irregularities in the elections?"

[Full article](#)

June 14

World Cup 2010. *CNN.com*

The World Cup is to take place in South Africa in 2010. Stadium construction for the 2010 World Cup is boosting South Africa's economy.

[Full article](#)

Agreement Israel and Palestine. *CNN.com/world*

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel could accept a peace agreement with a "demilitarized Palestinian state" as its neighbor.

[Full article](#)

BRIC summit watched for signs of policy shift. *Business Week*

Russia, China and Brazil recently announced their intention to invest in International Monetary Fund bonds to diversify their dollar-heavy currency reserves.

[Full article](#)

Ahmadinejad's bad news for business? *Business Week*

Unless Ahmadinejad radically changes his approach to government, another four-year term for the hardline and erratic President will likely make engaging Iran and easing tensions over its nuclear program more difficult than it might have been had he lost.

[Full article](#)

Venezuela assists Nicaragua. *Business Week*

Chavez promised aid after Ortega learned that the United States was canceling \$62 million of aid that was to have come from the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

[Full article](#)

June 13

Saab seeking new owner. *Business Week*

"A new investor for Saab?" the Swedish unit said it was moving closer to a deal to secure the future of the ailing brand. The company was founded in 1994 by Christian von Koenigsegg, a Swedish sports car fanatic and entrepreneur, who remains the chief executive.

[Full article](#)

Venezuela unveils oil facility. *Business Week*

"Dominica will no longer have to concern itself about the supply of gasoline and oil," Chavez told a cheering crowd. "All the oil Dominica will need for the next 200 years will be right there in Venezuela."

[Full article](#)

G-8 readies for economic recovery. *Business Week*

The U.S. and Britain are worried that continental Europe has not done enough to deal with the recession, while more cautious countries like Germany fret about the potential long-term risks posed by the stimulus measures.

[Full article](#)

June 12

U.S. to aid Zimbabwe. *CNN.com*

The U.S. aid will not be going to the government directly "because we continue to be concerned about consolidating democracy, human rights and rule of law," Obama said. "But it will be going directly to the people in Zimbabwe."

[Full article](#)

Digital TV no more. *CNN.com/technology*

Stations have been broadcasting in digital and analog for the past several years, but the switch puts an end to the transition and a form of broadcasting that's existed since the first regularly scheduled television service began in the United States in 1928

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U.S. tobacco bill up for Executive vote. *Business Week*

Congress prepared to take a final vote on legislation giving the U.S. government powers to regulate tobacco and limit tobacco industry marketing and sales practices that lure young people into smoking habits.

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In Japan, incentives increase sales of green products. *Business Week*
Consumers are buying ecological electronics products to earn "eco-points" that the government has promised can be later converted into products or other deals that have yet to be announced. The renewed consumption is giving Japan's struggling corporations and sagging economy a much-needed jolt
[Full article](#)

Consumer Products in India. *Business Week*
Demand for high-end products is dropping. Indian consumers are still buying but they're avoiding the most expensive brands. Companies will need to become more sensitive to pricing on existing and new products.
[Full article](#)

Thailand Government pension fund troubled. *Business Week*
Finance minister Korn Chatikavanij has directed the GPF board to review the fund's rules and regulations, in a bid to restore the public's confidence in the fund.
[Full article](#)

June 11

GM seeks to overcome undesirable perceptions. *NPR*
GM's market share continues to decline nationwide. It really struggles on the East and West Coasts with affluent and influential consumers. The company is determined to change that.
[Full article](#)

Google wants Display Ad Market. *Business Week*
Google is trying to grab a bigger piece of the largest online ad market that it doesn't control: display ads, the pictorial banners and videos that account for more than a third of the \$40 billion online ad market.
[Full article](#)

Cisco-Duke Energy deal. *Business Week*
Homeowners soon may be managing their energy consumption via Cisco's Linksys broadband gear. Using gear made by Linksys could help consumers become more aware of and even ease them into the practice of buying home energy management tools.
[Full article](#)

Nike goes green. *Business Week*
Like many companies, it is trying to make its supply chain and products greener. However, Nike customers buy shoes to make them feel fast, slick, and hip; they don't care much about being eco-chic.
[Full article](#)

June 10

Fiat acquires Chrysler. *NPR*

The deal creates a leaner company known as Chrysler Group LLC, which is not in bankruptcy protection and is free of billions in debt. Chrysler factories that were idled during the bankruptcy process will soon reopen.

[Full article](#)

June 9

Banks such as JPMorgan Chase & Co. repay bailout loans. *Associated Press*

Experts say allowing 10 banks to return \$68 billion in bailout money shows some stability has returned to the system but caution that the crisis isn't over.

[Full article](#)

June 8

Citi sells shares of India's HDFC. *Business Week*

The sharp rise in HDFC's valuation in recent weeks has coincided with FDIC reportedly pushing for a change in leadership at Citi.

[Full article](#)

Anti-porn software requirement in China. *Business Week*

Although porn sites are initially targeted, the software could be used to block other Web sites, too, including those based on keywords rather than specific Web addresses.

[Full article](#)

Walmart increases outsourcing to India. *Business Week*

"Wal-Mart has been testing the waters by outsourcing smaller projects to companies such as Infosys, TCS and Wipro. Now, the retailer wants to flesh out a more comprehensive outsourcing strategy..."

[Full article](#)

Euro recovery uncertain. *Business Week*

The euro zone fell into recession last year and is now seeing unemployment surge to the highest level in over a decade.

[Full article](#)

Filene's Basement bought by Men's Warehouse. *Business Week*

The sale prevents the demise of a retailer well-known for brand-name discounts and its famous "Running of the Brides" annual wedding dress sale.

[Full article](#)

SRA International obtains \$63M contract. *Business Week*

The goal of the contract is to provide the necessary technology so the group can perform its missions effectively, said Pat Burke, senior vice president and director of the firm's national security sector.

[Full article](#)

Pro-West bloc retains control in Lebanon. *CNN.com/world*

There was widespread concern that the Hezbollah-dominated alliance would win control of the government, particularly with the support of Christian opposition leader Gen. Michel Aoun, the only prominent Christian politician to back the March 8 bloc.

[Full article](#)

"Marriage Crisis" affects re-election of Ahmadinejad? *Time.com*

The "Marriage Crisis" refers to the rising number of young people of marrying age who cannot afford to marry or are choosing not to tie the knot. With young people pursuing more liberal lifestyles and shunning the traditional mores of their parents' generation, the marrying age is steadily climbing.

[Full article](#)

Chrysler sale on hold. *CNNMoney.com*

Chrysler's top executives have argued that a long delay in approving a deal with Fiat could kill the company by forcing its suppliers to go out of business and leaving dealers without the parts they need to repair Chrysler vehicles on the road.

[Full article](#)

June 5

Venezuela charges Globovision TV President. *CNN.com/world*

The United Nations and the Organization of American States said in a joint release May 23 they are worried about Venezuelan government statements on Globovision that "generate an atmosphere of intimidation in which the right to freedom of expression is seriously limited."

[Full article](#)

June 4

Is Mexico the better choice? *Business Week*

The so-called China price, which always seemed to be at least 40% below U.S. costs on everything from bedroom furniture to telecom gear, isn't so low. China's once-formidable edge in manufacturing has all but disappeared in some industries.

[Full article](#)

UK, Netherlands first voters in European Elections. *CNN.com/europe*

"The elections to the European Parliament are of a greatest importance. They are a great occasion to re-launch the European Union and to address the issues that are important to citizens." European Parliament President Hans-

Gert Pottering.

[Full article](#)

Intel to buy Wind River. *Business Week*

Intel said the purchase will benefit its processor and software offerings for embedded systems and mobile devices. The acquisition may be a way for Intel to beef up Atom-related offerings.

[Full article](#)

GM pension plans in question. *Business Week*

GM's restructuring will affect salaried retiree health care, some executive pensions, and retiree life insurance.

[Full article](#)

June 3

Looser Euro Zone rules? *Business Week*

"We should think about a special treatment for the debts currently acquired as a consequence of the crisis," French economy minister Christine Lagarde

[Full article](#)

China censors the Internet. *Business Week*

The Chinese government restricts access to controversial Web sites. However, companies that offer technologies for viewing blocked sites and hiding online communications say they have seen a spike in demand over the past month.

[Full article](#)

Decrease of economic innovation in the U.S.? *Business Week*

"We live in an era of rapid innovation." I'm sure you've heard that phrase, or some variant, over and over again. But what if the conventional wisdom is wrong?

[Full article](#)

The 50/50 provision in new Visa bill. *Business Week*

A new bill in Washington aimed at tightening the rules for companies in the U.S. that hire skilled workers from abroad could threaten the business model for outsourcing firms.

[Full article](#)

Echostar must pay TiVo. *Business Week*

TiVo has been working hard to branch out from its original business providing services so viewers can record programs and skip ads.

[Full article](#)

Obama blamed by Bin Laden for Muslim hatred. *NPR*

Bin Laden claimed U.S. pressure led to a campaign of "killing, fighting, bombing and destruction" that prompted the exodus of a million Muslims from Swat Valley in northwest Pakistan.

[Full article](#)

U.S. and Saudi Arabia have strategic relationship. *CNNPolitics.com*

"My job is to communicate the fact that the United States has a stake in the well-being of the Muslim world, that the language we use has to be a language of respect," Obama said.

[Full article](#)

June 2

GM sells Hummer to Chinese company. *NPR*

GM said the sale will likely save more than 3,000 U.S. jobs in manufacturing, engineering and at various Hummer dealerships.

[Full article](#)

Former U.S. commander seeks truth in Bush era. *CNN.com/US*

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, in charge of combat operations from 2003 into 2004, has been a harsh critic of the war in Iraq, calling it in 2007 a "nightmare with no end in sight."

[Full article](#)

June 1

Iraqi Kurds begin to export oil. *CNN.com/world*

This is the first time Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region has officially exported oil out of the country through a pipeline to Turkey. The central Iraqi government in Baghdad has been at odds with the Kurds, arguing they do not have the right to exploit oil in territory under Kurdish control.

[Full article](#)

Microsoft v. Nintendo. *Business Week*

Microsoft Xbox 360, "Project Everyone" allows a player to use body movements and voice commands with the new game.

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Breadbasket of India grows organic. *NPR*

Indian farmer Amarjit Sharma grows wheat and other crops on "the breadbasket of India," the fertile fields of Punjab. Agribusiness leaders and many government officials are convinced that genetic engineering will help prevent a world food crisis.

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