



LKN Global Keeping You Informed

July 2010 Issue

July 31

Mozambican MP wants more African woman inclusion in economy. *Angola Press*

Mozambican MP, Luisa Diogo, said in Luanda that African woman inclusion in the economic life of their respective countries will lead to exclusion reduction and less possibility of conflicts. Women have proved to be more responsible in dealing with financial and economic aspects of life acknowledging that despite the progress in politics a lot must be done in the economic point of view.

[Full article](#)

Beijing's Asia Power Play. *The Japan Times*

China's economic and military may have grown in recent years along with its overseas trade and investment. China is becoming an oceanic power with growing clout in the Asia-Pacific region. Recently the Yellow Sea between Korea and China was added to the areas where Beijing is warning the United States and its allies not to intrude. "We resolutely oppose any foreign military vessel and planes conducting activities in the Yellow Sea and China's coastal waters that undermine China's security interests," a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson declared.

[Full article](#)

South Korea exports continue to rise. *Business Week*

South Korea's exports increased for a ninth month in July as weakness in the won and the global economic recovery boosted demand for the nation's cars, electronic goods and semiconductors. The economy's resilience has spurred demand for the nation's assets, with the won heading for a gain of about 3% in July, the biggest monthly advance since September 2009.

[Full article](#)

BP to sell Vietnam, Pakistan assets. *Business Week*

BP Plc, seeking cash to help pay for the worst-ever U.S. oil spill, informed the governments of Vietnam and Pakistan that it put its production assets in the countries up for sale. The sales "will primarily come from our portfolio of upstream assets around the world, which will be of more value to others," David Nicholas, a London-based spokesman at BP said.

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July 30

Russia lures investors for privatization. *Allvoices*

Russia is counting on foreign investors to help privatize an estimated \$29 billion in assets to reduce the state's "excessive" presence in the economy. This is the largest privatization since the nineties and foreign investors said they were encouraged by the focus on restructuring the economy and raising funds, rather than just unloading property.

[Full article](#)

Colombia FARC rebels speak with President-elect. *BBC News*

The Farc leader known as Alfonso Cano said the Marxist rebel group is willing to talk to the new Colombian government of President-elect Juan Manuel Santos and to search for a political solution to the 46-year-old conflict. "The success of Juan Manuel Santos this past 20 June guarantees political and strategic continuity for the Colombian oligarchy," he said referring to Mr. Santos's long-standing political connections.

[Full article](#)

Disney sells Miramax. *Forbes.com*

The **Walt Disney Co.** agreed to sell its Miramax Films to an investor group for about \$660 million, ending a 17-year association with the studio and a six-month bidding process. Disney had been looking to sell Miramax amid a studio overhaul because it no longer resonated with its other family centric studio units such as Pixar and Marvel.

[Full article](#)

Facebook to hold IPO until 2012. *Business Week*

Facebook Inc. will probably put off its initial public offering until 2012, giving Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg more time to gain users and boost sales. Facebook would benefit from another year of growth absent the added scrutiny that comes with a public listing, instead of holding an IPO in 2011 as investors speculated.

[Full article](#)

Desalination plant opens in Indian. *BBC News*

A desalination plant which begins operating in Madras will provide some of the cheapest drinking water in India. "We are using the advanced reverse osmosis technology. We are purifying the water by filtering it under high pressure. Unlike other desalination plants we are not boiling the water and as a result we are saving a lot of energy," Natarajan Ganesan, Joint General Manager of the Chennai Water Desalination company told the BBC. The plant will supply 1,000 litres of drinking water for just over \$1 and could well be a "template" for other coastal Indian cities.

[Full article](#)

July 29

Barnes and Noble pushes Nook sales. *New York Times*

In September, the chain will begin an aggressive promotion of its Nook e-readers by building 1,000-square-foot boutiques in all of its stores, with sample Nooks, demonstration tables, video screens and employees who will give customers advice and operating instructions. By devoting more floor space to promoting the Nook, Barnes & Noble is playing up what it calls a crucial advantage over Amazon in the e-reader war: its 720 bricks-and-mortar stores, where customers can test out the device before they commit to buying it.

[Full article](#)

World's largest wind project. *RenewableEnergyworld.com*

After nearly a decade of delays, ground was officially broken on the world's largest wind project, a 1,550 megawatt (MW) farm located in Tehachapi Pass, California. The project, which is being developed near the first large-scale wind farms installed in the U.S. in the 1970s and 1980s, is a powerful illustration of the growing size and scope of modern wind projects. The Alta development is expected to create more than 3,000 domestic manufacturing, construction and maintenance jobs and contribute more than a billion dollars to the local economy.

[Full article](#)

Shadow economies increase worldwide. *Business Week*

It turns out that countries have two economies: the official one and a shadow version. The official economy is the one that governments and banking institutions measure with gross domestic product, tax receipts, social security contributions, employment identification numbers, and the like. The shadow economy is all the money and jobs generated outside the official economy, whether legally or illegally.

[Full article](#)

Bidding war for Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group. *Forbes.com*

The Avis Budget Group entered a bid to acquire the Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group, effectively starting a bidding war with Hertz Global Holdings. Dollar Thrifty currently operates its two brands, Dollar Rent A Car and Thrifty Car Rentals, across 80 countries in a combined 1,500 locations.

[Full article](#)

Surging economic growth in Germany. *New York Times*

Germany continued to show surprising strength Thursday as a drop in unemployment, coupled with better-than-expected profit at two of the country's biggest manufacturers, underscored how the largest European economy was benefiting from a weaker euro and surging exports to emerging markets. Sustained growth in Germany would help Europe recover more quickly from the recent recession and cushion the effects of the Continent's sovereign debt crisis.

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[Full article](#)

Venezuela affects toothpaste, makeup sales. *CNNMoney.com*

The world's largest toothpaste maker reported disappointing sales Thursday, and blames Venezuela. Colgate partially blamed Venezuela's hyperinflation and currency devaluation for the shortcoming, and even said it expects sales in that country alone to reduce yearly earnings by 10 to 15 cents per share.

[Full article](#)

Galapagos Island removed from Unesco's danger list. *BBC News*

A UN panel has voted to remove the Galapagos Islands from its list of precious sites endangered by environmental threats or overuse. Unesco's World Heritage Committee backed a Brazilian recommendation to withdraw the islands from the list, saying the Ecuadorian government had made significant progress addressing threats to its island. However the move was criticized by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which said there was "still work to be done".

[Full article](#)

Natural gas helps Exxon, Shell increase profits. *New York Times*

Exxon Mobil's quarterly profit increased 85% on surging oil prices and a big rise in refining margins, while Royal Dutch Shell's earnings rose 34%. After strong showings in the first quarter for both, the results raised hopes that both companies could start to offer investors meaningful growth again. Although, a global gas glut because of the economic crisis and a big increase in shale gas production means the outlook for gas prices is uncertain, which could put pressure on future earnings.

[Full article](#)

July 28

Telefonica wins Vivo bid. *New York Times*

Telefónica, the Spanish telecommunications company, has won full control of Vivo, the mobile phone venture it had with Portugal Telecom in Brazil, after raising its bid for a third time, to 7.5 billion euros, thereby overcoming opposition from the Portuguese government. The agreement is expected to end a lengthy tussle between two European telecommunications operators that have come to rely increasingly on earnings from Brazil's fast-growing mobile market to offset sluggish performances at home.

[Full article](#)

Mexican tortilla show government can keep stable lending rate. *Business Week*

Corn tortillas in northwest Mexico City cost 9 pesos a kilogram (32 cents a pound) last month. Angeles Garcia recorded the same price a week ago. Tortillas are the biggest food component in Mexico's inflation index. Government bonds are rallying as the readings cement economists' expectations that central bank policy makers can keep interest rates at a record low to stimulate economic growth without fanning inflation.

[Full article](#)

Trader's owner passes. *Business Week*

Theo Albrecht, the billionaire whose expansion of no-frills Aldi Group grocery stores made him Germany's third-richest man, has died at 88. The expansion of Aldi from Germany's industrial Ruhr Valley into a global retailer that generated 53 billion euros (\$68.9 billion) in revenue last year made Theo and his brother, 90-year-old Karl, two of the richest people in the world. The brothers' key to success was their low-cost business model: a limited assortment of goods that pared down supply expenses and a minimal level of advertising.

[Full article](#)

British PM Cameron begins trade drive in India. *BBC News*

The British government regards India as a vital regional and economic partner in the drive to boost exports and investment. Beginning his tour in Bangalore, Mr. Cameron will say he wants to make the UK the "partner of choice" for India. Business Secretary Cable believes British businesses "potentially could do a large amount of business in India" as a result of the move, which will also allow British expertise to be shared.

[Full article](#)

July 27

China Central Bank says economy is slowing down. *ABC News*

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it was "prudently optimistic" about the economic outlook and ruled out any big policy changes in coming months, adding that inflationary pressure had eased. "The possibility of an economic slowdown and stabilization is relatively big, but the possibility of a double-dip is small," the central bank said.

[Full article](#)

British reluctant to pay for online content. *Business Week*

UK consumers are less willing to pay for online content than web users in other countries, according to new research. It spells bad news for publishers looking to boost revenues from the internet. Globally, 43% of consumers are willing to pay to access frequently used content. In the Asia-Pacific region that figure increases to 59%.

[Full article](#)

Wind power increase need for batteries. *New York Times*

On the cutting edge of a potential solution is Hawaii, where state officials want 70 percent of energy needs to be met by renewable sources like the wind, sun or biomass by 2030. A major problem is that it is impossible for generators on the islands to export surpluses to neighboring companies or to import power when the wind towers are becalmed. In New York and California, companies are exploring electrical storage that is big enough to allow for "arbitrage," or buying power at a low price, such as in the middle of the night, and selling it hours later at a higher price. Renewable goals can be met, many in the industry insist. But if the energy source is intermittent, "you can't do that without batteries of some sort," said Peter Rosegg, a spokesman for the Hawaiian Electric Company.

[Full article](#)

Britain PM speaks of India's importance while visiting. *The Hindu*

I'm here with a very clear purpose: to renew the relationship between India and Britain; to re-launch a relationship that is stronger, wider and deeper. So if these are the foundations of a stronger relationship, how can that relationship benefit our countries and the wider world? I believe there are three global challenges we must take on together.

[Full article](#)

Nike compensates Honduran workers. *Time.com*

Under pressure from fair-labor groups, Nike announced an agreement with one of Honduras' largest trade unions to create a \$1.54 million "workers relief fund" for the factory employees laid off in 2009. Under the deal, Nike says it will work with its suppliers in Honduras to get still unemployed workers vocational training and hiring priorities as jobs open up.

[Full article](#)

Disney buys Playdom. *New York Times*

The Walt Disney Company became Hollywood's leader in the booming social game business by acquiring Playdom in a deal worth as much as \$763.2 million. The purchase continues Disney's effort to strengthen and diversify its digital media portfolio by betting on casual Internet games, in contrast to more complex games for platforms like Xbox and PlayStation.

[Full article](#)

BP CEO is replaced. *CNNNews.com*

Tony Hayward will step down as chief executive of BP and will be replaced by American Robert Dudley. Like Hayward, Dudley is a long-time BP employee with more than 30 years in the oil business. Dudley's focus will likely remain on determining what went wrong and improving safety efforts.

[Full article](#)

Thai Union Frozen Products Pcl buys MW Brands. *Business Week*

Thai Union Frozen Products Pcl agreed to buy MW Brands, a European tuna canner, for about 680 million euros (\$882 million) from Trilantic Capital Partners. Thai Union outbid canned tuna maker Bolton Group and private equity funds such as Blackstone Group LP and Permira Advisers LLP in an auction, which was run for two months by UBS AG.

[Full article](#)

Burma's Than Shwe welcomed in Indian. *BBC News*

Reclusive Burmese junta leader General Than Shwe has received a red carpet welcome in the Indian capital on a state visit condemned by rights groups. He met Indian PM Manmohan Singh in Delhi on a rare five-day trip that aims to deepen the economic and strategic ties between the two nations.

[Full article](#)

Yahoo Japan to use Google search. *BBC News*

Yahoo Japan has said that it will adopt Google's search engine technology, rather than Microsoft's which is used by its strategic partner Yahoo Inc. Yahoo Japan is the most popular search engine website in Japan. Yahoo Japan is 35%-owned by Yahoo Inc, but its majority shareholder is mobile phone and internet service provider Softbank, which has a 40% stake.

[Full article](#)

New global rules for banks. *New York Times*

Central bankers and regulators have reached an almost unanimous preliminary agreement on new standards to reinforce the stability of the global financial system, adding to investors' confidence in the outlook for many banks. Under the new requirements, banks would have to hold more in capital reserves and more cash on their balance sheets to cushion against unexpected shocks, though regulators have not specified a minimum amount.

[Full article](#)

Israel offers incentives to draw foreign banks' R and D centers. *Business Week*

Israel is trying to lure international banks to set up research and development centers in the country by offering to pay part of the employees' salaries. "We want to attract large financial services companies, particularly big banks," said Shani, who was previously the chief executive officer of the Israeli maker of digital-recording products, Nice Systems Ltd. "It will make part of their competitive advantage in the years to come."

[Full article](#)

July 25

India's mining sector to slow down. *Times of India*

India's mining sector is likely to see a slowdown in growth to 8% this fiscal, even as the overall economy is poised for higher growth, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) has said. The government's Mining Bill, which stipulates license allocation on a first-come-first-serve basis and provides for giving a stake in projects to tribals, will adversely impact investments in the sector.

[Full article](#)

Colombia seeks to reduce economic impact of row with Venezuela.

News.xinhuanet.com

President Alvaro Uribe called on his countrymen to help northeast border areas reduce the economic impact caused by the country's diplomatic row with neighboring Venezuela. Cucuta is the capital of the North Santander province that borders Venezuela and whose economy is dependent on tourism and exports to Venezuela. "Once the new president takes office, we'll ask him to declare economic and social emergency for this border area and take relevant measures," said Cristo, a senator from North Santander.

[Full article](#)

Don't internationalize China South Sea issue. *Business Week*

China's Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said the U.S. shouldn't "internationalize" the issue of the South China Sea where Chinese territorial claims conflict with other nations. Yang was responding to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who said resolving territorial disputes off China's southern coast is "a leading diplomatic priority," signaling her intention to intercede in the region.

[Full article](#)

Shanghai should develop Yuan products. *Business Week*

Shanghai should become the pricing center for yuan-denominated financial products, Zhang Jianhua, director of the research department at the People's Bank of China said. China is seeking to allow the yuan to rise to appease foreign criticism, while protecting exports and preventing a further slowdown in economic growth.

[Full article](#)

Australia opposition vows to cut immigration is elected. *Business Week*

Australia's opposition Liberal-National coalition plans to cut annual immigration by more than 40 percent by the end of its first term if it wins next month's general election. "The coalition believes Australia needs a population that our services can satisfy, our infrastructure can support, our environment can sustain, our society can embrace and our economy can employ," the parties said.

[Full article](#)

July 24

Trader's cocoa binge controls chocolate market. *New York Times*

A hedge fund manager here named Anthony Ward has all but cornered the market in cocoa. By one estimate, he has bought enough to make more than five billion chocolate bars. Mr. Ward, 50, is not some rabid chocoholic, former employees say. He simply has a head for cocoa. And, through his private investment firm, Armajaro, he now controls a cache equal to 7 percent of annual cocoa production worldwide, a big enough chunk to sway prices.

[Full article](#)

Zynga, the Google of games? *New York Times*

The Zynga Game Network, as the company is officially called, is the hottest start-up to emerge from Silicon Valley since Twitter and, before that, Facebook. Unlike Twitter, which has meager revenue, Zynga is on a path to pocket as much as \$500 million in revenue this year, according to the Inside Network, which tracks Facebook apps. It is the fast-growing maker of Facebook games like FarmVille and Mafia Wars, can be a heady affair given the company's outsize ambitions

[Full article](#)

Afghan transit trade. *Thenews.com*

Pakistan and Afghanistan are renegotiating their transit trade agreement which was signed in 1965. The revision is not only with regard to Afghan goods' transit to the Arabian Sea but also for the definition of the terms for Pakistan to secure routes to the Central Asian republics through Afghanistan. The majority of imported products

booked for Afghanistan are ultimately smuggled back into Pakistan, and this hurts government revenues and causes incalculable damage to the local industries.

[Full article](#)

Global economy reliant on African economy growth. *BBC News*

Gordon Brown has used his first major speech since leaving office to say the future growth of the world economy is reliant upon the development of Africa. "Future growth in the world economy, and future jobs in the developing world, will depend on harnessing both the productive potential and the pent-up consumer demand of this continent," he said.

[Full article](#)

BP to drill off coast of Libya. *BBC News*

The deepwater drilling will take place in the Gulf of Sirte following a deal signed in 2007 with Libya on oil and gas development. Chief executive Tony Hayward at the time hailed it as "BP's single biggest exploration commitment" and "a welcome return to the country for BP after more than 30 years".

[Full article](#)

Australia promotes Green emissions, vehicles. *Business Week*

Australia's Labor government plans to spend A\$394 million (\$353 million) over the next four years to replace old vehicles with energy-efficient models. The government also plans to introduce mandatory emission standards for cars from 2015.

[Full article](#)

July 23

Singapore may require further calibration. *Bloomberg.com*

Singapore's inflation is likely to accelerate and policy makers should stay vigilant on the outlook for growth and prices, which may require the "further calibration" of monetary policy, the International Monetary Fund said. Singapore expanded at a record pace in the first six months of 2010, putting the economy in contention for the world's fastest-growing this year. The central bank uses the Singapore dollar instead of interest rates to manage inflation, and on April 14 allowed a revaluation and shifted to a stance of gradual appreciation.

[Full article](#)

German business confidence improves. *BBC News*

German business confidence jumped in July by the largest amount for 20 years. "This increase is the largest since German reunification. The German economy is in a party mood," said Hans-Werner Sinn, the Ifo's president. "These great numbers underscore the fact that the German economy is really running strong, especially compared to the rest of Europe."

[Full article](#)

Singapore dollar strengthens. *AFP*

The Singapore dollar is expected to strengthen as the island's economy rapidly expands, the IMF said. In a report after annual consultations with the Singapore authorities, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the Singapore dollar "would likely strengthen in real effective terms over time as reforms promote faster productivity growth and the domestic economy continues to expand."

[Full article](#)

July 22

Hungary IMF deal expiration. *Business Week*

The IMF and the EU abruptly called off talks with Hungary over their review of Budapest's €20 billion bail-out, originally agreed in 2008. The two parties complained at the resistance on the part of Mr Orban's new administration to reducing the country's deficit to GDP ratio to below three percent in 2011. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said that the country should walk away from dealing with the international lender and negotiate only with the EU.

[Full article](#)

California film industry hit by tax breaks elsewhere. *Forbes.com*

According to the report, the number of movies shot in California has shrunk from 272 in 2000 to 160 in 2008. The percentage of film jobs in the U.S. that are located in California has shrunk from 40% in 1997 to 37.4% in 2008. Those jobs have gone to states and countries with lucrative tax breaks for filmmakers.

[Full article](#)

Copper demand stronger than thought economy signaled. *Bloomberg.com*

Copper demand is "stronger" than U.S. economic signals suggest, said Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc., the world's biggest publicly traded producer of the metal. Rising demand in China, the world's biggest buyer, and supply constraints will combine to support copper prices. Copper futures have more than quadrupled since 2002 as mining companies struggled to keep up with rising demand.

[Full article](#)

New Peru forest law passed. *IHB*

According to the Minister of Environment, the draft legislation for Forestry and Wildlife is expected to be passed in August. The new law is required to fulfill the commitment made under the Free Trade Agreement with the USA. The commitment includes terms related to Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry.

[Full article](#)

Infomercial business increases. *Business Week*

Traditional advertisers "can't ignore infomercials anymore. Before they saw it as carnival-y," says Allstar CEO Scott Boilen. "You can't ignore the Ped Egg, and the Topsy Turvy [Tomato Planter]," which grows tomatoes upside down and has been snapped up by some 10 million customers. ad rates for short infomercials are cheap, as little as \$40 for a two-minute spot on a small cable station. Infomercial

marketers got a boost during the recession as traditional TV advertisers pulled back, leaving some broadcasters with unsold air time.

[Full article](#)

Oracle doubles acquisition budget. *Forbes.com*

Oracle will spend \$70 billion in acquisitions over the next five years, Oracle President Charles Phillips said at the Brainstorm Fortune Tech conference in Aspen. "It's early in the game, and there's plenty left to do," he said. Acquisitions have been massive undertakings for the database company.

[Full article](#)

July 20

Presidents Medvedev and Halonen meet to discuss relations. *Rianovosti*

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev arrived on a two-day visit to Finland in the city of Turku to hold talks with Finnish President Tarja Halonen. The talks will focus on Russian-Finnish relations including trade and economic cooperation, as well as partnership in the energy and lumber industries, European security and the simplification of a visa regime between Russia and the EU.

[Full article](#)

BP sells assets to Apache Corp. to pay debt. *Forbes.com*

BP PLC is selling several major assets to Apache Corp. for \$7 billion to help pay the costs from the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. BP Chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg said the deal with Apache is the first transaction meant to help pay for the spill. "The board believes that there are opportunities to divest assets which are strategically more valuable to other parties than they are to BP," he said.

[Full article](#)

Honda introduces electric vehicle. *CNNMoney*

Honda announced it will begin selling two new plug-in electric vehicles in the United States in 2012. Before mass-marketing these vehicles, Honda will roll them out in a test program in California beginning this year. Participants in the test program will include Google, Stanford University and the City of Torrance, Calif.

[Full article](#)

American Airlines and British Airways alliance approved. *New York Times*

American Airlines and British Airways won final approval to expand a trans-Atlantic alliance on flights between the United States and Europe. The two carriers were cleared to jointly set prices, sell tickets and schedule international flights through their Oneworld alliance, exempt from antitrust rules, the United States Transportation Department said.

[Full article](#)

Indian consumers go to London for luxury goods. *Business Week*

Luxury spending in India, the world's second-most populous nation, was less than a tenth of that in China last year, according to Bernstein Research. "Indian consumers are buying a lot of luxury, but they aren't buying it here," said Mohan

Murjani, a retailer who gave up selling the Gucci and Jimmy Choo labels two years after opening his first store in Mumbai, India's financial center, in 2007. "I don't see luxury taking off for at least another decade."

[Full article](#)

July 19

NokiaSiemens to buy Motorola unit. *Forbes.com*

Motorola Inc. is selling most of its wireless network division to NokiaSiemens Networks as part of a planned breakup of the company. Nokia Siemens Networks - a joint venture between Finland's Nokia Corp. and Siemens AG of Germany, has seen dwindling profits in recent years, worsened by the global economic downturn. The deal, expected to be completed by the end of the year, would improve profitability and "have significant upside potential," Nokia Siemens said.

[Full article](#)

Redbox to challenge Netflix. *Business Week*

Redbox, which became the fastest-growing U.S. video retailer with DVD kiosks and a \$1-a-day rental price stores couldn't match, is developing an online strategy to stay competitive with larger rival Netflix Inc. The company, the biggest division of Coinstar Inc., may use a Web service to expand its library beyond the 200 or so titles crammed into each of its 24,000 or so DVD dispensers, President Mitch Lowe said

[Full article](#)

Armenia, EU launch association agreement. *azatutyun.am*

Armenia began the first round of negotiations with the European Union over an "association agreement" that would significantly upgrade its political and economic ties with the bloc. The agreement stemming from the EU's Eastern Partnership program for six former Soviet republics, including neighboring Azerbaijan and Georgia, would entitle the country to a permanent free trade regime with the EU and facilitate visa procedures for its citizens traveling to Europe.

[Full article](#)

Emirates to become a world leading carrier. *Business Week*

Emirates announced an order for 30 Boeing Co. 777-300ER aircraft valued at \$9.1 billion, as the largest Arab airline expands its fleet of long-range jets. The order "affirms Emirates' strategy to become a world leading carrier and to further establish Dubai as a central gateway to worldwide air travel," Emirates Chairman Ahmed bin Saeed al-Maktoum said.

[Full article](#)

July 18

Ford and Jiangling partnership. *BBC News*

Ford has announced an expansion of its partnership with Jiangling Motors in China with a new \$300m (£196m) plant. The plant will begin production in 2012 and will produce 300,000 vehicles a year.

[Full article](#)

Chavez's version of socialism in Venezuela. *Associated Press*

"Basically he (Hugo Chavez) recognizes that in this day and age in a global economy ... complete state control would just doom the country," said Michael Shifter, an analyst at the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue. So his strategy has been to selectively nationalize companies, set up state-run supermarkets and promote worker-managed businesses, while trying to convince Venezuelans to accept his vaguely defined brand of "21st Century Socialism."

[Full article](#)

ID and breath test to buy wine? *NPR*

Buying wine in Pennsylvania may get a little easier over the next few months. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board is testing two automated wine kiosk machines in an effort to bring wine into the state's grocery stores for the first time. But the new convenience comes at a cost: two rounds of identity verification and a breath test.

[Full article](#)

Pakistan-Afghan agreement is signed. *CNN.com*

Pakistan and Afghanistan signed a landmark trade agreement, with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton witnessing the deal as part of American efforts to bring the two countries closer together. Washington is hailing the deal as the most significant bilateral treaty yet between the estranged neighbors, both of which are U.S. allies in the battle against al Qaeda and the Taliban.

[Full article](#)

Burka ban is "un-British." *BBC News*

Tory MP Philip Hollobone introduced a private members' bill which would make it illegal for people to cover their faces in public. Damian Green said trying to pass such a law would be at odds with the UK's "tolerant and mutually respectful society". The bill, which was overwhelmingly approved by France's lower house of parliament, must now be ratified by the Senate in September to become law. If it is passed, it will be illegal to wear garments such as the niqab or burka, which incorporate a full-face veil, anywhere in public.

[Full article](#)

July 17

Australia PM election: will it bring about change in the country? *BBC News*

PM Gillard and Kevin Rudd will be running in a general election August 21. "This election is about the choice as to whether we move Australia forward or go back," Ms Gillard said. "Moving forward means moving forward with budget surpluses and a stronger economy."

[Full article](#)

The affect of China's slowing economy. *The Hindu*

China's moves to bring back in control its rapidly over-heating economy appear to have paid dividends, with the economy showing signs of slowing in the second

quarter of this year. "A slowdown in the growth rate will benefit the economy because it will prevent it from growing too fast and being overheated," said Sheng Laiyun, a spokesman for the NBS.

[Full article](#)

July 16

The affect of the Open Championship. *Herald Scotland*

The 150th Anniversary Open Championship, which got under way yesterday at St Andrews, is expected to deliver £80 million in economic benefits to Scotland. The marketing effect of the tournament, which features top players including Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, is generated from more than 3000 hours of TV coverage being broadcast across the world.

[Full article](#)

Laborers move to Bangladesh, out of China. *New York Times*

Bangladesh is the place where foreign manufacturers may increasingly turn, if the rising wage demands of factory workers in China prompt companies to seek new pools of cheap labor elsewhere. As costs have risen in China, long the world's shop floor, it is slowly losing work to countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Cambodia — at least for cheaper, labor-intensive goods like casual clothes, toys and simple electronics that do not necessarily require literate workers and can tolerate unreliable transportation systems and electrical grids.

[Full article](#)

Britain delays universal broadband goal. *Business Week*

The previous Labor government's ambition to bring broadband to every household in Britain by 2012 was dashed yesterday when the coalition pushed back the date by three years, blaming a lack of funds. The Culture Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, pledged to bring in the "best superfast broadband network in Europe" by 2015 but said universal broadband of at least 2 Mbps would not be a reality in the next two years, although it would be in place "within the lifetime of this Parliament."

[Full article](#)

Burberry to profit with Chinese acquisition. *Business Week*

Burberry Group Plc, the U.K.'s largest luxury retailer, will take control of its franchised stores in China for 70 million pounds (\$108 million) in a transaction that may boost earnings by almost 10%. "This is a very attractive deal from a strategic and financial perspective, giving us control in a key growth luxury market," Chief Executive Officer Angela Ahrendts said. "We can see clear opportunities to further increase sales and profits."

[Full article](#)

Yoga soars as Americans seek refuge from economy. *ABCNews/Money*

Yoga has seen a sharp jump in the past three years, and now has about 14 million practitioners, compared with just 11 million followers three years ago. Many of the new students are men who are trying to reduce the stress with the downturn in the economy.

[Full article](#)

Toyota builds an electric car with Tesla. *Forbes.com*

Toyota and Tesla have signed an agreement to start developing an electric version of Toyota's SUV to go on sale in 2012. Toyota is still going ahead with plans for a small urban electric car for 2012, likely powered by lithium batteries made by Panasonic, its joint venture partner in Japan.

[Full article](#)

July 15

Coca-Cola World Cup song is marketing winner. *Business Week*

Music industry executives have been making an unusual pilgrimage to Coca-Cola's Atlanta headquarters, a telling measure of the company's successful World Cup soccer marketing blitz. They want to learn how Coke turned a song called *Wavin' Flag* by a little-known Somali-Canadian hip-hop artist into a World Cup anthem and No. 1 iTunes hit in 17 countries in less than a year.

[Full article](#)

Siemens, Russia sign train, wind turbine deals. *Straits Times*

Siemens signed deals worth several billion Euros envisaging the supply of regional trains and wind turbines to Russia. Under the agreements, Siemens is to modernize 22 Russian railway switching yards by 2026 and supply Russian Railways (RZD) with 240 regional trains over the next ten years.

[Full article](#)

Volvo calls for emission openness. *BBC News*

Volvo has called for greater openness about all harmful emissions from cars. Volvo's UK's managing director Peter Rask said buyers should also be told about the level of nitrogen oxide (Nox) and hydrocarbons vehicles churn out. "We would like to see a new environmental label that would highlight this in a simple way."

[Full article](#)

July 14

Hong Kong may enact a minimum wage. *CNN.com*

Hong Kong lawmakers resumed debate on a bill that may result in the region's first statutory minimum wage. The Minimum Wage Bill is a controversial piece of legislation that lawmakers hope will protect the most vulnerable workers in Hong Kong, one of the few places in the world without any sort of minimum wage law.

[Full article](#)

Yum! Brands expanding worldwide. *Business Week*

For Yum! the task is to forge onward in this virgin territory, but also to shore up its gains against the hungry McDonald's and other fast-food giants, all the while trying to keep the home fires burning back in the US, where sales are challenging because consumers are watching their wallets and their waistlines. The 23 years since Yum!

opened its first KFC in China near Beijing's Tiananmen Square provide a masterclass in overseas expansion.

[Full article](#)

Spanish PM predicts economic improvement. *AFP*

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero predicted that the Spanish economy will likely grow during the second quarter after it edged out of recession in the first. He based his prediction on indicators pointing to a rise in exports and industrial production, as well as an increase in the number of people who have signed up to the social security system, a sign that hiring by firms is up.

[Full article](#)

Irish economy has stabilized but risk elevated. *Reuters.com*

The International Monetary Fund said Ireland's fiscal and banking measures helped stabilize the economy but cautioned that economic vulnerabilities remain elevated. In its annual review of Ireland's economy, the IMF said Irish gross domestic product will likely fall by around 0.5%, maintaining its forecast from June when an IMF mission visited Dublin.

[Full article](#)

Brazil Bovespa declined with slow down in U.S., China. *Business Week*

The Bovespa stock index fell after reports signaled economic growth may be slowing in the U.S. and China, the biggest buyers of Brazilian exports. Iron-ore producer Vale SA declined as metals prices dropped. Steelmaker Usinas Siderurgicas de Minas Gerais SA slid for a third day after Banco Santander SA said it scrapped a plan to raise steel prices.

[Full article](#)

Europe clears Trans-Atlantic Air Alliance. *New York Times*

British Airways, American Airlines and Iberia won European Union antitrust clearance to deepen their Oneworld alliance on trans-Atlantic routes and better compete with rival groups. The alliance members want to broaden their pact to take advantage of the "Open Skies" agreement between the United States and the European Union, which liberalizes trans-Atlantic aviation.

[Full article](#)

Credit Suisse offices raided in Germany. *CNN News*

Credit Suisse Group AG's offices in Germany were searched today in a probe into allegations that its employees may have helped clients evade taxes. Germany has been rattled by probes that showed people hid assets in accounts in Switzerland and Liechtenstein to avoid paying taxes.

[Full article](#)

July 13

China improves food regulations. *CNN News*

Chinese government officials pledged to improve regulations on food, particularly dairy products, following last week's seizure of 64 tons of milk powder containing

500 times the acceptable level of toxic melamine. "China attaches great importance to food safety, particularly dairy quality and safety," Deputy Secretary for Health Supervision Chen Rui said.

[Full article](#)

Tupperware parties reshape India's kitchens. *Business Week*

As consumer-products companies compete to profit from booming growth in Asia's emerging markets, they could learn from an unlikely teacher, Tupperware Brands. The company came to life in the U.S. in the 1940s selling plastic food storage containers and gained fame for its unusual distribution strategy: Hundreds of thousands of homemakers held so-called Tupperware Parties to introduce neighbors to the new products and earn income by selling the colorful, vacuum-sealed kitchenware.

[Full article](#)

Paul the octopus retires. *CNN News*

Paul the octopus, who correctly predicted the outcome of eight World Cup matches in a row, is officially retiring from the prediction business. "A host of offers from around the globe will be carefully vetted in the coming days to see if there are opportunities to spread Paul's fame even further, without involving the canny cephalod directly," Sea Life aquariums said.

[Full article](#)

Moody's cuts Portugal's credit rating. *CNN News*

Moody's rating agency cut Portugal's long-term credit rating to A1 from Aa2 on concerns over its debt to gross domestic product and debt to revenue ratios, which have risen rapidly over the past two years. This means Portugal will remain highly indebted while its economy struggles to recover.

[Full article](#)

EU bank stress tests. *Business Week*

European finance ministers have defended stress tests currently being carried out on 91 of the region's banks, amid EU calls for governments to be ready with aid when the results are published on 23 July. With some analysts predicting that between 10-20 banks could require millions of euros in recapitalizations, EU economy commissioner Olli Rehn said that national capitals must "prepare for any possible pockets of vulnerability" by getting their "backstops" in place.

[Full article](#)

Tyco Electronics to buy ADC Telecommunications. *New York Times*

Tyco Electronics has agreed to buy ADC Telecommunications, a broadband equipment maker, for about \$1.25 billion in cash. The deal, which will begin as a tender offer, is expected to close by the fourth quarter this year. Tyco said it expected the deal to add to its earnings by 14 cents a share, excluding acquisition costs.

[Full article](#)

Advanced economies get clever on oil. *AFP*

The world is raising its overall game in the use of oil, with advanced economies reducing dependence through changes in consumption, and opening a window of price stability, the IEA said. Increased economic activity in advanced economies is no longer matched by a commensurate rise in oil consumption the International Energy Agency said, pointing to an 18-month window of probable stability on the oil market.

[Full article](#)

July 12

Aon to buy Hewitt to create a new unit. *Forbes.com*

Aon Corp. agreed to buy human resources company Hewitt Associates for \$4.9 billion in cash and stock to expand its consulting operations. Aon plans to integrate Hewitt with its existing consulting and outsourcing operations and create a new unit, Aon Hewitt, after the deal closes. Russ Fradin, chairman and chief executive of Hewitt, will become chairman and CEO of Aon Hewitt.

[Full article](#)

Spain hopes World Cup win helps economy. *AFP*

Spain, struggling with an unemployment rate of around 20%, hopes winning the World Cup for the first time will give its economy a much-needed boost. "It generates confidence in our country, here and abroad, and that will also be good for GDP," Finance and Economy Minister Elena Salgado said.

[Full article](#)

E.U. adopts new executive pay standards. *Forbes.com*

The European Parliament on July 6 adopted the new Capital Requirements and Bonuses Package (CRBP), which could further transform the bonus culture at European banks. The package is part of the broader E.U. Capital Requirements Directive, and mandates that banks and investment firms adopt remuneration policies that are consistent with effective risk management.

[Full article](#)

Hefner and Penthouse in bidding war for Playboy. *CNNMoney.com*

Founder Hugh Hefner proposed to take Playboy private Monday morning. Later in the day, the owner of Penthouse magazine said it will put up a bid for its longtime competitor. Hefner offered to buy the remaining shares of the company that he didn't already own at \$5.50 each.

[Full article](#)

World Cup rebrands South Africa. *BBC News*

The slogan Ke Nako, or "it is time", has been the catchy theme phrase of the recent World Cup, promoting the idea of a South Africa ready and able to host huge global events. "There has also been a reputational boost for South Africa that can help bring inward investment and visitors," says Lee-Anne Bac, director at Grant Thornton Strategic Solutions in Johannesburg. However, is South Africa now ready for the post-World Cup economic challenges that face the nation, and can it carry forward the momentum created by hosting the event?

[Full article](#)

Singapore's economy grows 20%. *Business Week*

Singapore's economy grew more than 20% for a second quarter as rising exports boosted manufacturing output and the opening of two casinos spurred tourist arrivals. Singapore's strengthening economy has added to an Asian rebound that prompted central banks to raise interest rates in recent weeks, even amid concern that Europe's debt crisis will slow the global recovery.

[Full article](#)

Televisa provides airport communications deal. *Reuters.com*

Mexico's top broadcaster Televisa is interested in providing telecommunication services at an airport the government plans to build south of the popular Caribbean resort of Cancun. Televisa has diversified from its core broadcast business in recent years, adding pay television and fixed-line phone to its services.

[Full article](#)

July 11

Switzerland looking to ASEAN countries. *Business Mirror*

Switzerland is eyeing closer trade relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), citing the region's objective of establishing a single-market economy by 2015 and the fact it continues to attract potential investments for its member-economies. Dr. Doris Leuthard, president of the Swiss Confederation, led a recent business delegation to the Asean secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia, to discuss its increasing trade, as well as political and security engagements in the region.

[Full article](#)

How can Wikipedia grow? *New York Times*

After years of spectacular growth, frequent derision and bitter controversy, Wikipedia may have found its ultimate challenge: success and public acceptance. Since search engines are useful only when there is an abundance of researched and reliable material, the company has paid translators and offered Google translation kits to foster content in many languages that are underrepresented on the Internet, including Arabic and many in South Asia.

[Full article](#)

Solar eclipse on Easter Island. *BBC News*

A total solar eclipse has crossed the South Pacific, with thousands of tourists and scientists gathered on Chile's Easter Island to witness it. The eclipse started at 1815 GMT about 700km (440 miles) south-east of Tonga, and reached Easter Island by 2011 GMT. The population of the island, an Unesco World Heritage site, doubled to about 8,000 for the event.

[Full article](#)

Dubai World renegotiates debt terms. *Business Week*

Dubai World, the state-owned company seeking to renegotiate terms on \$23.5 billion of debt. Dubai World and a group of its seven biggest lenders agreed to the

broad terms of the restructuring and they will make a presentation on the plan to the remaining nearly 70 banks on July 22. The global credit crunch has battered Dubai's real-estate market and left the emirate's companies unable to raise loans to repay debt. Property prices have fallen more than 50 percent in the city as banks reduced mortgage lending and speculators fled.

[Full article](#)

July 10

Soybean imports from Argentina to China increase. *Business Week*

Soybean imports by China, the biggest buyer, jumped to a record in June after a halt to Argentine soy oil shipments and increasing feed consumption boosted demand from crushers. China halted soybean oil shipments from Argentina, the world's biggest supplier, in April as part of a disagreement over antidumping measures. Soybean imports may increase as hot weather and rain damages crops in China, supporting prices that have fallen about 9% this year on expectations of record global oilseed harvests.

[Full article](#)

Apple opens Shanghai store to increase sales. *Business Week*

Apple Inc. opened its second China store today as the maker of iPhones and iMacs seeks to catch rivals including Nokia Oyj and Lenovo Group Ltd. in the fastest-growing major economy. Apple is expanding its network to reach more customers in China, where its sales trail Nokia and Lenovo, and said this week it plans "many" more Apple stores for China. The company's first China store opened in Beijing in July 2008.

[Full article](#)

Australia turns to desalination for water. *New York Times*

In one of the country's biggest infrastructure projects in its history, Australia's five largest cities are spending \$13.2 billion on desalination plants capable of sucking millions of gallons of seawater from the surrounding oceans every day, removing the salt and yielding potable water. The country is still recovering from its worst drought ever, a decade-long parching that the government says was deepened by climate change. With water shortages looming, other countries, including the United States and China, are also looking to the sea.

[Full article](#)

July 9

Vuvuzelas of the World Cup may improve South Africa economy. *CNN.com*

The sound of vuvuzelas has been a feature of every match at this year's World Cup, but one Cape Town business is using them to create a different kind of buzz. Adam Carnegie is the creator of eco-friendly, custom-crafted horns made from dried kelp plant. As well as using sustainable materials, he hopes to create sustainable employment in the community.

[Full article](#)

Google license renewed by China. *BBC news*

Chinese users will be sent to a "landing page", which will send them to the Hong Kong site, instead of revoking the license after Google began redirecting Chinese users to its unfiltered search site in Hong Kong. "We are very pleased that the government has renewed our ICP (internet content provider) licence and we look forward to continuing to provide web search and local products to our users in China," Google's lawyer David Drummond said.

[Full article](#)

China, France strengthen relationship. *Xinhuanet.com*

Wu Bangguo, China's top legislator, met with French President Nicolas Sarkozy to deepen the strategic cooperative relationship between their countries. Since China and France initiated diplomatic ties 46 years ago, their bilateral relationship has played a leading role in relations between Western countries and China because of its pioneering nature and strategic significance.

[Full article](#)

Peugeot, Changan build cars together. *BBC news*

Peugeot Citroen has become the latest major carmaker to partner with Changan Automotive after finalizing a deal to build cars in China. The deal is designed to give the French carmaker a bigger share of the rapidly-growing Chinese car market, which is already the biggest in the world. China is seen as an increasingly important market for global carmakers who suffered massive declines in demand in Europe and the US during the global downturn.

[Full article](#)

The North Sea oil rush. *Business Week*

A report by the consultancy Deloitte shows that exploration activity in British waters and other parts of the North Sea is booming. "The North Sea is not by any means the easiest place for exploration firms to operate," said Graham Sadler, the managing director for petroleum services at Deloitte and author of the report. "But the market has stabilized in recent months and strong demand from places like China and the other BRIC countries has continued.

[Full article](#)

Wal-Mart benefits by controlling its suppliers. *Forbes.com*

Wal-Mart is by far the largest retailer in the world with more than \$400 billion in store revenues as of 2009, far ahead of competitors like Costco, Target and Best Buy. Retail and consumer goods manufacturers realize significant sales through Wal-Mart's retail channel. This gives Wal-Mart leverage to influence and push suppliers to sell at cheaper prices. Wal-Mart, with its power over suppliers and strong credit quality, can thus efficiently manage its working capital.

[Full article](#)

Telefonica amends offer to Vivo to appease Portugal. *Business Week*

Telefonica wants to merge Vivo with Telecomunicacoes de Sao Paulo SA, or Telesp, the Spanish company's fixed-line unit in Brazil. Adjusting the offer to ensure

Portugal Telecom has a stake in the combined group would appease the Portuguese government, said Banco BPI analyst Pedro Pinto Oliveira.

[Full article](#)

China export growth to decrease. *CNNMoney.com*

Growth in China is slowing down. After the country posted 11.9% growth in the GDP for the first quarter of this year compared to last, there's really no other option. For one, the sovereign debt scare in Europe, which has eroded the purchasing power of China's largest export market, will be a hit to the economy. However, investors are realizing that China's growth remains attractive because Beijing is turning to a new group of consumers: their own citizens.

[Full article](#)

World's largest vanilla industry struggling. *CNN.com*

The world's largest vanilla industry, Madagascar, renowned for its high quality vanilla and is the world's leading exporter of the spice, is feared to be on the verge of collapse as farmers struggle to earn a living. Abysmal wages, sharp competition from markets in Asia, and the growing popularity of synthetically produced alternatives means Madagascan farmers are abandoning their crops.

[Full article](#)

World Cup champion country to benefit from economic improvement.

Business Week

The real winner after this weekend's World Cup final may be the economy of the champion, as either Spain or the Netherlands will get a boost from victory in the world's most-watched soccer match, economists say. Triumph in the final at Johannesburg's Soccer City on July 11 could add as much as 0.25 percentage point to annual economic growth for the winning team's country from increased consumer spending, according to ABN Amro Bank NV economist Hein Schotsman in Amsterdam.

[Full article](#)

Rwanda's economy to accelerate. *Business Week*

Economic growth in Rwanda may accelerate over the next two years after the government enacted "business-friendly" policies that are expected to attract investment. Rwanda's economy is expanding as the government increases subsidies to farmers and the construction industry grows, Finance Minister John Rwangombwa said.

[Full article](#)

India exports 1 million tons of sugar. *Business Week*

India, the largest sugar user, may have enough supplies to ship at least 1 million metric tons as the nation enters the export market for the first time in two years. "Physical demand for white sugar is quite strong all over the world," Narendra Murkumbi, managing director of Shree Renuka Sugars Ltd, said. "The Asian market is very tight as there is a lot of pent-up demand. Thailand, which is traditional exporter, is buying sugar."

[Full article](#)

July 8

Apple: success in China? *New York Times*

Although Apple is widely admired in China, most fans of its products here have been buying their iPhones, iPods and Mac computers from smugglers who operate through underground electronics markets. Apple is opening a flagship showroom in Shanghai, one of its largest stores in Asia, to make a new push to tap into the world's biggest mobile phone market and grab a bigger share of China's fast-growing consumer electronics business.

[Full article](#)

Singapore may surpass China in economic growth. *Business Week*

Singapore may overtake China as Asia's fastest-growing economy this year, increasing the attractiveness of the city state's stocks and putting pressure on policy makers to check inflation with a stronger currency. "Singapore has unique growth characteristics of its own as a function of having some new areas of growth," said Manraj Sekhon, the London-based head of international equities at Henderson Global Investors Ltd., whose firm oversees about \$94 billion in assets, including shares in Singapore companies.

[Full article](#)

Vietnamese hoard U.S. currency to hedge against inflation. *New York Times*

"Vietnamese people always want to have dollars," Mr. Phan, an engineer, explained. Developing countries, and these days even developed ones like Greece and Spain, constantly strive to retain the confidence of fickle foreign investors. Vietnam has a slightly different problem. Its government is struggling to restore faith among domestic investors like Mr. Phan. The Vietnamese are suspicious that the governing Communist Party will do anything to hit its economic growth target before a party congress early next year, even if that means letting inflation get out of control. To hedge against that possibility, Vietnamese have been vacuuming up gold and United States currency.

[Full article](#)

Brazil's strategic planning for pre-salt. *Fobes.com*

Brazil's National Congress is working its way through a slew of legislation designed to prepare the South American giant for its coming entry into the global league of major energy producers. Although Brazil's economic prospects are looking bright, it must first overcome the immense challenge of actually getting the oil from beneath the ocean floor.

[Full article](#)

Amazon to sell groceries in U.K. *Business Week*

Amazon.co.uk announced that it was to take on Tesco, Sainsbury's, and Asda with the launch of an online grocery store offering "free delivery on thousands of great value household, niche, ethnic and international products." Natalie Berg, research analyst at Planet Retail, said: "This is big news in the online market. When the world's largest online retailer makes a play it is bound to shake a few things up."

She added: "We have seen supermarkets move into selling DVDs and books. This is the first time it has happened the other way around."

[Full article](#)

German imports, exports rise sharply. *BBC news*

Imports rose by 14.8% in May compared with the previous month, while exports grew by 9.2%. Both figures were much higher than analysts had expected. The reason, they said, was strong demand for German goods in Asia. A weakening euro, which makes the goods cheaper overseas, had also helped.

[Full article](#)

Thailand's economy improving despite tourism decrease. *Business Week*

While Thailand's famous tourist industry is flat on its back, the economy is headed for 6% growth this year, according to analysts at Forecast in Singapore. Its stock market is up 11%, an achievement when most of the world's bourses are sharply down. Also the baht, Thailand's currency, has crept up almost 3% since the start of the year.

[Full article](#)

July 7

Bajaj seeks 70% sales from abroad, challenging Honda. *Business Week*

Bajaj Auto Ltd., India's second-largest motorcycle maker, plans to win 70% of its sales from overseas markets, challenging Honda Motor Co. in Latin America, Asia and Africa. It will be easy for Bajaj to compete with Chinese products in overseas markets," said Umesh Karne, a Mumbai-based analyst at Brics Securities Ltd., who has an 'outperform' rating on the stock. "The challenge will be to compete with Honda, which has a bigger brand and wider distribution networks around the world."

[Full article](#)

Xstrata to invest in copper mine in Peru. *BBC.com*

Anglo-Swiss mining group Xstrata has announced a huge expansion of a copper mine in southern Peru. The company says it will boost copper output by 60% and extend the life of the mine by about 20 years. The investment is part of Xstrata's strategy to boost the group's overall volumes by 50% by 2014.

[Full article](#)

EU, Vietnam partnership agreement. *Vietnam News*

Viet Nam and the European Union are close to concluding a Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA). Regarding the EU's recognition of Viet Nam's market-economy status, Moran said the EU understood Viet Nam's aspiration, but the issue was probably in the context of a free trade agreement negotiation.

[Full article](#)

Sunny Mexico: an energy opportunity. *Greentech Solar*

Mexico's solar resources are among the best in the world, far superior to those of Germany and Spain, the countries currently recognized as the world leaders in

installed photovoltaic systems. Just 0.06% of the Mexican national territory would be sufficient to generate the overall electricity consumption of Mexico in 2005 according the GTZ report "Nichos de mercado para sistemas fotovoltaicos en conexión a la red eléctrica de México" (June 2009).

[Full article](#)

India needs a "contingency plan" to contain inflation. *Business Week*

India needs a "contingency plan" by September to control inflation as prices are showing few signs of easing, former central bank Governor Bimal Jalan said. Consumer prices in India are rising at least twice as fast compared with inflation rates in Brazil, Russia and China, the other three nations that make up the BRIC economies.

[Full article](#)

Obama announces increase in U.S. exports. *CNN.com*

A series of steps aimed at bolstering U.S. exports has so far brought a 17% increase in the first four months of 2010 over the same period last year. Obama's National Export Initiative, introduced during his State of the Union address in February, seeks to double exports over the next five years.

[Full article](#)

July 6

Russia's growing influence in Belarus and Kazakhstan. *Forbes.com*

The common Customs Code stage of the customs union between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan came into effect July 6. The Customs Code, the second stage of the customs union that was launched by the three countries on Jan. 1, sets rules for customs control and clearance and brings Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan under a unified regulatory system.

[Full article](#)

Queen Elizabeth II makes first U.N. speech since 1957. *CNN.com*

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II addressed the United Nations for the first time in more than 50 years, saying she has "witnessed great change, much of it for the better" since her previous speech there in 1957. She spoke of the importance of leadership and how critical the role of the United Nations continues to be in upholding human rights in the 21st century.

[Full article](#)

China Bank \$22.1 billion IPO. *CNN.com*

Agricultural Bank of China is set to raise up to \$22.1bn in the world's biggest initial public offering, underscoring the strength of investor faith in the growth of the Chinese economy. AgBank, the last of China's big state-owned banks to go public, has managed to complete its offering during a period in which global markets have tumbled and dozens of IPOs have been scrapped.

[Full article](#)

Toyota invests in India engine plant. *Business Week*

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Ltd., the Indian unit of the world's biggest carmaker, will invest 5 billion rupees (\$107 million) on a facility to build engines and transmissions for its Etios model. Domestic production of engines will enable the company "to provide the best quality product at a competitive price," Nakagawa said. Automakers are betting on China and India that have bucked a slump in worldwide vehicle demand.

[Full article](#)

July 5

Libya may take BP stake. *CNN.com*

Libya's top oil official said that his country's sovereign wealth fund should invest in BP to take advantage of the troubled company's falling share price. The Arab Gulf is home to some of the world's biggest sovereign wealth funds, which have previously stepped in to inject capital into western banks, including Citigroup and Barclays.

[Full article](#)

U.S. companies eye British takeovers. *Business Week*

American companies are preparing to launch daring takeover bids for a host of Britain's biggest corporate names, including possibly BAE Systems and AstraZeneca thanks to the weakness of the pound against the dollar. Sterling has lost about a quarter of its value against the dollar in the last two-and-a-half years, and combined with the feeble recovery in the UK economy, British firms have become much cheaper for American suitors looking for a good deal.

[Full article](#)

Tesla CEO talks to company future optimistically. *Forbes.com*

On June 29 Tesla became the first car company since 1956 to go public in the U.S. Since its Nasdaq debut at \$17 a share, the stock climbed as high as \$30 before settling back down just below \$20 a share at the end of the week. Tesla founder and Chief Executive Elon Musk boasts, "I think the fact that some of the smartest investors in the world have participated in this IPO is a good indication of our future."

[Full article](#)

Finger vein scan ATM in Poland. *CNN.com*

Poland's cooperative BPS bank says it's the first in Europe to install a biometric ATM, allowing customers to withdraw cash simply with the touch of a fingertip running on the latest in "finger vein" technology. Unlike fingerprints, which leave a trace and can be potentially reproduced, finger veins are impossible to replicate, according to Jones, because they are beneath the surface of the skin.

[Full article](#)

Serbia plans to attract 2.5 to 3 billion annually. *Glassbije.org*

Serbia's goal is to attract from 2.5 to 3 billion dollars of direct foreign investments annually, Vesna Arsic, the state secretary in the Economy Ministry, said. From 2001 to 2009, 14.1 billion dollars have arrived in Serbia, which ranks it at the fourth place in terms of regional investments, after Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia, Arsic

said at the first session of the Assembly of the Diaspora and Serbs in the region, dedicated to Serbia's economic development.

[Full article](#)

Creating top universities in Taiwan. *Focus Taiwan*

President Ma Ying-jeou said the government would continue its commitment to provide additional funding to upgrade the quality of local universities and enable them to join the world's top 10, top 100 or top 200, or top 200. "Despite our financial straits, the government will definitely implement a second five-year program to upgrade local universities to world standards and help them win international prestige, " Ma said.

[Full article](#)

The EU "Quality Tourism" label. *Business Week*

The EU executive proposed on June 30 the creation of a prestigious EU "Quality Tourism" label to reward the best tourist businesses, activities and destinations, from the most secluded and exclusive Greek beachside bars to the scariest Transylvanian vampire tour. The quality mark is to go considerably further than the bloc's existing but largely unknown Eden, or European Destinations of Excellence scheme, established in 2006 to promote destinations that ensure social, cultural and environmental sustainability.

[Full article](#)

July 4

Google looks to emerging market to push Android growth. *New York Times*

To attract programmers to its Android operating system, Google may offer tools that help them sell subscriptions, virtual goods and other items from within applications on mobile phones, Andy Rubin, vice president for engineering at Google said. Google plans to push its Android mobile software in India and China and is exploring ways for developers to make more money from applications, stepping up competition with Apple and Nokia.

[Full article](#)

Iraq diversifies for economic development. *Newsystocks.com*

Iraq announced its five- year National Development Plan (NDP) targeting annual economic growth of 9.4 percent with attempts to cut unemployment. The plan will include more than 2,700 projects worth about 186 billion U.S. dollars and is aiming at diversifying the Iraqi economy away from oil, as the crude exports represented some 90 percent of the country's revenue.

[Full article](#)

Philippines receives its 15th president. *mb.com.ph*

President Benigno Aquino III was inaugurated as the 15th President of the Republic of the Philippines at the Quirino Grandstand, where he was the seventh Chief Executive to be sworn in at the historic stage. There were no soaring oratories usually associated with inaugurals, no grand vision described, but a lot of tactical, down to earth and do-able recommendations.

[Full article](#)

July 3

UAE, Ireland sign double taxation avoidance on income agreement.

Zawya.com

An agreement of double taxation avoidance on income has been signed between United Arab Emirates and Republic of Ireland. HE Al Khoori noted that this agreement is one of the most important pillars that contribute to developing and strengthening cooperation and partnership between the two countries including all areas of common interest. The agreement seeks to create the suitable investment environment attracting governmental investment and sovereign funds, in addition to encouraging private sector investment in both countries

[Full article](#)

July 2

BP ex CEO asked to join UK government. *Business Week*

Lord Browne, the former head of BP who was once reputed to be Tony Blair's favorite businessman, has been brought back into the heart of Government to help find the £6.2bn in public spending cuts promised in the Budget. He was one of Britain's most-admired business leaders, with a gift for getting on well with politicians. He was nicknamed the "Sun King," and was so close to the former prime minister, Tony Blair, that it was suggested that an appropriate name for the company he headed would be "Blair's Petroleum."

[Full article](#)

Cocoa, Coffee prices decline with lack of demand. *Business Week*

Cocoa prices fell, capping the biggest weekly drop since mid-May, on concerns that commodity demand will slacken amid a fragile economic recovery in the U.S. Coffee also slumped. "With the economic news lately, people aren't buying commodities," said Jack Scoville, a vice president at Price Futures Group Inc., a broker in Chicago.

[Full article](#)

Argentina import restrictions may delay Mercosur trade talks. *Mercopress*

The EU has decided to increase the tone of its complaints following on the restrictions implemented by Argentina's Domestic Commerce Secretary, Guillermo Moreno, on food imports. Statements to that effect were first aired in Brussels and Luxembourg, but now the issue was put directly on the negotiation table in Buenos Aires where a new round of talks begun this week after six years involving trade talks with Mercosur.

[Full article](#)

July 1

Fiji determined to improve itself. *Worldpress.org*

While the world remains skeptical about Commodore Bainimarama's commitment to the 2014 election, Fiji is bustling with tourists, and the performance of the interim

government ministers has far exceeded expectation of the locals. Some of the achievements of the government include free school bussing for students of poor parents, free textbooks, better roads and infrastructure.

[Full article](#)

Poland ready for Euro 2012. *CNN.com*

Despite the Polish national team's absence from the World Cup in South Africa, the country's sports fields are packed with children and amateur footballers getting into the mood. When Poland and Ukraine host Euro 2012, they will be the first Eastern European countries to do so. Adam Giersz, Polish Sports Minister, said: "We want to show the world that Poland is a modern country in the European Union with modern infrastructure and the capability to organize an event like Euro 2012, which is one of the biggest events of its kind in the world."

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Pak-Iran gas pipeline agreement. *AP of Pakistan*

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that Pak-Iran gas pipeline agreement will ensure massive gas supply to help meet country's energy requirements including electricity. The agreement has been finalized despite many problems and pressures and the main purpose of the project is to generate electricity and to provide energy to the industrial sector, the F M added. Pakistan also finalized an agreement with China for installation of two nuclear power plants.

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Pirelli plans to sell broadband unit, expand tire market. *Business Week*

Pirelli & C. SpA, Europe's third- largest tiremaker, will sell its broadband communications unit as part of a reorganization that includes a spinoff of real-estate assets, Chairman Marco Tronchetti Provera said. Milan-based Pirelli is spending 300 million euros (\$367 million) on its tire business this year and plans to double capacity in China, Egypt and Romania to take on rivals Continental AG and Michelin & Cie. Tronchetti Provera said he's looking to acquire tire factories in Asia, though ruled out a merger with a competitor.

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