



## Week in Review

- Donald Anderson, Fatma Babayeva

### 4 Pipeline Politics

---

*Turkish Stream's future is uncertain.* [Read More](#)

### COP21 Continues

---

*Developing nations need cash.* [Read More](#)

### Future in Coal

---

*India will remain dependent into the foreseeable future.* [Read More](#)

### Supply Problems in Bangladesh

---

*Chevron pitches in to increase supply.* [Read More](#)

### 5 Nuclear Boost in Economic Growth

---

*South Africa increases capacity.* [Read More](#)

### Bribes Kill

---

*Disregard for safety laws results in death in China.* [Read More](#)

### Just Business

---

*Uruguay sees great success with RES.* [Read More](#)

### Open Info on Ukrainian Gas

---

*Transparency measures to keep status as transit state.* [Read More](#)

### 6 Solar Alliance

---

*Global unity on the sun's powerful future.* [Read More](#)

### Caspian Oil Rig Fire

---

*Rescue efforts hampered by poor conditions.* [Read More](#)

## Energy News Blog

### 2 Green Uruguay: A Model for Phasing Out Fossil Fuels

---

- Michael Roh

*Michael Roh takes a look at the success story of Uruguay in making a major switch to renewable energy sources in the wake of Paris climate talks.* [Read More](#)

### 3 India and Saudi Arabia Not the Biggest Disappointment at COP21

---

- Donald Anderson

*While much concentration is put on power generation when speaking of climate change, Donald Anderson discusses an oft ignored source of carbon emissions.* [Read More](#)



"Sierra de los Caracoles wind farm" by Amateos - Own work by Amateos. Licensed under Public Domain via Commons -



## Energy News Blog

### Green Uruguay: A Model for Phasing Out Fossil Fuels

–Michael Roh

While the COP21 talks in Paris have focused the attention on transitioning fossil fuel consuming players on the world stage like China, India, and the U.S., special attention should be paid to Uruguay. Fifteen years ago, Uruguay was not a particularly 'green' country. Oil made up 27% of Uruguay's imports and it was in talks with Argentina to develop a gas pipeline. Cut to today, where wind turbines make up the biggest share of its imports, while the country has developed solar, wind, and hydro-power, which combined make up 55% of its energy mix. Comparatively, the world average of renewables to other fuels is a mere 12%. Institutions from the World Bank to the World Wildlife Fund have sung the praises of Uruguay. Ramon Mendez, Uruguay's head of climate policy, attributes this successful transition to "clear decision-making, a supportive regulatory environment, and a strong partnership between the public and private sector." Furthermore, he states that because Uruguay has credibility as a democracy that pays its debts, favorable geography and weather conditions, and reliable

public companies, the country has been able to successfully implement its 'green' strategy.

At the climate talks in Paris, Mendez has shifted attention to his country, proposing a bold 88% cut in emissions by 2017, compared to the average between 2009-2013. Mendez commented that renewables is a financial business. In the past five years, investments in renewables in Uruguay have reached USD 7 billion (15% of its GDP). For wind power development, Uruguay has attracted foreign investors with a fixed price for 20 years, and with low labor costs, almost guarantees profit for these investors. And the investors have taken notice. The competitive market for these windfarm contracts is pushing down bids, resulting in a cut in electricity generation costs. Certainly, renewables are dependent on climate itself, but Uruguay has taken a strategy of diversifying the renewable sector, protecting the country's energy security from susceptibility of just one source. The country has enjoyed the benefits of its progressive strategies. The country can now add another success to the list: boasting its electricity is generated an astonishing 94.5% from renewables. While global leaders strategize how to address the problem of anthropogenic climate change, perhaps they should look at Uruguay as a blueprint.



"Represa Salto Grande - satellite image" by NASA astronauts - Licensed under Public Domain via Commons



## India and Saudi Arabia Not the Biggest Disappointment at COP21

–Donald Anderson

India and Saudi Arabia have materialized as the biggest challenge in a new climate change deal. Despite more than over 100 countries uniting to overcome climate change at the Paris talks, India and Saudi Arabia have selfishly held up the talks.

At the forefront of the debacle is a 1.5 degree target that scientists claim is the only safe level of warming. At risk are tiny Island nations like the Maldives who face the prospect of their country being swept away by rising seas. Saudi Arabia and India don't doubt whether the science behind the 1.5 degree target is accurate, but rather they that should be exempt. This methodology explains why Saudi Arabia is looking for softer verbiage when it comes to the 1.5 degree target. Specifically, they don't want any concrete verbiage that could hold them accountable. Despite the disconnect on verbiage of how many degrees should be allowable, one topic at COP21 isn't being talked about is shipping containers.

If the shipping industry were its own country, it would rank as the 6th highest polluting country in the world, between Germany and Japan. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) concluded that the shipping industry counted for 2.4% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, between 2007 and 2014. What is more worrisome is the European Parliament released a report a week ago concluded that shipping could account for as much as 17% by the year 2050, yet no one at COP21 is talking about it. Why is this?



"Secretary Kerry shakes hands with Indian Prime Minister Modi before bilateral meeting on margins of Vibrant Gujarat Summit" by U.S. Department of State from United States Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons

The shipping industry is somewhat of a black hole. It does not really belong to any one country, and even if it did the emissions targets don't include specific sectors within a country. Furthermore, there is no precedent for shipping to be included, since in past climate deals, like the Kyoto Protocol, shipping was never included either. Bottom line is that any measures that could be taken are unenforceable and unmeasurable outside of territorial measures.



"Sabarmati Thermal Power Station (STPS), Ahmedabad" by Koshy Koshy - Flickr: Sabarmati Thermal Power Station (STPS), Ahmedabad. Licensed under CC BY 2.0 via Commons

However, there are some possibilities to curb the greenhouse gas punishment bestowed upon us by the shipping industry. For one, the IMO could set standards for ships to meet a minimum for fuel efficiency. Additionally, the IMO could rule that ships need to cruise at the ship's optimal fuel efficiency speed. Also, cargo ships are large enough where solar panels could help defray some of the energy used towards electricity. Finally, alternative fuels for ships needs to be researched. Obviously, considering the considerable cost of these measures, it is an issue that will have to be pursued by wealthier nations.

While the spotlight is on India and Saudi Arabia, attention should be directed at other huge greenhouse gas emitters, like the shipping industry. COP21 already has a lot on their plate trying to please everyone. The IMO should take action sooner rather than later. The Maldives and other vulnerable island nations would greatly appreciate it.



## The Week in Review

### Russian-Turkish Energy Relationship Set Back

---

*According to Russian Deputy Energy Minister Anatoly Yanovsky, the future of Turkish stream seems uncertain after the downing of Russian pilots by Turkey. The proposed gas pipeline that would traverse through the Black Sea to the EU/Turkish border, would have replaced the pipeline that goes through Ukraine. This route Russia will try to overcome the hurdles surrounding Nord Stream II as an alternative to the Turkish Stream.*

[\*Chilcoat, C. 2015. Russian-Turkish Energy Relationship Set Back. Oil Price, 1 December.\*](#)

### Developing Countries Win in Paris Climate Talks

---

*As officials come closer to securing a deal in Paris, it appears that the winners will be developing nations who, according to officials, will receive significant financial support in order to fulfill their obligations to reduce carbon emissions. The deal signed in Paris would come into force in 2020, with funds being 'on the table' for developing countries throughout the 2020s. Officials are expected to have a new version of the draft text at 08:00 GMT on the 12th of December. Areas of significant disagreement have been decreased to around 50 from over 900.*

[\*BBC, 2015. COP21: Final push for climate deal amid optimism. BBC News, 11 December.\*](#)

### India: Fueling Growth with Coal

---

*Heading into the Paris climate change talks, India was thought to be one country expected to be tough to deal with. John Kerry even stated that India would be a "challenge" while another expert said that India was a "storm in a teacup". The core of the problems is that India is a very poor country who therefore counts on softer climate change-related commitments. The country projects its carbon emissions to continue growing past 2050. Moreover, India's public support is in favor of preserving the status quo and against any deal that would have adverse effects on national economy.*

[\*Siddiqui, D., 2015. Fueling Its Growth with Coal, India Champions the Poor in Paris. Reuters, 6 December.\*](#)

### Bangladesh: New Natural Gas Production by Chevron

---

*Bangladesh's natural gas production is at 15 bcm annually, and about half of that is supplied by Chevron. Bangladesh encounters shortages of some 5 bcm of natural gas per year. With two new wells, Cevron is planning to add 1,3 bcm to its production profile, thus helping in solving the shortages problem, leaving Bangladesht better off but still facing daily shortages.*

[\*Quadir, S., 2015. Chevron starts natural gas production from two new wells in Bangladesh. Reuters, 6 December.\*](#)



## **South Africa: Nuclear is Key to Economic Growth**

---

*The expert round-table concluded that building a 9600 MWe capacity nuclear facility is in the long-term interests of South Africa. The experts believe nuclear energy is directly linked with industrialization, and that this project will help industrialize large swaths of land in different regions. They concluded by saying that renewable energy sources are not a practical solution and couldn't meet power demand, and the best solution is adding baseload capacity provided by nuclear power.*

[\*World Nuclear News, 2015. Nuclear Key to South African Economic Growth, Panel Finds. World Nuclear News, 30 November.\*](#)

## **China: 110 Nuclear Plants with Poor Safety Records**

---

*China plans to have 110 operational nuclear reactors by 2030, which means it will become one of the largest nuclear energy consumers by then. Chinese preference of nuclear energy over coal will please many of those gathered in Paris this week, at the same time, the idea of nuclear power in China makes many people quite nervous. Chemical explosions in Tianjin, which happened about a month ago because of unsafe storage by bribed local officials claimed the lives of 173 people. It shows that the country has a long way to go in terms of industrial and workplace safety. The quick pace of nuclear development combined with low safety standards and poor practices raises concern among many over the possibility of future nuclear accidents.*

[\*Rauhala, E., 2015. China has an awful safety record- and wants to run 110 nuclear reactors by 2030. Washington Post, 4 December.\*](#)

## **Uruguay: Small Nation, Renewable Giant**

---

*As big states gathered in Paris to address climate change and switch to cleaner types of energy, Uruguay, a small country on the other side of the Atlantic gains a remarkable amount of global kudos for the progress it made on decarbonizing its economy. This country cut its carbon emissions without any government subsidies and higher electricity costs in less than 10 years. Now, it gets about 95% of its electricity from clean energy. There are no technological miracles involved, the key to this success is rather simple: clear decision-making, a supportive regulatory environment and a strong partnership between the public and private sector. According to Ramon Mendez, Uruguay's head of climate policy, "renewables is just business". If a secure environment is ensured, it will attract investment. The competitive market is pushing down bids and cutting generation costs by more than 30% the past three years in Uruguay. Moreover, using both hydro and wind power makes this country more resilient to climate change.*

[\*Watts, J., 2015. Uruguay makes dramatic shift to nearly 95% electricity from clean energy. The Guardian, 3 December.\*](#)

## **Ukraine: Daily Gas Transmission Reports by Ukraine**

---

*Ukrtransgas company started publishing daily information on the volumes of transmitted gas in response to constant Gazprom claims about instability of Ukrainian transit after Ukraine's decision to stop procuring gas from Gazprom. Ukrtransgas and Naftogas revealed on the 26th of November that gas transmitted via Ukraine to the EU and Moldova for Wednesday and Tuesday met the orders in full. The initiative by Ukraine can be evaluated as an attempt to keep its transit country status for Russian gas.*

[\*Natural Gas Europe, 2015. Ukraine releases daily transmission reports to defend against Russian major claims. Natural Gas Europe, 30 November.\*](#)



## Launch of Global Solar Alliance

---

*One of the major developments during the Paris COP21 climate summit was the establishment of the new alliance, which will have a long-term impact on global renewable energy investments. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande launched a "Global Solar Alliance" that consists of 120 nations. Although, most of the members are tropical countries, some European states, the US and China also joined to this alliance. Headquarters will be located near New Delhi in India.*

*The Alliance can be a 'game changer' for the global solar energy sector and help to combat global climate change. The member states commit to work together to expand solar energy markets, to reduce costs in financing and solar technology, and to implement solar projects globally with the aim of ultimately mobilizing about USD 1 trillion of solar energy funds by 2030. The alliance is bringing developing and developed countries, industries, laboratories and institutions under a common umbrella with participation of both governments and the private sector.*

[\*Agnihotri, G., 2015. Global Solar Alliance sets \\$1 trillion investment goal for 2030. Oil Price, 3 December.\*](#)

## Caspian: Fire Accident on SOCAR Offshore Platform

---

*An Azeri offshore oil platform, which is located in Azerbaijan's sector of the Caspian Sea, caught fire on the 4th of December 2015. Over 80 people were trapped on the platform. 42 oil workers have been rescued overnight, one dead body was found and rescue operations for 30 missing workers is under way. SOCAR said the fire started after the windstorm damaged the gas line. Adverse weather conditions made extinguishing fires, evacuating the platform via boats extremely difficult. Overall, fourteen workers have been killed in accidents on SOCAR's oil and gas platforms in 2014.*

[\*Bagirova, N., 2015. One worker killed, 30 missing after Azeri oil rig fire: government. Reuters, 5 December.\*](#)



"Oil Rocks near Baku" by Bruno Girin on Flickr - Flickr. Licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0 via Commons



## This issue brought to you by

**Irina Mironova**  
**Aaron Wood**  
**Donald Anderson**  
**Fatma Babayeva**  
**Michael Roh**

Editor-in-Chief (imironova@eu.spb.ru)  
Managing Editor (awood@eu.spb.ru)  
IMARES Student (danderson@eu.spb.ru)  
ENERPO Student (fbabayeva@eu.spb.ru)  
ENERPO Student (mroh@eu.spb.ru)

## Useful Links

**ENERPO program**  
**ENERPO Twitter account**  
**Workshop Series videos**  
**ENERPO Journal online**  
**International Energy Center at EUSP**

<http://www.eu.spb.ru/en/international-programs/enerpo>  
[https://twitter.com/ENERPO\\_EUSP](https://twitter.com/ENERPO_EUSP)  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/EUSPchannel>  
<http://enerpojourn.com/>  
<http://eu.spb.ru/en/international-programs/enerpo/international-energy-center>

*If you have comments or questions about the ENERPO Newsletter or are interested in contributing, send us an email at [imironova@eu.spb.ru](mailto:imironova@eu.spb.ru) or [awood@eu.spb.ru](mailto:awood@eu.spb.ru)*



"Nagarjuna Sagar Dam" by Sumanthk Licensed under Public Domain via Commons