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Global Warming



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May 23, 2006

- Other News
- Kyoto Negotiations
- Kyoto and You
- For Students
- Resources
- About Us
- Contact Us
- Donations
- Online Store
- Site Map

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NEWS:

**Domenici Says No Global Warming Legislation This Session
Congress Daily PM (subscription only), March 6, 2006**

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Domenici said today climate change legislation will not come out of his committee this year. Domenici said he and Energy and Natural Resources ranking member Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., are negotiating a bill that would require reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but the two are "nowhere close to a way to do that," he said, adding, "Frankly, I don't know how to write it, and I don't think anybody does." Lawmakers are divided over whether a climate change bill should include regulation of carbon dioxide, along with other pollutants. The committee will hold a climate change forum April 4 to hear experts on the issue, but it is not likely to result in legislation. "There will be no climate change legislation coming out of my committee this year," Domenici told reporters.

Domenici also said he does not think Congress will pass legislation this year intended to expedite a nuclear waste repository at Nevada's Yucca Mountain. The Energy Department is expected to present Congress with a legislative package designed to get the stalled project moving, but the release of this plan has been

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delayed. Domenici said the committee could move a bill to reduce domestic oil consumption. The Energy and Natural Resources Committee today held the first of three hearings on energy independence and security, which are designed to identify "five or six or seven major ideas that would truly be helpful" in the next couple of years and could possibly be rolled into energy legislation this year, Domenici said. "We haven't decided yet. At this point we do not have a bill planned," he said. Domenici said he was surprised that all four witnesses at today's hearing agreed that research is needed to promote the development of ethanol from agricultural waste, or cellulosic ethanol. The witnesses agreed "this was the quickest way to convert [from] using gasoline used from crude oil" to alternative sources, Domenici said. He said new legislation is not needed to promote cellulosic ethanol, just research funding.

NOAA & Hurricanes

Prometheus, February 16, 2006

NOAA has edited its [press release](#) that originally asserted a "consensus" among NOAA scientists, which we discussed [here](#). How does this change the landscape of the hurricane climate issue? While it is a positive step forward for public relations, it doesn't alter the current state of the science or most importantly, our understanding of what sorts of policy actions make the most sense in hurricane policy. Read on for details.

On Donald Kennedy in Science, Again

Prometheus, January 19, 2006

In this week's *Science* magazine editor Donald Kennedy [opines](#) that "Not only is the New Orleans damage not an act of God; it shouldn't even be called a "natural" disaster." Could it be that he sees the significance of millions of people and trillions of dollars of property in locations exposed to repeated strikes from catastrophic storms? Unfortunately, not at all.

Sustainable Fossil Fuel

Cambridge University Press, January 19, 2006

More and more people believe we must quickly wean ourselves from fossil fuels oil, natural gas and coal to save the planet from environmental catastrophe, wars and economic collapse. Professor Jaccard argues that this view is misguided. We have the technological capability to use fossil fuels without emitting climate-threatening greenhouse gases or other pollutants. The transition from conventional oil and gas to unconventional oil, unconventional gas and coal for producing electricity, hydrogen and cleaner-burning fuels will decrease energy dependence on politically unstable regions. In addition, our vast fossil fuel resources will be the cheapest source of clean energy

for the next century and perhaps longer, which is critical for the economic and social development of the world's poorer countries. By buying time for increasing energy efficiency, developing renewable energy technologies and making nuclear power more attractive, fossil fuels will play a key role in humanity's quest for a sustainable energy system.

Russian Freeze Prompts Fresh Energy Crisis

The Times, January 19, 2006

A sudden drop in Russian gas deliveries to southeastern Europe yesterday provoked an energy crisis in Italy as Gazprom struggled to meet domestic demand in the face of intense frost in Russia. The gas export squeeze, which reduced supplies by 25 per cent in Hungary and Bosnia and by 5 per cent in Austria, emerged after Gazprom had cut off Ukraine on New Year's Day in a row over prices and will aggravate concern about Europe's growing dependence on Russian gas.

Not As Bad As We Thought

World Climate Report

Either the original forecasts were not unbiased, a rare event did indeed occur, or, more likely, the interpretation and reporting went a bit over the top—that is, the press (and to some degree the researchers themselves) only like to hype the more extreme results.

Indur Goklany's Rejected Nature Letter

Science Policy, January 16, 2006

It is astonishing to find a review article in Nature (Patz, J.A., et al., Nature 438, 310; 2005), henceforth "the Review", whose major conclusion is taken from an analysis whose authors themselves acknowledge did not "accord with the canons of empirical science".

Siberians Shiver in Record Cold

UPI, January 16, 2006

Record low temperatures were felt in western Siberia over the weekend, with temperatures in the Tomsk region reported at minus 58 degrees Fahrenheit and lower. "This morning people felt Arctic weather," a local meteorologist told the Interfax news agency Friday.

The King Has Not Left the Building

Times Higher Education Supplement, January 13, 2006

Are coal and oil the Earth's dirty, dwindling foes or humanity's loyal friends? Mark Jaccard argues for fossil fuels' zero-emission future. The reign of King Coal - and his royal cousins, crude oil and natural gas - is coming to an end, we are told, and the threat of climate change will finally terminate our on-off relationship with fossil fuels. It is a message that has become common

currency nearly everywhere - but you write off fossil fuels at your peril, because there is life in the old king yet.

Communique of the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate

Inaugural Ministerial Meeting, Sydney, January 2006

We adopted a Charter that sets out a framework to implement the Vision Statement of the Partnership announced in Vientiane on 28 July 2005. At the core of this vision is our conviction of the urgent need to pursue development and poverty eradication. By working together we will be better able to meet our increased energy needs and associated challenges, including those related to air pollution, energy security, and greenhouse gas intensity.

Jumping to Conclusions: Frogs, Global Warming and Nature

World Climate Report, January 11, 2006

While *Nature* still may be the best for certain biochemical and genetic topics, it surely has lost it on global warming. My antennae went up on this one in 2003 when my colleague, Robert Davis, and I submitted a paper to *Nature* showing that, as our cities have warmed, heat-related mortality declined significantly as people adapted to the change. They declined to even send it out for review; but after it was accepted in *International Journal of Biometeorology* it was awarded "paper of the year" by the Climate Section of the Association of American Geographers. Something is clearly amiss. Nowhere is that more clear than in a paper, "Widespread Amphibian Extinctions from Epidemic Disease Driven by Global Warming," by J. Alan Pounds, that appeared in their January 12 issue. We'll put it simply: with regard to global warming papers, the review process at *Nature* is dead. Gone. Kaput.

Celebrities Causing Frogs to Croak?

FoxNews, January 13, 2006

Could it be that celebrities are planting the forests that are causing the global warming that is growing the bacteria that are wiping out the frogs? Global warming alarmists may be compelled to consider that chain of causation this week thanks to two new studies just published in the Jan. 12 issue of the journal *Nature*.

Editorial: Climate Change Needs Strategy, Not Theology

The Courier Mail, January 13, 2006

The Asia-Pacific Partnership's inaugural ministerial meeting in Sydney should not become the latest target

or weapon in the tit-for-tat politicking dominating debate about climate change and global warming. Too often the protagonists line up information, untested theory, supposition and rumour as ammunition for what looks to most people more like a theological contest than a rational discussion about science and our response to the challenges posed by meteorological variations in recent years.

On Meddling With Climate Change

Financial Times, January 13, 2006

Everyone knows trees are "A Good Thing". They take in the carbon dioxide that threatens our planet with global warming and turn it into fresh, clean oxygen for us all to breathe. But now it seems we need to think again. In a discovery that has left climate scientists gasping, researchers have found that the earth's vegetation is churning out vast quantities of methane, a greenhouse gas far more potent even than CO₂.

Australia Undergoes Red-Green Divorce

The Australian, January 13, 2006

Is the greenhouse effect real? The answer to this question will profoundly influence the course of global energy policy throughout the 21st century. As one of the world's biggest exporters of coal, uranium and natural gas, the stakes are high for Australia. Even if there were no greenhouse effect, there are other imperatives for the world to get a lot smarter about energy consumption.

Australian Greens' Nightmare Deepens as Left Splits on Kyoto

The Australian, January 13, 2006

Labor's left-wing powerbroker Martin Ferguson has urged the party to renounce the Greens and support the Howard Government's Asia-Pacific climate partnership. The Opposition resources spokesman said it was time to abandon the "political correctness" of the environmental movement and recognise the role of Australian business in providing jobs. "It is extraordinary that the Greens could place the economic security and jobs of their constituents at risk," Mr Ferguson said. "Let's be real - without getting business on board we cannot achieve anything."

Nessie and Environmental Protection in Britain

The Herald, January 9, 2006

Senior government officials debated how best to protect the Loch Ness monster from poachers. Newly-released files show that during the 1980s the government was in turmoil about how to deal with the monster should it ever surface. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the secretary of state for Scotland spent time contemplating whether Nessie

should be protected.

Opinion: Avoiding Climate 'Control'

Asian Wall Street Journal, January 11, 2006

Just six months old, the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate already has encountered venomous hostility from those who have spent the past 15 years lobbying for the Kyoto Protocol's "climate control" mandate.

EDITORIAL: Climate Change May Be a Mirage, Poverty is Not

The Australian, January 12, 2006

As delegates to the inaugural Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate conference met under crystal-clear skies in Sydney, the Australian Conservation Foundation issued a typically misleading press release. It said that Australians were the second worst polluters per capita in the world, or 16 times worse than Indians. Pity the ACF did not add that Australia produces just 1.6 per cent of global emissions or check the news out of New Delhi. A toxic mix of pollutants and pea-soup fog virtually closed down the Indian capital after Christmas.

Making Poverty History 'Threatens Earth'

BBC News, January 12, 2006

Earth lacks the water, energy and agricultural land to allow China and India to attain Western living standards, a US think-tank has warned. The Worldwatch Institute said the booming economies of China and India are "planetary powers that are shaping the global biosphere". Its State of the World 2006 report said the two countries' high economic growth hid a reality of severe pollution. It said the planet's resources could not keep pace with such growth.

Australian PM: Climate Battle Must Not Hamper Growth

AFX News, January 11, 2006

Australian Prime Minister John Howard said it was unrealistic to expect nations to sacrifice economic growth in order to halt global climate change. Howard told a conference of Asia-Pacific nations and corporations that growth was the only way many nations could reduce poverty levels among their populations. 'The idea that we can address climate change matters successfully at the expense of economic growth is not only unrealistic but it also unacceptable to the population of Australia which I represent,' Howard said.

A Green Source of Surprise

Nature 439, January 12, 2006

Living terrestrial vegetation emits large amounts of

methane into the atmosphere. This unexpected finding, if confirmed, will have an impact on both greenhouse-gas accounting and research into sources of methane. On page 187 of this issue, Keppler et al. report the remarkable discovery that terrestrial plants emit methane into the atmosphere. Their results are startling, for two reasons. First, because the methane emissions they document occur under normal physiological conditions, in the presence of oxygen, rather than through bacterial action in anoxic environments. Second, because the estimated emissions are large, constituting 10-30% of the annual total of methane entering Earth's atmosphere.

Methane Emissions from Terrestrial Plants Under Aerobic Conditions

Nature 439, January 12, 2006

Methane is an important greenhouse gas and its atmospheric concentration has almost tripled since pre-industrial times^{1, 2}. It plays a central role in atmospheric oxidation chemistry and affects stratospheric ozone and water vapour levels. Most of the methane from natural sources in Earth's atmosphere is thought to originate from biological processes in anoxic environments². Here we demonstrate using stable carbon isotopes that methane is readily formed in situ in terrestrial plants under oxic conditions by a hitherto unrecognized process. Significant methane emissions from both intact plants and detached leaves were observed during incubation experiments in the laboratory and in the field. If our measurements are typical for short-lived biomass and scaled on a global basis, we estimate a methane source strength of 62-236 Tg yr⁻¹ for living plants and 1-7 Tg yr⁻¹ for plant litter (1 Tg = 10¹² g). We suggest that this newly identified source may have important implications for the global methane budget and may call for a reconsideration of the role of natural methane sources in past climate change.

Global Warming: Blame the Forests

The Guardian, January 12, 2006

They have long been thought of as the antidote to harmful greenhouse gases, sufferers of, rather than contributors to, the effects of global warming. But in a startling discovery, scientists have realised that plants are part of the problem. According to a study published today, living plants may emit almost a third of the methane entering the Earth's atmosphere.

For an indication of what this means for the Kyoto Protocol, see [here](#) and [here](#).

Avoiding Climate 'Control'

Asian Wall Street Journal, January 11, 2006

Just six months old, the Asia-Pacific Partnership on

Clean Development and Climate already has encountered venomous hostility from those who have spent the past 15 years lobbying for the Kyoto Protocol's "climate control" mandate. The partnership among Australia, the U.S., Japan, South Korea, China and India -- whose first summit is today in Sydney -- has infuriated activists and some bureaucrats. They insist, without conclusive scientific evidence, that so-called "greenhouse gases" are causing global warming and can only be curbed through compulsory emissions cuts.

Climate Change Education Agenda

Commons Blog, January 2006

John Kerry and Al Gore both attended an Aspen, Colorado conference of 120 leaders in government, religion, media, and science over the weekend of October 6 to 8 with the goal of setting an agenda to address a perceived gap between the science on climate change and action on climate change. The conference was sponsored by the Yale School of Forestry and details can be found on pages 24-25 of the document here. The other participants were a who's who of the environmental community.

Apocalypse How?

Grist Magazine, January 10, 2006

We greens spend a lot of time obsessing about how life as we know it is likely to end: in a slow, painful miasma of greenhouse gases; in the violent cross fire of a nuclear gang war; in mass ignominy, dead and bug-eyed in our folding chairs after endless rounds of fruitless policy discussions. But what the heck do we really know? Before the car was invented, people worried that the whole world would eventually be knee-deep in horse manure. Really, they did.

The Greening of the Sahel

CO2 Science Magazine, January 11, 2006

"The Sahel," in the words of Anyamba and Tucker (2005), "is a semi-arid region stretching approximately 5000 km across northern Africa from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to near the Red Sea in the east and extending roughly from 12°N to 18°N," which "forms an ecological transition between the Sahara desert to the north and the humid tropical savanna to the south (Le Houerou, 1980)." It was recently featured in a special issue of the Journal of Arid Environments entitled "The 'Greening' of the Sahel," which describes its recovery from what Hutchinson et al. (2005) describe as a run of "several devastating droughts and famines between the late 1960s and early 1990s."

Europe's Post 2012 Climate Policies

IBL Istituto, January 11, 2006

After the COP 11 held in Montreal, the issue of climate change becomes more challenging. The bickering on the Kyoto Protocol - ratified by the European Union, but opposed to by the United States - is making way for a more constructive quest: the search for a strategy capable of encouraging research and development efforts into cleaner energy sources and a genuinely global debate on this issue. This new approach is made more compelling by the looming end of the first period of implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012.

Asia-Pacific Pacts Nations Press Business for Climate Cash

AFX, January 11, 2006

The private sector and not governments must take the lead in halting global warming, some of the world's biggest-polluting nations said as controversial talks on climate change began. Ministers from the United States, China, India, Japan, South Korea and Australia met top executives from major mining and energy companies to seek high-tech ways of addressing the issue.

Asia-Pacific Pact Nations Advance Private-Public Climate Initiatives

Reuters, January 11, 2006

Six of the world's biggest polluters, led by the United States, will create a multi-million dollar fund to encourage mining and power industries to develop and use cleaner energy technologies to combat climate change. The Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate between the United States, Australia, Japan, China, South Korea and India will also form eight working groups with business and industry to develop clean-energy projects for the fund.

Reality Check on Big Freeze in Asia

The Scotsman, January 9, 2006

India's capital New Delhi recorded its lowest temperature for 70 years yesterday as unusually cold weather continued to cause havoc across Asia. In Japan, where at least 63 people have died and more than 1,000 have been injured since heavy snowfalls began last month, troops and volunteers shovelled snow from roofs and roads, while in China's Xinjiang province cattle were dying in the fields in temperatures of -43C and a 25-mile section of the Yellow River froze.

EU Guidelines on Kyoto

FinFacts, January 9, 2006

Emissions trading: European Commission sets out guidance on national allocations for 2008-2012. The European Commission has published a Communication setting out guidance to help member states when they draw up national plans for allocating carbon dioxide

emission allowances for 2008-2012 under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS).

Greens Appear Desperate in Australia
TCS Daily, January 8, 2006

Things are not going well for the global warming alarmists. The first high level meeting of governments which account for the largest share of the world's economy, most of the world's population and most emissions of greenhouse gases will be held in Sydney, Australia, this week. But the greens decry the event.

U.S. Says Industry Key to Six Nation
Climate Pact

Reuters, January 10, 2006

The United States hopes a meeting of some of the world's biggest polluting nations and industries in Sydney from Wednesday will agree a "common strategy" to reduce global warming by identifying industry-specific energy reforms. Unlike the Kyoto Protocol which the United States rejects due to its binding greenhouse gas reduction targets, Washington will come to the Sydney talks promoting mandatory and voluntary targets to cut pollution in mining and heavy industries.

Debate Shifts From Kyoto to Voluntary
Measures

AP, January 10, 2006

A US-led partnership to combat global warming through cleaner energy technologies is the latest sign that the debate is shifting away from caps on emissions of greenhouse gases and toward voluntary measures, experts said yesterday. The United Nations cautiously welcomed the inaugural Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, which starts tomorrow. It brings together the United States, Australia, China, India, South Korea and Japan - which together produce half the world's greenhouse gases.

China's Coldest Winter in 20 Years

AFP, January 2, 2006

China, already enduring its coldest winter in 20 years, is preparing for a cold snap that will see temperatures drop by as much as 16 degrees Centigrade (29 degrees Fahrenheit). Northern China, where temperatures are already as low as minus 15-20 degrees Celsius, will feel the strongest effects of the cold front, which is sweeping in from Mongolia and western Siberia, the China Daily reported.

The British Debate Over Climate Change Continues
CCNet, January 4, 2005

Professor David Henderson of the University of

Westminster responds to the UK Environment department's critique of the nonpartisan House of Lords report on the economics of climate change. His conclusion: in this corner of Whitehall, Dr Pangloss is alive and well. It is to be hoped that he will not be made welcome to the proceedings of the Stern Review.

The Revival of Nuclear Energy

The Guardian, January 2, 2005

A Russian gas supply crisis triggered warnings last night that UK householders will face further significant price increases in 2006. Growing unease over future energy security in Britain also led to calls for a quick decision on a new generation of nuclear power stations. Analysts predict that, as things stand, by 2020 almost 70% of Britain's electricity generation will be reliant on gas imported from countries such as Russia.

The Ice Age Cometh

India Daily, December 29, 2005

Ice ages come every 11,000 years. A mega ice age comes every 105,000 years. Both are due between now and 2012. The 11,000 year cycle happens because of increase and decrease of cyclical underwater volcanic eruption. The 105,000 mega ice age happens because of the changing shape of the orbit of the earth around the sun - circular to elliptical and then back to circular every 105,000 years. Both the cycles are overdue. They have actually started.

Solar-Powered Millennial-Scale Climactic Change

CO2 Science Magazine, January 4, 2006

Many palaeoclimate records from earth's North Atlantic region depict a millennial-scale oscillation of climate, which during the last glacial period was highlighted by Dansgaard-Oeschger events that regularly recurred at approximately 1,470-year intervals (Rahmstorf, 2003). Because of the consistency of their occurrence, it was long believed that these well-tuned periodic events were orchestrated by similarly-paced solar activity; but a major problem with this idea was that no known solar process or orbital perturbation exhibited the periodicity of the Dansgaard-Oeschger events. Now, however, Braun et al. (2005) have performed an analysis that successfully explains this dichotomy.

New Study Says Solar Activity Primary Driving Force Behind Climate Change

Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology, Volume 230, 17 January 2006, Pages 155-164

During the past 6000 years, the temperature variation trend inferred from $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of peat cellulose in a peat core from Hongyuan (eastern Qinghai-Tibet plateau,

southwestern China) is similar to the atmospheric ^{14}C concentration trend and the modeled solar output trend. The general trend of Hongyuan d^{18}O during the past millennium also coincides well with the atmospheric ^{14}C concentration trend, the ^{10}Be concentration trend in an ice core from the South Pole, the reconstructed total solar irradiance trend, as well as the modeled solar output trend. In addition, temperature events also correspond well to solar perturbations during the past 6000 years. Therefore, the driving force of Holocene temperature variations should be properly ascribed to solar activity. The spectrum analysis further illustrates that quasi-100-yr fluctuation of solar activity was probably responsible for temperature variations in northeast Qinghai-Tibet plateau during the past 6000 years.

New Zealand Says Carbon Tax Too Costly
The Age, December 30, 2005

NEW Zealand has abandoned plans to introduce a carbon tax after deciding it would not cut emissions enough to justify the cost of its introduction, a move that comes as Victoria negotiates with other states for an Australian emissions trading scheme. New Zealand's carbon tax was to be set at a relatively low level of \$A14 per tonne of carbon emissions and was expected to add 6 per cent to electricity prices. That price compares with about €21 (\$A34) per tonne at which carbon is trading in the European emissions market created by the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol a year ago. However, a carbon tax is more punitive than credits as it is paid by all emitters and cannot be traded away.

The Treatment of Climate Change Issues: Evidence Submitted to the Stern Review
CCNet, December 19, 2005

We very much welcome both the setting up of the Stern Review and the chance to submit evidence to it. The Review could open up a new phase in the treatment by British governments of issues relating to climate change, and we hope that it will do so. There is a dual opportunity here. First, the Review can serve a valuable purpose by contributing to public enlightenment and a better informed debate. Second, and more controversially, it could put to the test the widely accepted view that established official procedures and policies in this area, both within the UK and internationally, are soundly based and well judged. Here we make some observations under both these headings, focussing chiefly on the second.

Leading British Economists Question Climate Policies
CCNet, December 19, 2005

In a significant development, four leading British economists have just made an important contribution to public debate on issues of climate change. In evidence submitted to the government-appointed "Stern Review" on the economics of climate change, they argue for a critical examination of both British and international policies and procedures in this area.

ANALYSIS: Ruse of Gigantic Proportions

The Calgary Sun, December 11, 2005

During the 10-day United Nations Climate Change Conference that wrapped up on Friday in Montreal, a Greenpeace staffer said something so idiotic and implausible that not one of the 10,000 delegates called him on. "Global warming can mean colder, it can mean drier, it can mean wetter, that's what we're dealing with," said Steven Guilbeault, the director of the Greenpeace movement for Quebec. So now that colder means warmer basically, anything goes.

Solar Radiation: Climate Models Fail to Get it Right

Geophysical Research Letters, Vol. 32, 2005

Monthly averages of solar radiation reaching the Top of the Atmosphere (TOA) as simulated by 20 General Circulation Models (GCMs) during the period 1985-1988 are compared. They were part of submissions to AMIP-2 (Atmospheric Model Intercomparison Project). Monthly averages of ISCCP-FD (International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project - Flux Data) are considered as reference. Considerable discrepancies are found: Most models reproduce the prescribed Total Solar Irradiance (TSI) value within $\pm 0.7 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$. Monthly zonal averages disagree between ± 2 to $\pm 7 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$, depending on latitude and season. The largest model diversity occurs near polar regions. Some models display a zonally symmetric insolation, while others and ISCCP show longitudinal deviations of the order of $\pm 1 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$. With such differences in meridional gradients impacts in multi-annual simulations cannot be excluded. Sensitivity studies are recommended.

More Evidence of Solar Forcing of

Terrestrial Climate

Geophysical Research Letters, Vol. 32, 2005

Over the 120 y period (1871-1990) for which reliable Indian rainfall statistics are available, solar activity parameters exhibit nonstationarity. Taking this fact into account, we present here the results of an analysis of four solar activity indices and seven major Indian monsoon rainfall time series, over two distinct test periods respectively of low and high solar activity, each comprising three complete solar cycles. It is found that the average rainfall is higher in all seven rainfall indices during periods of greater solar activity, at confidence levels varying from 75% to 99%, being 95% or greater

in three of them. Using wavelet techniques it is also found that the power in the 8-16 y band during the period of higher solar activity is higher in 6 of the 7 rainfall time series, at confidence levels exceeding 99.99%. These results support existence of connections between Indian rainfall and solar activity.

Treaty Ties that Bind

Reason Online, December 12, 2005

In Gulliver's Travels, the diminutive Lilliputians tie down the "giant" Gulliver with hundreds of tiny cords. The other nations of the world are hoping to try the same trick on the "giant" United States, binding it with strings of small international agreements that will ultimately restrict its emissions of greenhouse gases. The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal ended this past weekend with two such accords. In the first deal, the parties to the Kyoto Protocol reached an agreement to launch negotiations about imposing further restrictions on their emissions of greenhouse gases after that treaty expires in 2012. Since the United States is not a party to the Kyoto Protocol it had no say in this agreement.

Nature's Style: Naturally Trendy

Geophysical Research Letters, December 8, 2005

These findings have implications for both science and public policy. For example, with respect to temperature data there is overwhelming evidence that the planet has warmed during the past century. But could this warming be due to natural dynamics? Given what we know about the complexity, long-term persistence, and non-linearity of the climate system, it seems the answer might be yes. Finally, that reported trends are real yet insignificant indicates a worrisome possibility: natural climatic excursions may be much larger than we imagine. So large, perhaps, that they render insignificant the changes, human-induced or otherwise, observed during the past century.

Australia: Forget Climate Target, Timetables

Reuters, December 9, 2005

Short-term targets and tight timetables are no solution to fighting climate change, Australia's environment minister said on Thursday on the sidelines of a U.N. climate conference. The talks have struggled to make headway on advancing the next phase of the Kyoto Protocol after 2012. The pact enshrines binding curbs on the emission of greenhouse gases, something Australia and the United States say threatens economic growth. Both countries have refused to ratify Kyoto, saying clean technology is crucial in fighting climate change.

Trail Goes Cold in Search for Climate Deal

The Times, December 9, 2005

The Montreal conference on global warming looks like ending tonight with no big agreement: nothing approaching the status of the Kyoto Protocol, and possibly nothing at all. That is not a tragedy. It is more like a success. One of the fortnight's achievements is to have drawn attention to the difficulty of enforcing the Kyoto Protocol itself, never mind drafting a successor, given that so many countries are on course to breach it by an extravagant margin.

Copying Zeropa: U.S. States Pay Price for Mandatory Climate Policies**Yahoo Financial News, December 7, 2005**

U.S. States that are moving forward with legislation to address climate change through mandatory carbon emissions reductions and mandatory emission trading regimes will pay a high economic price for their policies, according Dr. Margo Thorning, senior vice president and chief economist with the American Council for Capital Formation.

Italian Environment Minister Won't Risk Damaging Businesses**AGI Online, December 7, 2005**

Environment minister Altero Matteoli arriving in Montreal today to take part in the UN conference on the climate said: "We cannot damage our businesses that must become competitive again"

Blair Deserts Kyoto**Financial Post, December 8, 2005**

As the UN's climate convention in Montreal draws to a close, it is becoming apparent that, despite the usual rhetoric, all attempts will fail to extend the Kyoto Treaty beyond its expiration in 2012. What is largely overlooked, however, is that - for the first time ever - hardly any pressure was put on the U.S. to yield. The driving-force behind this seismic shift of the political landscape is one man and one man only: Tony Blair.

Media's Propensity For Gloomy Eco-Stories**BBC News, November 30, 2005**

The world's media has been criticised for being too negative in its reporting of environmental issues. Continual coverage of destruction was making people switch off, delegates at the International Media and Environment Summit (Imes) in Kuching, Malaysia, were told. "We keep crying wolf and we keep overstating the doomsday scenario," said Ong Keng Yong, the Secretary General of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean).

Nuclear Energy Debate Turns Radioactive at Climate Conference

CNSNews, December 8, 2005

Nuclear energy would reduce the world's dependence on fossil fuels and help cut greenhouse gas emissions, said advocates at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal. "Expanding nuclear energy is one way that we can actually [reduce] reliance on fossil fuels in a big way," said Patrick Moore, a founding member of Greenpeace. Moore's promotion of the energy source, however, met swift resistance by the movement he helped found.

Former Greenpeace Co-Founder Praises US for Rejecting Kyoto**CNSNews, December 8, 2005**

A founding member of Greenpeace, who left the organization because he viewed it as too radical, praised the United States for refusing to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

"At least the [United] States is honest. [The U.S.] said, 'No we are not going to sign that thing (Kyoto) because we can't do that,'" said Patrick Moore, who is attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal.

ANALYSIS: Killing Kyoto**National Review Online, December 7, 2005**

At this year's UN climate conference in Montreal, there's a seriousness of purpose and an acknowledgement of difficult realities that's unprecedented. At this conference, demands for unrealistic and economically harmful cuts in greenhouse gases, such as those outlined in the Kyoto Protocol, have been blunted. Instead, consideration is being given among delegates, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), bureaucrats, and politicians to bolstering adaptive capacity.

ANALYSIS: Culture Shock in Montreal**Tech Central Station, December 8, 2005**

As one of the very few scientists at the UN's eleventh Conference of the Parties climate meeting (COP-11), I feel like an outsider. That's because I am. The army of thousands in attendance (international delegates, NGOs, and all manner of stakeholders in the climate change issue), have little interest in knowing how *certain or uncertain* the science of global warming is. All these people know - or need to know - is that the "glaciers are melting," it's getting "hotter every year", and "climate change is killing people *now*" (all of these are direct quotes from presenters).

ANALYSIS: More Than One Best Way**Tech Central Station, December 7, 2005**

The goal of the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate Change (AP6) is to address

climate change by focusing on creating and deploying technologies that emit less greenhouse gas such as carbon dioxide. The AP6 appear to be aligned with the new proposals for combining economic development and climate policies being offered by various participants in the Montreal conference. For example, the environmental think tank the World Resources Institute issued a new study that focuses on how to boost the economic growth of poor countries while simultaneously helping them improve their energy efficiency.

ANALYSIS: An Unethical Environment?

Tech Central Station, December 7, 2005

The single most important underlying theme that unites critics of affluence is a misunderstanding of basic economics. I'm not talking about the intricacies of economic theories and their associated technical buzzwords. I'm talking about concepts that are so basic to the health and happiness of a society that they should be taught in every high school -- perhaps before.

US Experiences Record Low Temperatures

AP, December 7, 2005

Bitterly cold air poured southward across the nation's midsection Wednesday, dropping temperatures to record lows from Montana to Illinois. The mercury dived to a record 45 below at West Yellowstone, Mont., the frequently cold spot at the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park, the National Weather Service said. The old record for Dec. 7 was 39 below, set in 1927.

Uncertainties in Climate Trends: Lessons from Upper-Air Temperature Records

American Meteorological Society: Volume 86, No. 10, pp. 1437-1442

We can no longer absolutely conclude whether globally the troposphere is cooling or warming relative to the surface. Clearly, however, the climate system has evolved in one unique way. Hence the challenge to the climate science community is to understand the reasons for the coherent differences between available datasets, and to discern the true climate evolution. The key first step is to understand the likely sources and causes of errors and biases. Only with this knowledge can we hope to truly reconcile the differences and gain a more complete and accurate picture of the true climate system evolution.

Climatologist Rejects Global Warming Explanation for Island Evacuation

CNSNews, December 7, 2005

Patrick J. Michaels, the author of several books on

climate change, dismissed a report that an island's evacuation was necessitated by global warming, saying that "it's a shame, quite frankly, that this issue is being played like this at the [U.N.] climate change conference. It demeans the issue when it's so easy to counter a strident assertion with facts."

Greens: Wealthy Nations Owe "Climate Debt" to Poor

CNSNews, December 7, 2005

Environmental groups attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference have demanded that the U.S. and the other industrialized nations pay a "climate debt" to the poor nations for contributing to catastrophic, human-caused "global warming." "Let's face it, [the developing countries] are not responsible for the problem and yet they are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change," said Catherine Pearce, international climate campaigner for Friends of the Earth International (FOEI).

Feminist Group Claims Global Warming Affects Women More than Men

CNSNews, December 6, 2005

"Women and men are differently affected by climate change and they contribute differently to climate change," said Ulrike Rohr, director of the German-based group called "Genanet-Focal point gender, Environment, Sustainability, as she called for "climate gender justice." Peyton Knight of the National Center for Public Policy Research responded, saying "Nature does not discriminate between the sexes. The issue is absurd on its face."

Kyoto Protocol Declared Dead at UN Climate Conference

CNSNews, December 6, 2005

"[Kyoto] is dead, but no one wants to pull the life support system. [It] is flawed, it is not going anywhere. It simply is not going to happen. There is no available technology that is going to make [the size of greenhouse gas emissions required by the protocol,]" Bill O'Keefe of the George Marshall Institute said of the protocol's 2012 goal of getting top industrialized nations to cut their industrial emissions by 5.2 percent from the level that was produced in 1990.

PRESS RELEASE: Judges Deny Rehearing of Greenhouse Gas Lawsuit

CEI.org, December 2, 2005

The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals has turned away an appeal from state authorities and environmental groups which sought to compel the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate emissions of carbon dioxide as a pollutant. The Court previously ruled that the EPA was

not required to regulate CO₂.

U.S. Court Rejects Appeal of EPA Greenhouse Gas Rule

Bloomberg, December 2, 2005

A federal court rejected the appeal of a ruling that lets carmakers such as General Motors Corp. and utilities such as American Electric Power Co. avoid federal standards for emission curbs under the 1977 Clean Air Act. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit voted 4-3 to deny a petition for a review by the full court, after a three-judge panel ruled in July the Environmental Protection Agency acted properly in rejecting a plea by 12 U.S. states to require reductions in gases linked to global warming.

Jargon obscures Montreal message

December 3, 2005

At the halfway point of the UN climate change talks in Montreal, environmental groups are struggling a bit to work out who the latest villain is in this long-running drama. Usually it is very straightforward. The US is generally a dead cert for the award of "Fossil of the Day", reviled by green groups for its rejection of the Kyoto protocol, closely followed by Saudi Arabia for what are regarded as obstructive tactics.

Bush, Blair, Beckett: Climate Criminals

Daily Telegraph, December 3, 2005

Thousands of UK demonstrators have taken to the streets as others protested around the world for action to combat the threat of global warming. Almost 10,000 people chanting slogans, waving banners and blowing whistles marched through the capital calling on the Government to tackle climate change, organisers said. The demonstration in London coincides with other events in 32 countries and with critical United Nation talks in Montreal which will be attended by the Environment Secretary, Margaret Beckett, and Elliott Morley, the Environment Minister. Some carried banners saying 'Bush, Blair, Beckett: climate criminals', while others waved banners which read 'Save Our World'.

OPINION: A Current Affair

Tech Central Station, December 2, 2005

In the December 1st issue of Nature magazine, Harry Bryden and colleagues at Britain's National Oceanography Centre report that the Atlantic meridional circulation (also known as the thermohaline circulation (THC)) -- the density driven current that carries warm surface water northward and returns

colder deep water southward -- has slowed by 30 percent between 1957 and 2004. The significance of this finding is difficult to assess in light of other recent observations.

On climate change, a change of thinking

New York Times, December 4, 2005

In December 1997, representatives of most of the world's nations met in Kyoto, Japan, to negotiate a binding agreement to cut emissions of "greenhouse" gases. The Kyoto Protocol was ultimately ratified by 156 countries. Today, in the middle of new global warming talks in Montreal, there is a sense that the whole idea of global agreements to cut greenhouse gases won't work.

ANALYSIS: Don't believe all you hear about climate change

BBC Focus, December 2005

The fact is that we don't know very much about the natural cycles of ice growth and decline in the Arctic. Detailed measurements only stretch back barely two decades and that is just too short to tell what is really happening. The ice on our world is always changing, sometimes slowly, sometimes quickly.

Is the Ice really melting?

BBC Focus, December 2005

Recently the news headlines told us that scientists at the University of Colorado had found that the extent of Arctic sea ice - the floating ice that covers the Arctic Ocean - is declining rapidly. Almost everyone said that anthropogenic global warming was to blame, but scientists need to be careful. The records of ice in the Arctic do not go very far, meaning that researchers cannot be completely sure whether what they see is a result of man or nature.

Good Cop, Bad Cop: US Rejects Blair's "Climate Hopes"

BBC News, November 30, 2005

The US has dismissed a suggestion from UK Prime Minister Tony Blair that it may be prepared to sign up to binding targets to tackle climate change. Speaking at UN climate talks in Canada, the US chief negotiator said his nation would not enter talks about fixed curbs on emissions of greenhouse gases.

Blair's Nukes Split Greens

The Times, November 30, 2005

Green lobby groups that oppose nuclear energy were accused of "fundamentalism" yesterday as the Government announced a review of whether to build a new generation of nuclear power stations. Lord May of Oxford, the outgoing president of the Royal Society,

said that environmental campaigners risked holding back the fight against climate change with an absolutist approach that refused to consider nuclear power.

Australia Says "Son of Kyoto" Deal Not Possible
Reuters, November 30, 2005

Australia's Environment Minister Ian Campbell said that any framework developed to replace the U.N.'s Kyoto Protocol on limiting emissions of gases when it runs out in 2012 needed to recognise the needs of both the developed and developing worlds. "It's unlikely that you'll have a son of Kyoto come out of Montreal," Cambell said. "If we go for that sort of achievement at Montreal, we'll walk away in tears."

Much of Global Warming Might Be Natural
After All, Senior Scientists Admit

Quarternary Science Reviews, November 29, 2005

So, what would it mean, if the reconstructions indicate a larger (Esper et al., 2002; Pollack and Smerdon, 2004; Moberg et al., 2005) or smaller (Jones et al., 1998; Mann et al., 1999) temperature amplitude? We suggest that the former situation, i.e. enhanced variability during pre-industrial times, would result in a redistribution of weight towards the role of natural factors in forcing temperature changes, thereby relatively devaluing the impact of anthropogenic emissions and affecting future predicted scenarios. If that turns out to be the case, agreements such as the Kyoto protocol that intend to

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