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Welcome to What's Emerging.

This edition features a link to presentations on future possibilities for biofuels that Paul and Sandy have recently delivered. We provide an alternative perspective on the possibilities and potential risks of biofuel industries.

We hope you enjoy this edition.

Paul Higgins, Sandy Teagle, Syed Ahmed Muqthar and Samantha Kyle-Little

Business tip

The business tip for this month is for Firefox add on's:

One of the main advantages in using Firefox rather than Internet Explorer is the fact that there is a wide community of open source developers creating add on's that increase functionality of the browser.

If you are using Firefox we suggest you try:

- Googlepedia – this looks up the Wikipedia reference for any web search that you do and displays it in a split window so your Google searches are on the left and the Wikipedia reference is on the right.
- Foxmarks – an online service which allows you to synchronise your web bookmarks across machines. The system allows you to synchronise your computer with an internet server and give other people access to your bookmarks.
- Clipmarks – an add on that makes it much easier to clip and save material from web pages.
- Jet eye – an add on that allows you to clip, annotate and share web material.

Emerging issues from around the world

Click on the titles to read the full stories

Hydrogen car

BMW has released 100 BMW 7 cars that run by burning hydrogen as well as petrol. However there are some drawbacks with the technology. To get Hydrogen to a liquid you have to cool it to minus 253 degrees Celsius. Keeping it that cold in a car causes huge problems and in fact the hydrogen starts to “boil off” within hours.

Looking inside cells

New nano-scale imaging technologies hold out the promise of being able to look inside individual cells and look at what is happening in real time.

Wireless battery charging

The dream of transmitting energy through the air has been around for a long time and is now used to power some types of radio-frequency (RFID) technology. Researchers at MIT have come up with a method to do the same for batteries.

Dark energy found

The Hubble telescope has shown that dark energy has existed since the big bang. Dark energy was a force that Einstein proposed existed and opposed the force of gravity and caused the universe to expand. Einstein later dropped the theory but may have been proven right.

Mind machine interface

Hitachi is claiming that it will have a mind machine interface commercially available by 2011.

Nano terrorist hunters

The Israeli government has announced new investment in nanotechnology with the purpose of developing tiny flying robots that can hunt down terrorists and street fighters in city fighting environments.

What does the future hold

New Scientist has a special report where 70 leading scientists have been asked to forecast what will happen over the next 70 years. Our view is that such forecasting is not possible but that the articles form an interesting collage of thinking from which we can draw some value as long as we remember that forecasts do not work like this.

New glass

Pilkington Australia has announced a \$130 million upgrade of its glass making facilities. The spending will allow Pilkington to make energy saving glass, self cleaning glass, and glass that can be used for solar energy production.

What we are writing about

Paul and Sandy were recently invited to speak at a Biofuels Regional Forum held on 24 November by the Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation (BIEDO) in Queensland. Our presentations provided information to help businesses, councils, farmers and regional community consider their options for development of a biofuels industry in the region. The presentations are available for download from our website: www.emergentfutures.com

Possible Futures for Biofuels - looks at world biofuel developments, possible

scenarios going forwards and what this means for those considering or already investing in biofuels.

Future Transport Fuels Possibilities - looks at the potential for biomass ethanol, algal biodiesel, compressed natural gas and hydrogen as fuels of the future.