

# Crude shock

## Record increase in world's use of polluting oil and coal in 2004

■ The world is indeed not ready to avert an environmental disaster. World energy consumption surged by 4.3 per cent in 2004, according to a report of the oil giant British Petroleum (BP)

■ This is the biggest percentage rise since 1984 and the largest volume increase ever

■ As per BP, the strongest rise was in Asia Pacific — 8.9 per cent. North America recorded the weakest growth at 1.6 per cent

■ Polluting coal remained the fastest growing fuel, with its use rising by 6.3 per cent globally; China accounted for 75 per cent of the increase

■ Oil consumption grew by 3.4 per cent — the most rapid increase since 1986. The increase took place despite prices averaging US \$38.27 per barrel. Global oil production exceeded 80 million barrels per day for the first time in 2004

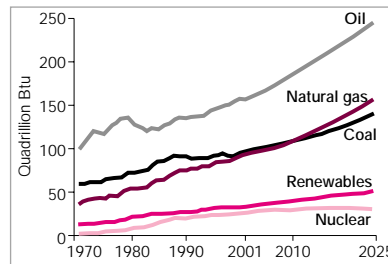
■ As per the US-based Worldwatch Institute, China and the US were the main engines driving fossil fuel markets in 2004, accounting between them for nearly half the increase in world oil demand. The US increased its oil use to 20.5 million barrels a day — nearly 25 per cent of the world total. China used 6.6 million barrels of oil per day

■ Enough oil remains for world production to keep rising indefinitely. Oil consumption is expected to increase up to 115 million barrels per day by 2020, according to the International Energy Agency

■ On the whole, world energy consumption is projected to increase by 54 per cent from 2001 through to 2025

■ High consumption of fossil fuels means increase in the emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas (GHG) blamed for global warming (rising temperatures)

■ Nearly three times as much carbon dioxide was released in 2004 as in 1960



Note: Btu is British thermal unit; Quadrillion Btu is the amount of heat energy needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water by 1°F

■ Fossil fuel burning released more than seven billion tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2004, an increase of at least three per cent over 2003

■ Ten countries were responsible for about two-thirds of the global carbon dioxide emissions from fuel use in 2004. The US, with five per cent of the world's population, accounts for nearly a quarter of the total. Between 1990 and 2003, US energy-related emissions rose by 16 per cent

■ In 2004, BP was responsible for 17 per cent of all GHG emissions from the UK's FTSE group of companies (the market leaders). By publishing data about increased energy use, is the company finding justification for the expansion of its activities?

■ Such companies do not want renewable energy use to rise — only 8,210 megawatts of wind energy capacity was added globally in 2004, bringing the total to a minuscule 47,760 megawatts

