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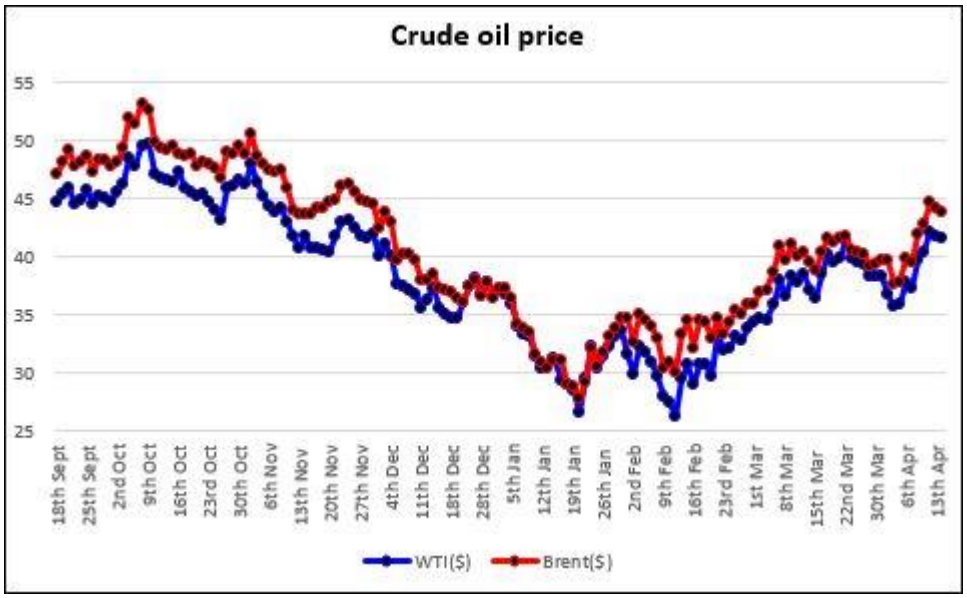
Some of the news items for this week are as follows:



1. Crude oil prices fluctuated between $40 and $43, in anticipation of the production freeze meeting schedules to be held at Doha on April 17th. The meeting will be held between OPEC and non-OPEC countries, with Iran also participating in it.
2. People are anxiously waiting for some favourable outcome of the Doha meeting. There is a section of analysts who believe that even if any agreement is reached, there may not be much that would help the growing glut in the oil market.
3. The top executives of the world's largest trading houses met at Lausaane, Switzerland this week, and some of them said that the down market is behind us and that oil price should go upwards from now on. They anticipated that the price of be barrel will be $50 next year.
4. According to a survey conducted by Platts, a leading independent provider of information and benchmark process for commodities and energy markets, the oil production from OPEC rose by $0,000 b/d to 32.38 mb/d in March. While Iran's and Iraq's oil production increased, it dropped for UAE, Libya, Nigeria and Venezuela. Iran's production increased by 110,000 b/d to 3.23 mb/d. Iraq's oil production rose by 30,000 b/d to 4.16 mb/d.
5. According to the IEA, the global oil markets will get closer to balance in the second half of this year, the lower oil prices are making the production outside OPEC to reduce. The agency is also hopeful that the world fuel consumption will increase by 1.2 mb/d in 2016, which represents a growth of 1.2%.

6. Meanwhile, the reduction in headcount by various companies continues, with EMGS announcing that it would reduce the company's global headcount by 15%. This is in view of the reduced 'work scopes' by various oil companies around the world in view of the downturn.

So much for the industry news this week.

For the lighter side this week

In recent weeks I came across another term called '*Matilda effect*', which is somewhat related to the *Matthew effect* that I described earlier. Matilda effect refers to the repression and denial of the contribution of women scientists in research. Instead, their work is often attributed to their male colleagues. This effect was first described by science historian Margaret W. Rossiter in 1993, and named after US Women's activist Matilda Joslyn Gage, who first made an observation at the end of the 19th century from her own experience, that women are overlooked and received almost no credit for their scientific achievements because of gender, even though their work was of similar quality as that of men.

Since the awareness of this effect, it has been seen to persist in other fields such as medicine and art history.

Some studies carried out in recent years have confirmed the existence of this effect, even though gender discrimination has continued to decline in North America. Scholarly efforts of women are considered less important than those of men, which then leads to them receiving fewer scientific awards and prizes.

An example I quote here is about Ida Noddack, a German Chemist and Physicist, who first speculated about nuclear fission and also discovered the element Rhenium. Her research paper on nuclear fission was largely ignored. In 1934, she published a paper contradicting Enrico Fermi's claim to have produced trans-uranic elements, and floated the idea of nuclear fission. Though Noddack's idea was proven later by Lise Meitner in 1938, but Fermi was awarded the 1938 Nobel Prize in Physics for 'discovery of trans-uranic elements. There are many other examples listed on the following link. I suggest you check them out.

http://thematildaeffect.tumblr.com/

As such examples of gender bias are brought forward, efforts can be made to help mitigate them. Credit and appreciation should be given for its worthiness and where it is due. Such efforts are a recognition of the work accomplished, and encourages scientists to forge ahead.

What say you all?

Did you know?

When it comes to waterfalls, the Niagara Falls in Canada are very famous. They are located 120 km southeast of Toronto, where water falls from a height of 188 ft. But they are not the highest falls in the world. That record is held by Angel Falls located on Orinoco River in Venezeula, where water falls an uninterrupted height of 3212 ft.

I hope you find these interesting.

So much for this week! Till the next post, stay safe and happy!