



January 2007

There have been some interesting developments in the world of bottled water over the last month:

The news over the past month has become increasingly critical of bottled water. In one article published in The Mercury from South Africa, a journalist actually asks whether 2007 will “be the year that sinks the bottled water fad?” Judging from some of the past month’s headlines, she may not be far off the mark.

One big development this past month comes out of the UK where food and farming advocates [Sustain](#) released a report on bottled water issues called [Have you bottled it? How drinking tap water can help save you and the planet](#). The report coincided with the release of a survey conducted by Sustain of a sample of British Government departments and agencies, which highlighted that most serve bottled water at meetings.

The report, which exposes a number of issues including bottled water’s environmental and health risks, and survey led to a number of news stories in the UK and around the world, which has helped put bottled water issues into the public eye.

Other developments over the last month include:

- It was reported in early December that both **Coke** and **PepsiCo** are looking to expand their bottled water operations in Europe where their main competitors Nestlé and Danone are market leaders.
- **Coke** and **PepsiCo’s** troubles in India continued when the country’s health minister [reportedly](#) called for a ban on the sale of soft drinks in schools and universities. This is another setback for the drinks giants whose sales have taken a hit in India over the past six months following

the release of a [study](#) from the [Center for Science and Environment](#) that showed elevated levels of pesticides in the companies' products.

- In a report that hurts **Nestlé's** already tarnished track record on water takings, Japanese officials learned that mineral water company Fujiaqua, formerly affiliated with the Swiss giant, built a facility to draw water from a national park, but it eight years had never submitted the proper application. The facility was built without permission from the prefectural government in 1998. Nestlé bottled and sold the brand until April 2006.
- **Antimony** contamination was widely reported in the Canadian Press in December after University of Heidelberg Professor William Shotyk presented his findings at a Polaris Institute event in Ottawa. Through an extensive study of 132 brands of bottled water from 28 countries, Shotyk has found that the concentration of certain dangerous chemicals, such as antimony, increases the longer the water sits in the plastic bottle.

The media attention generated from the event generated a response from the [Canadian Bottled Water Association](#).

- Two reports were published last month about safety issues surrounding the growth of unlicensed bottled water brands in Indonesia and Zimbabwe.

Headlines from the industry:

[Europe] [Coke and PepsiCo eye European water expansion](#)

December 4, 2006

Just-Drinks

[China] [Tingyi plans bottled water surge to lift beverage sales](#)

December 4, 2006

The Standard

[Australia] [Recycling drops off Throw-away mentality a waste](#)

December 6, 2006

Gold Coast Sun

[Japan] [Dispatch: In Japan, there's water everywhere, some with extra oxygen in the bottle](#)

December 13, 2006

The Wall Street Journal Asia

[US] [\[Salt Lake City Mayor\] Rocky \[Anderson\] targets waste of bottled water](#)

December 18, 2006
Deseret Morning News

[India] [Coke, Pepsi in government setback - report](#)

December 18, 2006
Just-Drinks

[Indonesia] [Not all drinking water safe: Agency](#)

December 16, 2006
The Jakarta Post

[US] [State Ready To Give Nestle The Ok On Water Proposal](#)

December 19, 2006
Detroit Free Press

[Canada] [Storing water for emergencies unsafe, expert says](#)

December 20, 2006
The Ottawa Citizen

[Canada] [Plastic bottles leach chemicals into water: study](#)

December 21, 2006
The Canadian Press

[Zimbabwe] [Only 19 Bottled Water Dealers Registered](#)

December 21, 2006
All Africa

[Spain/Portugal] [Nestlé Waters sells operations](#)

December 22, 2006
Just-Drinks

[France] [French bottled water sales slipping as consumers turn to tapwater - report](#)

December 28, 2006
AFX International Focus

[Australia] [A glass a day to keep decay at bay: Howard](#)

December 31, 2006
Sun Herald

[Japan] [Fujiagua bottled water was not licensed](#)

December 31, 2006
Daily Yomiuri

[UK] [Springing Up In Whitehall, The Bottled Water Revolt](#)

January 2, 2007

Daily Mail

[UK] [Health warning over safety of bottled water](#)

January 3, 2007

The Independent

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