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MAIN HIGHLIGHT

Swine flu 'Shows Drug Resistance'

Experts have reported the first case of swine flu that is resistant to Tamiflu - the main drug being used to fight the pandemic.

29 June 2009, BBC News.

Roche Holding AG confirmed a patient with H1N1 influenza in Denmark showed resistance to the antiviral drug. David Reddy, a company executive, said that this was not unexpected given that common seasonal flu could do the same. Mr Reddy stressed that there were no signs of a Tamiflu-resistant strain of H1N1 circulating in the community. This is in contrast to seasonal H1N1 flu where a Tamiflu resistant strain emerged last year and is now widely circulating.

Denmark Finds 1st Case of H1N1 Resistance to Tamiflu.

29 June 2009, Reuters.

Surveillance for antiviral resistance in the new strain is continuing, though the isolated case in Denmark does not pose a threat to public health or reason to change recommendations for use of Tamiflu, said David Daigle, a spokesman for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "It is well known and expected that influenza virus can mutate spontaneously. The resistance has not changed the capability of the virus to transmit or cause disease, and the assessment is still that this is a relatively mild influenza," Daigle said in an email.

Additional Info:

The latest H1N1 information update (WHO).

Will two flus mix in Indonesia? Experts worry (Reuters).

WHO says Tamiflu-resistant H1N1 'isolated case' (Reuters).

145 new H1N1 cases raise total infected in Singapore to 599 (Channel News Asia).

US invests in advanced flu vaccine method (Reuters).

HEALTH SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- 'Why the world needs global health initiatives', 22 June 2009, World Health Organization.
- John M. Barry, 'Pandemic reality check', 23 June 2009, *The Washington Post*.
- 'Global use of cocaine, heroin and cannabis declines: UN', 24 June 2009, *AFP*.
- 'Indonesia worried Aussies bringing swine flu to Bali', 24 June 2009, *AFP*.
- 'Egypt reports first swine flu case in Mecca pilgrim', 25 June 2009, *AFP*.
- 'Swine flu virus "stable" for now: WHO chief', 25 June 2009, *AFP*.
- Mike Stobbe, 'US swine flu cases may have hit 1 million', 25 June 2009, *Associated Press*.

Papers & Reports

- 'Maximizing Positive Synergies between Health Systems and Global Health Initiatives', High Level Dialogue, WHO, 23 June 2009.

The World Health Organization (WHO) convened a meeting between member countries, represented by ministries of health, Global Health Initiatives, UN agencies, academia, and civil society, with the purpose of presenting the results of the Maximizing Positive Synergies Collaborative Group. The aims were to promote debate about its findings and to define policy options to implement its recommendations. The statement which was released represents an important point of departure from previous thinking and work, and signals a new era of cooperation and alignment to local country needs.

- Nicola Hawthorne and Claire Anderson, 'The Global Pharmacy Workforce: A Systematic Review of the Literature', *Human Resources for Health*, vol. 7, no. 48, 19 June 2009.

The importance of health workforce provision has gained significance and is now considered one of the most pressing issues worldwide, across all health professions. Against this background, the objectives of this study were to systematically explore and identify contemporary issues surrounding expansion of the global pharmacy workforce. The results highlighted that successful scaling up of the global pharmacy workforce is a complex, multiple-factor responsibility, requiring coordinated action. The authors call for more coordinated monitoring and modelling of the pharmacy workforce worldwide, particularly in developing countries.

Events & Announcements

- University of Oxford Global Health Summer School, 13–17 July 2009.
- Global Health Governance – a Search for Meaning, 16 July 2009.
- Conference and Special Issue on Influenza in the Asia-Pacific region, 21-23 August 2009.
- Global Biosecurity: Safeguarding Agriculture and the Environment, 28 February–3 March 2010.

Latest Publications

- 'Is There a Human Right to Essential Pharmaceuticals? The Global Common, the Intellectual Common, and the Possibility of Private Intellectual Property', HKS Faculty Research Working Papers Series RWP08-074, December 2008.

By Mathias Risse.

This paper argues that there is a human right to vital pharmaceuticals, in terms of ensuring that intellectual property rights do not unduly limit access to necessary pharmaceuticals. The author argues that this human right draws on foundational considerations about intellectual property. The piece explores parallels between a Global Common and an Intellectual Common, both of which all of humanity would have symmetrical ownership rights.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Ochieng Ogodo, 'Small farmers could cash in on carbon monitoring', 22 June 2009, SciDev.net.
- 'Action on HFC Gases "Low Hanging Fruit" opportunity to combat climate change says UN environment chief', 22 June 2009, *United Nations Environment Programme News Centre*.

- Anthony Costello, 'Running a temperature: Climate change will soon be the world's greatest health crisis', 24 June 2009, *Foreign Policy*.
- Cesar Bacani, 'Asia challenges the US for green-tech supremacy', 25 June 2009, *Time.com*.
- Ryan Schuchard and Nicki Weston, 'The nexus of climate change and human rights', 25 June 2009, BusinessGreen.com.
- Suzzane Goldenberg, 'Barack Obama pleads with Congress to pass historic climate change bill', 26 June 2009, *The Guardian*.
- Roger Harrabin, 'UK to outline emission cut plans', 26 June 2009, *BBC News*.
- Charles Babington, 'Obama implores Senate to pass climate bill', 27 June 2009, *Associated Press*.

Papers & Reports

- 'Natural Allies: Engaging Civil Society in UNEP's Work (2nd Edition)', United Nations Environment Programme, 2009.

This second edition of *Natural Allies: Engaging Civil Society in UNEP's Work* provides a clear picture of how civil society can and does work with UNEP, both benefiting from and strengthening UNEP's programme of work. UNEP hopes this book will contribute to assisting civil society catalyse the political and social changes needed if we are to accelerate a transition to a resource efficient, low carbon, sustainable Green Economy in the 21st century.

- 'Understanding and Responding to Climate Change in Developing Asia', Asian Development Bank, June 2009.

This report summarises the recommendations of regional plans and outlines ongoing and planned interventions to help build low-carbon, climate resilient economies in Asia and the Pacific.

- Pew Center on Global Climate Change, 'Key Scientific Developments Since the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report', Science Brief 2, June 2009.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Fourth Assessment Report in 2007, summarising the scientific community's current understanding of the science of climate change. Since that time, a number of new scientific results have been published that expand our understanding of climate science. This brief summarises some of the key findings since the last IPCC assessment.

- International Organization for Migration, 'Migration, Climate Change and the Environment', IOM Policy Brief, May 2009.

This Policy Brief presents key information and analysis on the interplay between migration, climate change and the environment. It is designed as a general introduction to the topic and presentation of the perspective and involvement of the International Organization for Migration in this field.

Events & Announcements

- Scoping Meeting for the IPCC 5th Assessment Report, 13-17 July 2009, Venice, Italy.
- UNESCO International Seminar on Climate Change Education, 27-29 July 2009, UNESCO, Paris.
- G8 (+5) Summit, 8-10 July 2009, L'Aquila, Italy.

Latest Publications

- *Atmospheric Justice: A Political Theory of Climate Change*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

By Steve Vanderheiden.

When the policies and activities of one country or generation harm both other nations and later generations, they constitute serious injustices. Recognizing the broad threat posed by anthropogenic climate change, advocates for an international climate policy development process have expressly aimed to mitigate this pressing contemporary environmental threat in a manner that promotes justice. Yet, while making justice a primary objective of global climate policy has been the movement's noblest aspiration, it remains an onerous challenge for policymakers. *Atmospheric Justice* is the first single-authored work of political theory that addresses this pressing challenge via the conceptual frameworks of justice, equality, and responsibility.

FOOD SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- 'Food security in Africa: China's new rice bowl', 27 May 2009, The Jamestown Foundation.
- 'Land grabs threaten food security', 10 June 2009, *IRIN News*.
- 'World hunger hits one billion', 19 June 2009, *BBC News*.
- 'Farm loss may leave nation hungry', 23 June 2009, *Jakarta Globe*.
- Alister Doyle, 'Farm insurance may help poor confront climate risk', 24 June 2009, *Reuters*.
- 'World Bank loans Philippines US\$ 70.36m to boost rice output', 25 June 2009, *Channel News Asia*.
- 'The global food crisis: The end of the plenty', June 2009, *National Geographic*.

Papers & Reports

- 'Food Outlook', Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2009.

The Food Outlook offers the most updated global market analysis on various food products by taking into account various elements such as, among others, the rise and decline of food prices, the economic downturn and the growing linkages between the agricultural sector and energy.

- Bodiguel Clotilde, et al., 'Factors of Unsustainable and Overexploitation in Marine Fisheries: Views From the Southern Mediterranean, West Africa, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean', FAO Project Report, 2009.

This document contains the reports of these regional workshops of an FAO project initiated in 2001 to address issues related to factors of overexploitation and unsustainability in fisheries, as a way to improve the framework for the implementation of international fisheries instruments. Further, in order to attain a regional perspective on such factors, particularly in relation to the specific issues or the constraints and opportunities facing developing

countries, three regional workshops were held focusing on the southern Mediterranean, West Africa, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean.

- 'Anchoring Agriculture Within A Copenhagen Agreement', FAO Policy Brief, 2009.

A policy brief for UNFCCC parties by the FAO to highlight the importance of agriculture in mitigating climate change.

- Annie Shattuck and Eric Holt-Giménez, 'Why the Global Food Security Act Will Fail to Curb Hunger', Food First Policy Brief No. 18, Institute for Food & Development Policy, 15 April 2009.

A bill before the US Senate would create a federal mandate for genetically modified crop research as part of US foreign aid programs, against the recommendations of all major international assessments of agricultural development. A new report on the proposed legislation from Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy calls for urgent action to stop the bill.

Latest Publications

- 'OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2009', Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development & Food and Agriculture Organization, 2009.

This fifteenth edition covers the outlook for commodity markets during the 2009 to 2018 period, and brings together the commodity, policy and country expertise of both Organisations, providing an assessment of agricultural market prospects for production, consumption, trade, stocks and prices of the included commodities. This is the fifth time it has been prepared jointly by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 'Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Asia and the Pacific', Theme Study, UNESCAP, 2009.

The impact of food insecurity on the Asia-Pacific region and how to deal with it is the focus of an ESCAP study entitled 'Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Asia and the Pacific'. The study examines the environmental, economic and social challenges that are the roots of the region's food insecurity and suggests a regional framework of action to be taken by governments and the international community in order to create greater food security.

ENERGY SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- 'Shell CEO warns next oil spike "may already be in the making"', 8 June 2009, *Platts Commodity News*.
- 'Energy execs call for more investment despite downturn', 8 June 2009, *AFP*.
- 'Government shelves nuclear power plan', 16 June 2009, *The Jakarta Post*.
- 'China demand for oil, other resources soars as Beijing stockpiles reserves for future growth', 16 June 2009, *Associated Press*.
- 'EU calls for more cooperation with Asia on clean, sustainable energy', 18 June 2009, *Xinhua*.
- 'S. Korea eyes leadership role in global "green" race', 19 June 2009, *The Korea Herald*.

- 'Energy demand in Asia to double by 2030, says ADB', 23 June 2009, *Financial Express (India)*.
- 'IEA calls oil and natural gas outlook very uncertain as economic crisis hits markets: Oil prices may be rebounding; Gas demand dips for first times in 50 years', 29 June 2009, International Energy Agency.

Papers & Reports

- Benjamin K. Sovacool, 'Energy Policy and Cooperation in Southeast Asia: The History, Challenges, and Implications for the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP) Network', *Energy Policy* 37, 2009, 2356-2367.

This paper explores the proposed multi-billion dollar TAGP network in Southeast Asia and focuses on the interests and reasons behind this initiative. It also assesses the challenges facing the TAGP in terms of promotion, implementation and operation while exploring also the numerous economic, environmental, legal, political, social and technical impediments to this regional project. The author argues that the rhetoric of regional energy cooperation touted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) does not match its actual practice. He also suggested that in many cases, ASEAN discussions about regionalism and energy security are actually meant to obscure opportunistic thinking within individual countries.

Events & Announcements

- ICEE 2009 – International Conference on Energy and Environment, 26-28 August 2009, Singapore.

Latest Publications

- *Asian Energy Security: The Maritime Dimension*, New York, United States: Palgrave MacMillan, 2009.

Edited by Hongyi Lai.

In the recent decade, Asia has become a crucial player in the world energy market and international energy politics, due to its rising energy demands and initiatives in securing energy supplies around the world. Meanwhile, more Asian nations have higher stakes in energy security, and the security of sea lanes for transport. The series of precautionary measures taken by these countries have profound regional and global implications. This volume first of all surveys the initiatives taken by China and Japan – the major Asian energy consumers – to secure energy supplies and vital sea routes for transportation. In this regard, the study also covers the Strait of Malacca, the South China Sea and the East China Sea as areas of interest. The volume also discusses theoretical issues related to energy and maritime security in Asia. This volume essentially aims to contribute to the limited but growing body of literature on Asian energy markets and on maritime security.

About Us

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies is a research centre of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

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