



# NTS BULLETIN

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#### Disclaimer:

*All links and news reports are correct at the time of publication.*

## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

### World falling short on emergency food aid-UN body, 29 July 2009, Reuters.

The world is falling far short in feeding its most critically hungry, pledging only US\$ 3.7 billion of the US\$ 6.7 billion needed to fund the World Food Programme (WFP) for 2009, the head of the United Nations relief agency said on Wednesday.

The agency has so far received only US\$ 1.8 billion and has had to cut back rations and programs to the 108 million people it serves, said Josette Sheeran, its executive director.

The cutbacks will have a 'destabilizing' impact in parts of the world reeling from dramatically higher food prices and less income due to the global financial crisis.

"There's nothing more basic than food. If people don't have it, one of three things happen: they revolt, they migrate or they die," said Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

More than 1 billion people in the world are chronically hungry, up from 860 million two years ago. The WFP helps feed those deemed most desperate -- about 10 percent of the total. When food prices soared to record levels last year, prompting riots and hoarding in some countries, the WFP raised a record \$5 billion in donations -- about \$2 billion more than in 2007 -- to help feed 102 million people in 78 countries.

#### Additional Info:

North Korean food need 'critical', 1 July 2009, BBC News.

Marshall Bouton, 'Hungry world: A silent crisis calls for urgent action', 7 July 2009, YaleGlobal Online.

Rajat Roy, 'Food security scheme: More worries for states', 9 July 2009, Business Standard (India).

'G8 pledges to boost food supplies', 10 July 2009, BBC News.

## HEALTH SECURITY

### News & Commentaries

- Andrew Watson, 'Food allergies get curiouser and curiouser', 29 July 2009, NewScientist.com.
- 'Drug-resistant malaria sparks alert,' 30 July 2009, *Al-Jazeera*.
- 'Study: Tamiflu causes nausea and nightmares in children', 31 July 2009, *CNN*.
- 'WHO lists warning signs for severe H1N1 disease', 31 July 2009, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP).
- 'Scientists find new strain of HIV', 3 August 2009, *BBC News*.
- "'Proof" malaria began in chimps', 3 August 2009, *BBC News*.
- 'Plague death toll rises in China', 4 August 2009, *BBC News*.

## **Papers & Reports**

- C. Dye, K. Lönnroth, E. Jaramillo, B. G. Williams & M. Raviglione, 'Trends in Tuberculosis Incidence and Their Determinants in 134 Countries', World Health Organization (WHO), 30 June 2009.

The study aimed to determine whether differences in national trends in tuberculosis incidence are attributable to the variable success of control programmes or to biological, social and economic factors. The study found that although TB control programmes have averted millions of deaths, their effects on transmission and incidence rates are not yet widely detectable.

- 'WHO Recommendations on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Vaccines', Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Briefing Note 2, WHO, 13 July 2009.

On 7 July 2009, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization held an extraordinary meeting in Geneva to discuss issues and make recommendations related to vaccine for the pandemic (H1N1) 2009. SAGE reviewed the current pandemic situation, the current status of seasonal vaccine production and potential A (H1N1) vaccine production capacity, and considered potential options for vaccine use.

- 'Changes in Reporting Requirements for Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Virus Infection', Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Briefing Note 3 (revised), WHO, 16 July 2009.

As the 2009 pandemic evolves, the data needed for risk assessment, both within affected countries and at the global level, are also changing. At this point, further spread of the pandemic, within affected countries and to new countries, is considered inevitable. This assumption is fully backed by experience. The 2009 influenza pandemic has spread internationally with unprecedented speed. In past pandemics, influenza viruses have needed more than six months to spread as widely as the new H1N1 virus has spread in less than six weeks.

- Kevin M. De Cock, Siobhan P. Crowley, Ying-Ru Lo, Reuben M. Granich & Brian G. Williams, 'Editorial: Preventing HIV Transmission With Antiretrovirals', The International Journal of Public Health, WHO, vol. 87, no. 7, July 2009.

At a time when other avenues of HIV prevention research, including vaccine evaluations, have given discouraging results, how to use antiretroviral therapy for the greatest simultaneous therapeutic and prevention benefit is perhaps the most pressing question in HIV research.

## **Events & Announcements**

- International Swine Flu Conference in Washington, D.C., 19-21 August 2009.

## **Latest Publications**

- 'Using indicators to determine the contribution of human rights to public health efforts', *Bull World Health Organ* 87, WHO, 7 July 2009.

By Sofia Gruskin & Laura Ferguson.

There is general agreement on the need to integrate human rights into health policies and programmes, although there is still reluctance to go beyond rhetorical acknowledgement of their assumed significance. To determine the actual value of human rights for the

effectiveness of public health efforts requires clarity about what their incorporation looks like in practice and how to assess their contribution. To capture the added value that human rights bring to health, the differences in the contributions offered by these indicators need to be understood. To determine the value of different measures for advancing programme effectiveness, improving health outcomes and promoting human rights, requires questioning the intended purpose behind the construction of an indicator, who uses it, the kind of indicator it is, the extent to which it provides information about vulnerable populations, as well as how the data are collected and used.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Adianto P. Simamora, 'Papuan act to protect forests and fight climate change', 23 July 2009, *The Jakarta Post*.
- 'China, U.S. renew commitment on global climate change treaty', 29 July 2009, *Bloomberg.com*.
- 'India has not abandoned stand on climate change: Manmohan', 30 July 2009, *The Economic Times*.
- Paul Rogers, 'A new security paradigm: The military-climate link', 30 July 2009, *OpenDemocracy.org*.
- 'Publics want more government action on climate change: Global poll', 30 July 2009, *WorldPublicOpinion.org*
- Chaitanya Kalia, 'Strengthening the role of the private sector in combating climate change', July 2009, *UNFCCC E-Newsletter*.
- 'NAPAs making headways', July 2009, *UNFCCC E-Newsletter*.

### **Papers & Reports**

- Kelly Levin, Dennis Tirpak & Jenny Pershing, 'Climate Science: Major New Discoveries', World Resources Institute (WRI), June 2009.

This annual WRI review highlights the latest major research and innovations in climate change science and technology. It presents a timely synthesis of current understanding of global warming at a critically important time for the United States and the world. The international community is negotiating a new global agreement to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases for the period post-2012, while the U.S. Congress is drafting landmark climate and energy legislation to reduce domestic emissions. This series of policy briefs provides a review of some of the major climate change science research and innovations in recent years.

- Dana Krechowicz & Hiranya Fernando, 'Undisclosed Risk: Corporate Environmental and Social Reporting in Emerging Asia', WRI, June 2009.

This report focuses on corporate transparency on environmental risks, and lays the groundwork for understanding environmental disclosure and reporting issues in emerging markets through an investor lens. It is the second report in a series establishing the link between issues like climate change, air pollution, water supply, and natural resource depletion and traditional financial analysis on corporate value and financial strength for companies in six key Asian economies — India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

- Manish Bapna, Heather McGray Gregory Mock & Lauren Withey, 'Enabling Adaptation: Priorities for Supporting the Rural Poor in a Changing Climate', WRI, June 2009.

This brief is formulated in response to an increasingly urgent need for articulating and agreeing upon a vision of effective adaptation—in part to inform the architecture for financing climate adaptation. The paper argues that the poor, and in particular the resource-dependent rural poor, must be a central concern in any effective adaptation funding effort, and that one of the major pillars of an effective adaptation strategy is support for an enabling environment that allows them to build their resilience through natural resource management.

- 'The Natural Fix?: The Role of Ecosystems in Climate Mitigation', United Nations Environment Programme, 2009.

This Rapid Assessment Report describes the vital contributions which ecosystems can and must make to improve these efforts. It presents carbon capture and storage through a Green Economy lens, outlining the potential in terms of natural systems, from forests to grasslands which have been doing the job in a tried and tested way for millennia.

### **Events & Announcements**

- The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) Inter-sessional Informal Consultations, 10-14 August 2009, Bonn, Germany.
- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) World Climate Conference, 31 August - 4 September 2009, Switzerland, Geneva.

## **FOOD SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

- 'Asian rice politics eats into food security', 10 July 2009, *Taipei Times*.
- 'Pakistan: Schooling, food security worry returnees', 23 July 2009, *IRIN*.
- 'Pro-poor growth strategies must for food security', 28 July 2009, *Daily Times* (Pakistan).
- 'Thailand's Apparent Policy Shift on Mekong Hydropower Dams', 29 July 2009, Henry Stimson Center.
- 'How To: Do a food airdrop', 30 July 2009, *IRIN*.

### **Papers & Reports**

- Pedro Conceição & Ronald U. Mendoza, 'Anatomy of the Global Food Crisis', *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 30, no. 6, September 2009.

This paper contributes to the policy discussions in the area of global food crisis by offering a preliminary diagnostic of the possible factors behind the global food crisis that erupted in 2008. Some are more immediate and possibly short-term in nature, such as the volatility in the commodities markets arising from short-term financial speculation. Others, however, are going to or have already started to affect countries' food security in the medium to longer term. These include rising and changing patterns of consumption in fast-growing and large developing countries like China and India, the possibly increasing trade-off between biofuels and food, and the unfolding effects of climate change. Keeping in mind the possible

structural features of the global food landscape from here on, the paper outlines a framework for policy actions, both unilateral and collective, to address the food crisis and ensure future global food security.

- Jennifer Clapp, 'Food Price Volatility and Vulnerability in the Global South: considering the global economic context', *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 30, no. 6, September 2009.

This paper argues that international macroeconomic factors played a key role in fostering both price volatility and vulnerability, and as such they need to be recognized. With respect to the recent price volatility, the weak US dollar and speculation on agricultural commodities futures markets greatly influenced agricultural prices.

With respect to price vulnerability, global economic forces played an important role in dampening production incentives in the world's poorest countries over the past 30 years, leading to a situation of food import dependence. Policy responses to the food crisis must consider the role of these broader international macroeconomic forces—both in the immediate context and their longer term impact.

### **Events & Announcements**

- FAO Council 137<sup>th</sup> Session, 28 September-2 October, Rome, Italy.
- Food security in a climate of change - The CABI Global Summit, 19 - 21 October 2009, London, UK.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of Agroforestry, 23-28 August 2009, Nairobi, Kenya.

### **Latest Publications**

- *Land Grab or Development Opportunity? Agricultural Investment and International Land Deals in Africa*, IIED, FAO and IFAD, June 2009.

By Lorenzo Cotula, Sonja Vermeulen, Rebeca Leonard & James Keeley,

Large-scale acquisitions of farmland in Africa, Latin America, Central Asia and Southeast Asia are making headlines in a flurry of media reports across the world. Lands that only a short time ago seemed of little outside interest are now being sought by international investors by the tune of hundreds of thousands of hectares. And while a failed attempt to lease 1.3 million hectares in Madagascar has attracted much media attention, deals reported in the international press constitute the tip of the iceberg.

The first detailed study of large scale land acquisitions in Africa analyses the modalities and likely impacts. The study highlights the possible opportunities (investments, rising agricultural productivity and rural incomes, if things are managed well) and warns about the risks (uncompensated loss of land rights for the rural poor) if contracts are not properly negotiated and enforced. It makes recommendations to the main stakeholders to make this new trend useful for food security and rural development.

## **ENERGY SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Ronnie Lim, 'Govt takes over Jurong Island LNG project', 1 July 2009, *Business Times*.
- Amy R. Remo, 'ASEAN group backs regional power grid', 8 July 2009, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*.



- Selcan Hacaoglu & Suzan Fraser, 'Turkey, EU countries sign gas pipeline deal', 13 July 2009, *Associated Press*.
- Steven Mufson, 'Asian nations could outpace US in developing clean energy', 16 July 2009, *The Washington Post*.
- Luke Pachymuthu & Max Lin, 'Asian fuel oil feels heat of tightening supply', 28 July 2009, *Reuters*.
- 'East Asian energy ministers call for closer regional energy co-op', 29 July 2009, *Xinhua News Agency*.

### **Papers & Reports**

- Larry Hughes, 'The four "R"s of energy security', *Energy Policy* 37, 2009, 2459-61.

This paper proposes a methodology that can be used to explain energy security – its importance and implications as well as how it can be improved – to the general public, analysts and policymakers. The methodology presented by the author consists of four 'R's, namely, review (understanding the problem), reduce (using less energy), replace (shifting to secure sources), and restrict (limiting new demand to secure sources). This concise and versatile methodology was advocated for the development of energy policies and improving energy security for individuals and organizations. The credibility of this methodology, as pointed out by the author, was already proven through its incorporation into the strategic planning efforts and energy policies of commercial and community organizations.

### **Events & Announcements**

- Driving Sustainability '09 – Third International Conference on Energy Solutions for Transport, 14-15 September 2009, Hilton Reykjavik Nordica, Iceland.
- Global Energy Challenge – Time to Act: The Austrian Energy Conference, 16–18 September 2009, Schloss Fuschl/ Hof near Salzburg, Austria.

### **Latest Publications**

- *Energy and Environmental Challenges to Security*, The Netherlands: Springer, 2009.

Edited by Stephen Stec and Besnik Baraj.

This book volume culminates from the proceedings of the NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Energy and Environmental Challenges to Security held in Budapest, Hungary, on 21-23 November 2007. It brings to attention some of the more manageable, yet urgent, aspects of the energy and environmental challenge the world is currently and might in future be facing, such as the means and mechanisms to enable energy supply diversification, as well as environmental risk reduction. Contributed by highly accomplished scientists and policymakers from member and partner countries, this volume is categorized into a broad range of discussions such as those on transatlantic energy security, climate change, just to name a few. There is an emphasis on the rising salience of climate change, including debates on the inherent flexibility of particular economies to meet the realistic prospects of transition to a post-carbon economy.

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## **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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