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PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON
GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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The Trans-Pacific Partnership; Is It Bad for Your Health?



International trade deals once focused primarily on tariffs. As a result, they had little direct effect on health, and health experts could reasonably leave their details to trade professionals. Not so today. Modern trade pacts have implications for a wide range of health policy issues, from medicine prices to tobacco regulation.

See: <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1506158>

Health and Climate Change: Policy Responses to Protect Public Health

The 2015 *Lancet* Commission on Health and Climate Change has been formed to map out the impacts of climate change, and the necessary policy responses, in order to ensure the highest attainable standards of health for populations worldwide. This Commission is multidisciplinary and international in nature, with strong collaboration between academic centres in Europe and China.



See: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)60854-6/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)60854-6/fulltext)

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WHO Validates Elimination of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis in Cuba

Cuba has become the first country in the world to receive validation from WHO that it has eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. Every year, globally, an estimated 1.4 million women living with HIV become pregnant. Untreated, they have a 15-45% chance of transmitting the virus to their children during pregnancy, labour, delivery or breastfeeding. Eliminating transmission of a virus is one of the greatest public health achievements possible.



See: <http://who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2015/mtct-hiv-cuba/en/?>

Ebola Recovery Slow, Focuses on Strengthening Africa's Health Systems



More than 27,100 people were affected by the highly contagious Ebola disease, which killed over 11,100, mostly in three west African countries: Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Before the Ebola outbreak, Liberia had just one physician for every 71,000 people. Ebola had been in many fundamental ways a "man-made disaster." All of the investments, all of the sacrifices and all of the risks by relief workers will be squandered if an outbreak of the Ebola disease recurs, as is now happening.

See: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/07/ebola-recovery-focuses-on-strengthening-africas-health-systems/>

Profile on Michel Sidibé: Working to End AIDS as a Public Health Threat

Michel Sidibé used his persuasive powers with South Africa's President Jacob Zuma, who substantially increased the HIV budget and broke a taboo, in 2010, by publicly declaring the negative result of his HIV test. Sidibé saw the possibilities of treatment as prevention and pushed for a target of 15 million people on antiretroviral therapy by 2015, against the advice of his staff who said it was too ambitious. He also pushes for zero transmission of HIV from mothers to their babies.

See: <http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/>



Climate Change is About Much More Than Temperature

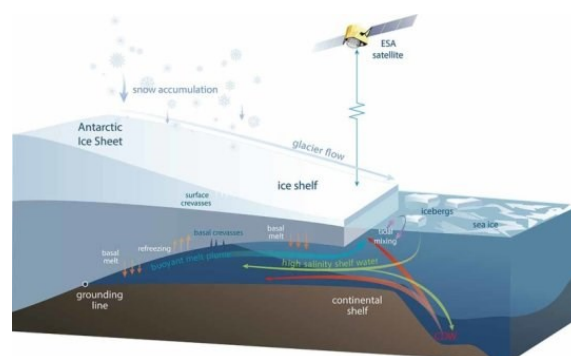


Being much more than temperature, climate change impacts the hydrological cycle; for example, more precipitation in places where there is a lot already, less in places that are very dry. It will amplify this water cycle, so the regions that are already under water stress will have more droughts and heat waves and, vice-versa, there will be more floods in regions that already have too much water. There will be an impact on extreme weather events, like heat waves which are becoming more frequent and intense, and tropical cyclones and typhoons.

See: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/07/qa-climate-change-is-about-much-more->

Antarctic Ice Shelves Rapidly Thinning

On the right a schematic diagram of an Antarctic ice shelf showing the processes causing the volume changes measured by satellites. Ice is added to the ice shelf by glaciers flowing off the continent and by snowfall that compresses to form ice. Ice is lost when icebergs break off the ice front, and by melting in some regions as warm water flows into the ocean cavity under the ice shelf. Under some ice shelves, cold and fresh meltwater rises to a point where it refreezes onto the ice shelf, now rapidly thinning.



See: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/03/150326151432.htm?>

Ten Climate Actions to Curb Warming, Lift GDP; Urban Planning



More efficient energy use and investments in greener cities are among ten measures that can help the world to slow global warming while also spurring economic growth. Action across the ten areas could achieve between 59 and 96 percent of the cuts in greenhouse gas emissions needed by 2030 to keep global warming below a U.N. maximum of 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. The most profitable is energy efficiency; effective urban planning.

See: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/07/07/us-climatechange-economy->
AND: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/07/climate-commission-issues-blueprint->

Calculating the Actual Value of a Global Health Game Changer

The global health community has energetically invested in technologies to keep vaccines cold given the high ambient temperatures and unreliable access to electricity in developing countries, yet no vaccine products have so far been commercialized. The Gates Foundation conducted a study to define the real value of increasing vaccine thermostability, and the results are surprising.

See: <https://www.devex.com/news/cautious-optimism-calculating-the->



World Bank Warns of Rising Maternal Deaths Post-Ebola and Signals Need for Training Health Workers



The loss of health care workers amid the Ebola epidemic in western Africa could increase women's deaths from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Doctors, nurses and midwives disproportionately died in the epidemic, which killed more than 11,200 people in the past 18 months, most of them in western Africa. Ebola has weakened already very fragile health systems in these countries. New investments are imperative.

See: <http://news.yahoo.com/world-bank-warns-rising-maternal->

Aboriginal Youth Suicide Rates Rise in Northern Ontario, Canada

Increasing numbers of Aboriginal youth in Northern Ontario are killing themselves, and 42% of the suicides over the last ten years have occurred in just seven communities. In 2013, there were 31 suicides by Aboriginal people in Ontario, up from 11 in 1991. Overall, from 1991 to 2013, there were 468 suicides by Aboriginal people in Ontario, almost half by people 25 or younger. Historical trauma is part of the reason behind these escalating numbers.

See: http://www.cmaj.ca/site/earlyreleases/25june15_aboriginal-



CONFERENCES &



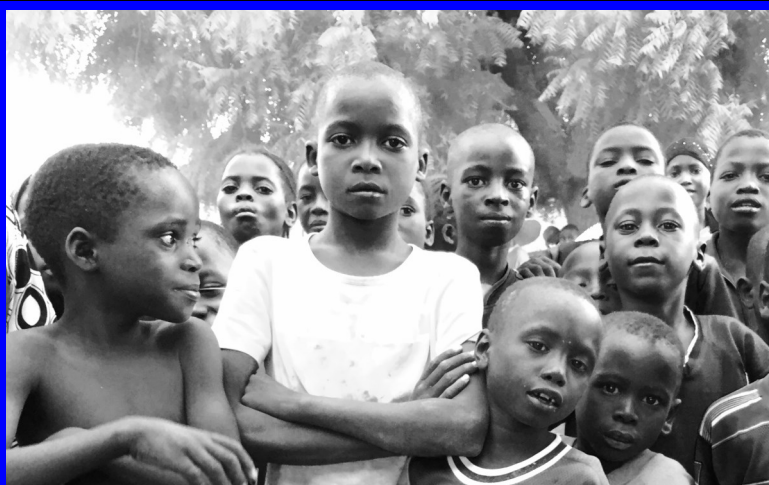
SYMPOSIUMS

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Most people do not condone the excesses of neoliberalism. True. But they remain in a state of constant 'forgetfulness'. Ours seems to be a society of deliberate blindness about these matters. We live in a culture of the perpetual present, one that not only deliberately severs itself from the past that brought us where we are, but also from the future we are shaping with our actions or inactions."

Naomi Klein

Date	Conference	Location	Registration Site
August 25-27	The Global Forum for Research and Innovation for Health 2015	Manila, Philippines	http://blog.cohred.org/67/forum-2015-people-at-the-center-of-research-and-innovation-for-health
Aug. 25 to Sep. 2	Society for the Advancement of Science in Africa (SASA) 3rd International Annual Conference	Toronto, Ontario	http://sasascience.org/call-for-abstracts/
September 16-18	Community Health Centers: Agents for Care, Agents of Change	Ottawa, Ontario	http://www.cachc.ca/acac2015
November 5-7	Canadian Conference on Global Health 2015	Bonaventure Hotel - Montreal, Quebec	http://www.csih.org/en/events/ccgh2015/
November 16-18	2015 Canadian Undergraduate Conference on Healthcare (CUCOH)	Queen's University, Kingston, ON	http://www.cucoh.com/about/
November 18-20	9th World Alliance For Risk Factor Surveillance (WARFS) & The Americas' Network for Chronic Disease Surveillance (AMNET) Global Conference	St. John's, Antigua	http://warfs15.squarespace.com/
May 16-19, 2016	4th Global Conference on Women Deliver, 2016	Copenhagen, Denmark	http://wd2016.org/about/registration/



Poorest Country in the World: Rural Dosso Region, SW Niger, July 2015

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Seven Tips for Managing Your Summer Job Search

Summer is well under way for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere. As the "out of office" email response start flooding in, it becomes increasingly obvious that the working world is on vacation. Especially in places like Europe, some offices virtually shut down during the months of July and August. But what if you are a job seeker should you put your job search on hold, too?

With hiring managers and recruiters away on leave, hiring decisions can often be put on hold, but that doesn't mean your job search needs to halt. Here are seven tips for managing your job search when it feels like everyone is away at the beach.

1. **Take advantage of the slower pace.**
2. **Summer is a great time to fix up your resume.**
3. **Take a timeout for research.**
4. **Don't wait for employers to post a job.**
5. **Set up a few informational interviews.**
6. **Be patient.**
7. **Take a break yourself.**

For more information see: <https://www.devex.com/news/7-tips-for-managing-your-summer-job-search-86484>

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How can you transition to a career in global development?

Join me on Tuesday, July 21st for a discussion with career change expert Ronda Ansted to find out.

Register now →

Transitioning to a career in global development doesn't mean you have to start from scratch. From engineers and finance specialists, to educators and tech whizzes, there are plenty of opportunities for professionals with a variety of backgrounds to contribute to global development.

You are invited to join for a discussion with expert career coach Ronda Ansted from Be the Change Career Consulting, on Tuesday, July 21st, at 10AM EDT (GMT -4).

Ronda will be sharing innovative strategies for successfully finding your global development career fit.

All you have to do is upgrade your access and register for the webinar.

For more details see: <https://pages.devex.com/transitioning-to-a-career-in-global-dev-webinar-registration.html?>