



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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Exxon's Research Confirmed Fossil Fuels' Role in Global Warming Decades Ago

Carbon dioxide from the world's use of fossil fuels would warm the planet and could eventually endanger humanity. Researchers estimated a doubling of CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere would increase average global temperatures by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius. Rainfall might get heavier in some regions, and other places might turn to desert.

[Read More on insideclimatenews.org](http://insideclimatenews.org)



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Did Equity of Reproductive and Maternal Health Service Coverage Increase during the MDG Era?

Despite widespread gains toward the 5th Millennium Development Goal (MDG), pro-rich inequalities in reproductive health (RH) and maternal health (MH) are pervasive throughout the world. It is important to monitor the extent to which countries are achieving equity of RH and MH service coverage.

[Read More on journals.plos.org](http://journals.plos.org)



Ryerson
University

Faculty of Community Services



Who Will Suffer Most from Climate Change?

Rising temperatures in the decades ahead will lead to major disruptions in agriculture, particularly in tropical zones. Crops won't grow because of too little rain or too much rain. Pests will thrive in the warmer climate and destroy crops. The world's poorest farmers show up for work each day for the most part empty-handed. That's why of all the people who will suffer from climate change, they are likely to suffer the most.

[Read More on project-syndicate.org](http://project-syndicate.org)

Improving Preterm Birth Outcomes

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently released updated guidance on interventions to improve global preterm birth outcomes. Annually, 15 million babies are born preterm and complications of prematurity are the single largest cause of neonatal death and the second leading cause of deaths among children under the age of 5 years. From antenatal corticosteroids to Kangaroo care to continuous positive airway pressure therapy, the report covers 10 main interventions to improve preterm survival.

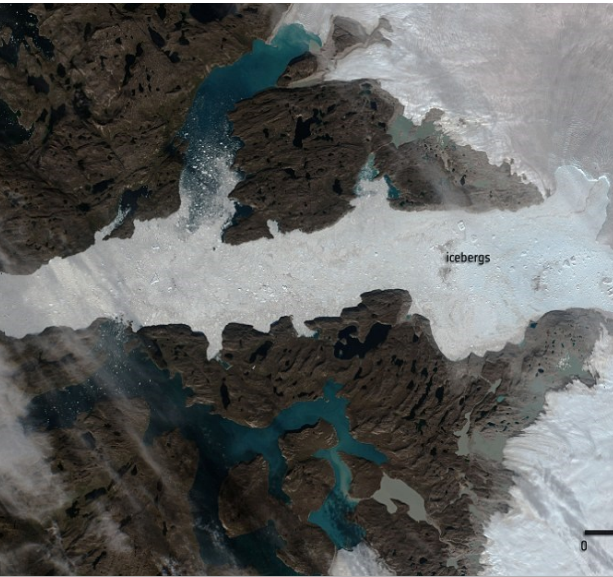
[Read More on WHO](http://who.int)



Why Bill Gates is Backing, and Blogging about, GMOs

The Gates Foundation is known for its focus on addressing problems before our eyes, from food security to maternal health to infectious disease. But now Bill Gates is directing attention toward climate change adaptation and this blog post marks the beginning of a communications push that will continue to climate negotiations at COP21, the upcoming United Nations climate conference in Paris.

[Read More on Devex](http://devex.com)



Greenland Glacier Sheds Chunk of Ice Could Cover Manhattan

The Jakobshavn glacier in western Greenland has shed a chunk of ice measuring around 12.5 square kilometres, in what is one of the most significant calving events on record. Images from the European Space Agency show images of the fast-moving glacier before and after the event. The level of ice lost "could cover the whole of Manhattan Island by a layer of ice about 300m thick.

[Read More on BBC](#)

The UN Says Gaza Could Be Uninhabitable in Less Than Five Years

Gaza could become uninhabitable by 2020 due to war, its economic blockade, debilitated infrastructure, and environmental concerns, according to a new UN report. Unemployment in Gaza stands at 44 percent, more than double the rate in the occupied West Bank. Almost three-quarters of its residents suffer from food insecurity. In 2000, some 72,000 Gazans relied entirely on UNRWA for food; today, the figure stands at 868,000 about half of the entire population.

[Read More on Vice News](#)



Hurricane Katrina Proved that if Black Lives Matter, so Must Climate Justice

low-income communities of color are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Across the US, many of the communities most vulnerable to climate change impacts and environmental problems are inhabited by black communities, including in Hurricane Katrina, where most of the fatalities were black people. The Black Lives Matter campaign is complementary to the climate justice campaign.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)



Millions Spent on Secret Tar Sands Advocacy

Canada's Conservative government spent several million dollars on a tar sands advocacy fund as its push to export the oil faltered. In its 2013 budget, the government invested \$30 million over two years on public relations advertising and domestic and international "outreach activities" to promote Alberta's tar sands. The outreach activities, which cost \$4.5 million and were never publicly disclosed.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)

People's Anti-Mining Struggle in El Salvador Highlights The Perils of Global Trade Deals

The story of the San Sabastian mine is an empirical example of how free trade agreements like CAFTA and the TPP pave the way for destructive transnational corporate extractivism by establishing legal protections for them to pollute with impunity, and then allowing them to demand a big pay out afterwards.

[Read More on occupy.com](#)



Sterilization of Indigenous Women an Act of Genocide

A new book is shedding light on the coercive sterilization of indigenous women in Canada in the 1970s. "An Act of Genocide, Colonialism and the Sterilization of Aboriginal Women" is written by Karen Stote, an assistant professor of women and gender studies at Wilfred Laurier University in Ontario. She documents 580 sterilizations of indigenous women that took place at federal hospitals between 1971 and 1974.

[Read More on cbc.ca](#)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“All too frequently, leaders will concern themselves with matters that are closest at hand, while the most serious issues are often more distant – geographically or in time. For example, if we fail to tackle climate change, the worst effects will be suffered by future generations and by poor countries far from global power centers.”

Kofi Annan
Former UN Secretary-General
December, 2014

[Read More on theelders.org](http://theelders.org)

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Oct. 5-9	Ryerson Social Justice Week	Toronto Canada	http://www.ryerson.ca/socialjustice/
Nov. 5-7	Canadian Conference on Global Health 2015	Montreal Canada	http://www.csih.org/en/events/ccgh2015
Nov. 16-18	2015 Canadian Undergraduate Conference on Healthcare (CUCOH)	Kingston Canada	http://www.cucoh.com/about
Nov. 18-20	9th World Alliance For Risk Factor Surveillance (WARFS) & The Americas' Network for Chronic Disease Surveillance (AMNET) Global Conference 2015	St. John's Antigua	http://warfs15.squarespace.com
Nov. 25-27	7th Canadian Science Policy Conference 2015	Ottawa Canada	http://www.sciencepolicy.ca/
Apr. 9-11	Annual CUGH Global Health Conference 2016	San Francisco U.S.A	http://cugh.org/events/2016-annual-cugh-global-health



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Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) is a highly lethal respiratory disease caused by a novel single-stranded, positive-sense RNA betacoronavirus (MERS-CoV). Dromedary camels, hosts for MERS-CoV, are implicated in direct or indirect transmission to human beings, although the exact mode of transmission is unknown. The virus was first isolated from a patient who died from a severe respiratory illness in June, 2012, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. As of May 31, 2015, 1180 laboratory-confirmed cases (483 deaths; 40% mortality) have been reported to WHO. Both community-acquired and hospital-acquired cases have been reported with little human-to-human transmission reported in the community. Although most cases of MERS have occurred in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, cases have been reported in Europe, the USA, and Asia in people who travelled from the Middle East or their contacts. Clinical features of MERS range from asymptomatic or mild disease to acute respiratory distress syndrome and multiorgan failure resulting in death, especially in individuals with underlying comorbidities. No specific drug treatment exists for MERS and infection prevention and control measures are crucial to prevent spread in health-care facilities. MERS-CoV continues to be an endemic, low-level public health threat. However, the virus could mutate to have increased interhuman transmissibility, increasing its pandemic potential.

[Read More on The Lancet](#)



Three Instances When Millennials Fail to Impress Global Development Recruiters

The millennial generation has earned a reputation of entitlement, expecting a ribbon or raise just for showing up. But it is also perhaps the most purpose-driven generation, looking for both a paycheck as well as the ability to make the world a better place. This is good news for the global development sector as more top graduates actively seek out a career with social impact.

Here are the three common complaints about millennials interviewing for global development jobs:

1. Putting too much emphasis on “passion.”
2. Equating vacation travel with overseas experience.
3. Focusing on how the job will benefit you.

[Read More on Devex](#)



Is #globaldev Optimism Over Big Data Based More on Hype than Value?

As the global development community prepares to finalize a new set of goals and targets for the next 15 years, big data has become a key part of discussions. The post-2015 agenda has 17 sustainable development goals and 169 associated targets, and big data could be essential to monitoring and measuring progress. More than just collecting large volumes of data, big data is an umbrella term for an ecosystem that allows for real-time collection, storage and analyses of digital information. The goal is to leverage analyzed data and provide insights that can guide policymakers and decision-makers, and practical information for the larger public.

What do you think? [Read More on Devex](#) and join the conversation to have your say.



As Beijing roads continue getting more and more clogged and factories and power plants still continue to spew emissions, this beautifully modern city's climate is now characterized by mostly smoggy days, though the sun does make a surprise appearance from time to time. The Palace Museum (Forbidden City), September 22, 2015.

This Newsletter is FREE.

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