



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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Climate Action After Paris

At the United Nations climate conference in Paris visionary leaders recognized that people rarely change the world when they work within the constraints of what they think is possible, said Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group. The conference in Paris produced an agreement that went beyond our expectations. We must now move with ambition that matches this historic deal – one supported by nearly 200 countries. We must capitalize on this global commitment to preserve our planet for future generations.

[Read More on Project Syndicate](#)



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Alarm in Brazil Over Mosquito-Borne Zika Virus and a Surge in Malformed Infants

A little-known virus spread by mosquitoes is causing one of the most alarming health crises to hit Brazil in decades. Many pregnant women across Brazil are in panic. The government, under withering criticism for not acting sooner, is urging them to take every precaution to avoid mosquito bites.

[Read More on The New York Times](#)

[Read Also About the Zika Virus](#)





Study Finds West Africa at Highest Risk of Bat-to-Human Virus Spread

Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia are most at risk from bat viruses jumping to humans and causing new diseases that could lead to deadly outbreaks. Approximately 60 to 75 percent of emerging infectious diseases are so-called "zoonotic events" where animal diseases jump into people, and bats in particular are known to carry many zoonotic viruses. The tiny animals are the suspected origin of rabies, Ebola, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and possibly MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and could cause other as yet unknown epidemics in the future.

[Read More on Reuters](#)

Proven Parasite Drug Hailed as Malaria Weapon

A drug used for decades against river blindness and elephantiasis in Africa is being hailed as the newest weapon against malaria.

A study showed that, when given periodically to people in high-transmission areas, the drug ivermectin can reduce malaria transmission by killing mosquitoes that carry the disease.

An advantage of ivermectin is that it is a cheap drug and has been given to millions of people to control other infections and shown to be safe.

[Read More on SciDevNet](#)



India's 'Dark Holes' Where Millions of Girls Disappear

There are three million commercial sex workers in India, of which an estimated 40 percent are children. The numbers are astounding, and girls between nine and 12 are the most vulnerable to trafficking.

How many people around the world are aware of that?

Human trafficking is a global phenomenon and the third-largest source of profit after illegal drugs and arms trafficking for organized crime.

[Read More on AlJazeera](#)



Addressing Climate Change and Poverty as One in Malawi

The government of Malawi has been struggling to end poverty since independence in 1964, banking its strategies on the proceeds from its agro based economy. Sadly, climate change entered the scene and dramatically disrupted the farming sector.

Over 50% of Malawians live in poverty and 80% of Malawians depend on farming for their livelihoods. Unless climate smart agricultural technologies are passed on to all small holder farmers, the government goal of ending poverty by 2030, as targeted in the Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030), will not be achieved.

[Read More on IPS News](#)

What a Grandmother in India Can Do with Solar Will Surprise You

Solar energy is the cleanest, most abundant and renewable energy source available. With great solar potential, India's solar mission allows the country to make a long term commitment to controlling carbon emissions, contributing to a greener world, while sustaining economic growth.

Witness how Barefoot College is harnessing human potential along with the sun to improve the lives of millions in India.

[Watch the Short Video on Climate Reality Project](#)



International Mountain Day: Celebrating International Cooperation on Climate Change Adaptation in Mountain Environments

December 17th is International Mountain Day. Mountain ecosystems enrich the lives of over half of the world's population as a source of water, energy, agriculture and other essential goods and services. Mountains also represent an early warning systems for climate change. There is a need to develop special mechanisms for addressing mountain problems such as shrinking glaciers and threatened resources.

[Read More on Mountain Forum](#)



This Gas Is Worse for the Climate Than Carbon Dioxide and It's Leaking All Over the Place

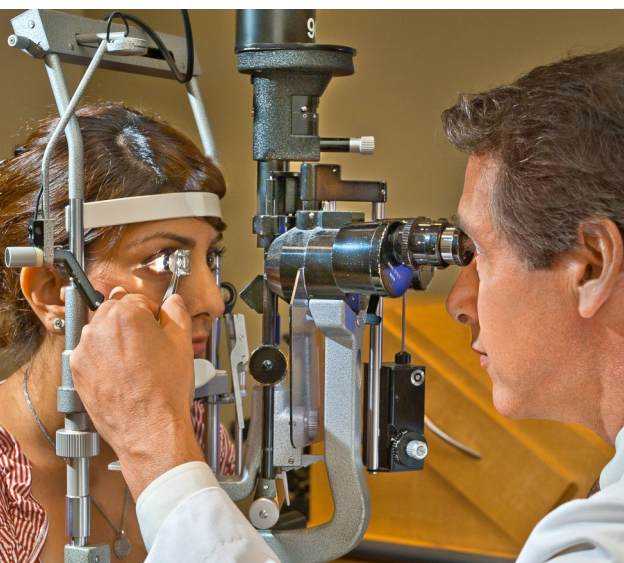
For the world's governments to have a shot at meeting emissions cuts set forth in a new international climate deal agreed to over the last month, the United States and other countries must rapidly transition away from the dirtiest fossil fuels in a matter of decades. A key element to weaning nations off of fossil fuel is to use greater amounts of natural gas, which releases half the carbon emissions that coal does when burned. But what about leaking?

[Read More on Vice News](#)

Drought Deepens South Africa's Malaise

The worst drought in more than a generation has gripped South Africa and other African nations as El Niño, a weather phenomenon believed to have been intensified by climate change, brings record high temperatures and low rainfalls across much of the continent. The full impact of the drought and resulting poor harvests will be felt only in the months ahead, but they have already left 29 million people in southern Africa without reliable access to food, according to the United Nations. In East Africa, particularly Ethiopia, 10 million people will need food assistance next year, aid organizations warn. The drought has compounded the effects of an economic slowdown in many African countries brought on by slumping prices in raw materials.

[Read More on New York Times](#)



Closing the Gap in Indigenous Eye Health is Within Reach

Health agencies are closer to eradicating preventable blindness in Indigenous Australians. Almost 37 per cent of Aboriginal adults are affected by diabetes, and approximately 13 per cent have lost their vision from the disease. In terms of tackling trachoma, there are now 150 communities in the endemic areas where the prevalence of trachoma is zero. The number of remaining hot spots has been reduced to one-third and with continued government support at all levels the gap for Indigenous vision can be closed within the next four years.

[Read More on healthchanal.com](#)



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“This is a tremendous victory for all of our citizens — not for any one country or any one bloc, but for everybody here who has worked so hard to bring us across the finish line. It’s a victory for all of the planet and for future generations,” said U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on December 12, 2015 at the end of COP21 in Paris.

[Read More on Devex](#)

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Feb. 22-24	27th Ethiopian Public Health Association Annual Conference	Addis Ababa Ethiopia	http://www.etpha.org/
Mar. 3-5	Conference on Global Status of Women and Girls	Virginia USA	http://globalstatusofwomen
Mar. 12	Moving forward together: Advancing rehabilitation in a global context	Montreal Canada	https://www.mcgill.ca
Apr. 9-11	7th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference	San Francisco USA	http://cugh.org/
Apr. 16-17	Global Health and Innovation Conference	New Haven USA	https://maestro
May. 13-15	Peace, Global Health and Sustainability (PEGASUS)	Toronto Canada	http://www.pegasusconference.ca/
May. 17-20	International Congress on Integrative Medicine and Health (ICIMH)	Las Vegas USA	https://www.cvent.com/
May. 26-27	Indigenous Health Conference	Toronto Canada	http://www.cpd.utoronto.ca/
Nov. 14-18	Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research	Vancouver Canada	http://www.csih.org/en/events/



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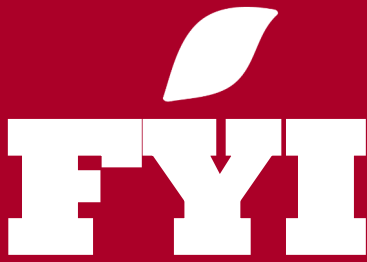


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The World Social Forum (WSF) 2016 Collective Has Just Launched Its New Website

WSF is inspired by the desire to multiply spaces that promote horizontality, transparency and openness, perceiving them as levers in the struggle for human dignity and the environment. Its members are aware of various challenges that surround the holding of a World Social Forum in Montreal. But are also very excited about the idea of seeing the Quebec, regional and global civil society engage in dialogue and reach multiple consensus through the process of the World Social Forum, and believe in the potential of the contribution of Quebecers in this process and how it could help global struggles for social and environmental justice.

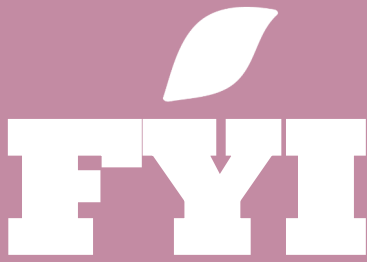
Take a look at opportunities for research meet ups and much more in Montreal next summer.

[Visit WSF New Website at fsm2016.org](http://fsm2016.org)

Volunteer opportunities are already available as are internships. Many volunteer activities can be done remotely.

[To Volunteer Visit fsm2016.org](http://fsm2016.org)

[For Internship Opportunities Visit](#)



IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH



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Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2015 **Estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group** **and the United Nations Population Division**

When the global commitment was first made in 2000 to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), United Nations (UN) Member States pledged to work towards a three-quarters reduction in the 1990 maternal mortality ratio (MMR; maternal deaths per 100,000 livebirths) by 2015. This objective (MDG5A), along with achieving universal access to reproductive health (MDG5B), formed the two targets for MDG5: Improve maternal health. In the years countingdown to the conclusion of the MDGs, a number of initiatives were established to galvanize efforts towards reducing maternal mortality. Planning and accountability for improving maternal health, and assessment of MDG5 and SDG targets, require accurate and internationally comparable measures of maternal mortality. Many countries have made notable progress in collecting data through civil registration systems, surveys, censuses and specialized studies over the past decade.

This report presents global, regional and country-level estimates of trends in maternal mortality between 1990 and 2015.

[Read More on WHO](#)



Meeting Follow-Up: What Needs to Be Done after the Meeting

Many meeting organizers think, “Well, we covered everything in the meeting, so why bother with follow-up?” But that's precisely when the vicious circle of queries and misunderstandings begins. Proper follow-up will save you time and get you the right results faster.

This eBook describes formal meeting follow-up and why you need it, and provide a practical template that's ready to use. Download and discover:

- The requirements for formal meeting follow-up
- How to ensure a clear division of tasks
- Tools to make meeting follow-up more efficient
- A template to get you started

[Download the Free eBook from allwhitepapers.com](http://allwhitepapers.com)



Events Preview: This Year in Development Cooperation

From the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, to the International AIDS Conference in South Africa, to Devex World in Washington, D.C, 2016 will be an exciting year in international development.

[To View Upcoming Events Visit Devex](#)



HAPPY CHILDREN GIVING HOPE AND INSPIRING OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE

This Newsletter is FREE.

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