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KENYA, GHANA AND MALAWI GET FIRST MALARIA VACCINE

Starting in 2018, the world's first vaccine against malaria will be introduced in three countries: Ghana, Kenya and Malawi. The RTS,S vaccine trains the immune system to attack the malaria parasite, which is spread by mosquito bites. The World Health Organization (WHO) said the jab had the potential to save tens of thousands of lives. But it is not yet clear if it will be feasible to use in the poorest parts of the world. This has been achieved in tightly controlled and well-funded clinical trials, but it is not yet clear if it can be done in the "real-world" where access to health care is limited. It is why the WHO is running pilots in three countries to see if a full malaria vaccine programme could be started. It will also continue to assess the safety and effectiveness of the vaccination. The pilot will involve more than 750,000 children aged between five and 17 months. Around half will get the vaccine in order to compare the jab's real world effectiveness. **Read More on World EIN News**

each year 200,000 of these deaths are NEWBORNS 10,000 mothers die SIMPLE can save INTERVENTIONS LIVES PREVENTIVE MALARIA MEDICINE & ANEMIA SCREENING DURING PRENATAL CARE **USE OF BED NETS**

Karoshi Crisis: Japanese Working To Death Vaccination Coverage and Inequalities in Gavi **How Wealth Inequality Fuels Poor Health** The Day Without Coal: Britain's First One Since 1882 Plugin Hybrid London Taxi Plant Opens in U.K. Mega Fracking in BC Linked to Earthquakes

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RECORD AMOUNT OF RENEWABLES CAPACITY **ADDED IN 2016**

The world added a record 138.5 gigawatts of renewable power capacity in 2016 despite a 23 percent drop in investment, reflecting the falling cost of clean energy. The new energy, mainly from wind and solar installations, but not including large hydro projects, was up eight percent from the previous year, on global investment of \$242 billion (227 billion euros). Investment in fossil fuel-based energy was approximately half that amount in 2016, according to a report jointly published by UN Environment and Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF). "Ever-cheaper clean tech provides a real opportunity for investors to get more for less," said Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment.

The renewables capacity brought online in 2016 is equivalent to that of the world's 16 largest power producing facilities combined. Recent figures from the International Energy Agency cited the switch to renewables as one of the main reasons for greenhouse gas emissions staying flat in 2016, for the third year running, despite robust growth in the global economy.

Read More on Solar Daily



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Karoshi Crisis: Why Are Japanese Working Themselves to Death

In the space of eight months after landing a much coveted position at advertising giant Dentsu in April 2015, Matsuri Takahashi transformed from being a personable, diligent and well-liked young woman to a physical and mental wreck who was getting just 10 hours of sleep a week and was being bullied by her superiors. On December 25, 2015, Takahashi jumped from the top of the company dormitory where she lived. A little over eight months later, the Mita Labour Standards Inspection Office ruled that her death had been caused by overwork, a phenomenon known here as "karoshi". Most worryingly, in a society where workers are expected to put their company and work colleagues above everything else, it is far from a rarity. In the 2015 fiscal year, which ended on March 31, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare recognised 93 suicides and attempted suicides as having been caused by overwork, enabling dependents to claim compensation. That figure clashes with police statistics, however, which indicate problems related to work were to blame in 2,159 suicides that year.

Country Level Predictors of Vaccination Coverage and Inequalities in Gavi Supported Countries

Important inequalities in childhood vaccination coverage persist between countries and population groups. Understanding why some countries achieve higher and more equitable levels of coverage is crucial to redress these inequalities. Results for mean corpuscular volume (MCV) were consistent with those from DTP3. Political stability, gender equality and smaller land surface were important predictors of higher and more equitable levels of DTP3 coverage. Inequalities in DTP3 coverage were also lower in countries receiving more external resources for health, with lower rates of out-of-pocket spending. Great government spending on health and lower linguistic fractionalization were also consistent with better vaccination outcomes. Improving vaccination coverage and reducing inequalities requires that policies and programs address critical social determinants of health including geographic and social exclusion, gender inequality and the availability of financial protection for health. Read More on Pub Med NCBI



Podcast Ichiro Kawachi: How Wealth Inequality Fuels Poor Health, and Vise Versa

Humanosphere podcast featuring Ichiro Kawachi, a physician and epidemiologist, chairman of the department of Social & Behavioral Sciences at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the John L. Loeb and Frances Lehman Loeb professor of social epidemiology, speaks of the connection between the wealth inequality and health. It's probably not too surprising to anyone to hear that individuals with more wealth tend to have better health, or at least better health care. But it may surprise some to say that the wealthiest country on the planet, USA, ranks pretty poorly when it comes to health overall. In fact, noted that unlike in most rich countries Americans are seeing a decline in life expectancy. In the interview, Kawachi joked that his career path may lead to shortening his life since he was born and raised until age 12 in Japan (with one of the highest life expectancy rates in the world), then moved with his family to New Zealand (moderately high life expectancy) and finally landing a teaching position Harvard starting in the early 1990s (which means he now lives in a nation with a fairly low life expectancy).

Listen to the Podcast on Humanosphere

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The Day Without Coal: Britain's First One Since 1882

April 21, 2017 was the first in 135 years in which no coal was burned in Britain to generate electricity. There had been previous 19-hour periods in which no coal was burned, one the previous day and another in May 2016. The last of Britain's coal plants is to be phased out by 2025, as part of the country's efforts to reduce its carbon emissions to reduce the impact of climate change. They will largely be replaced by a mix of natural gas, which emits much less carbon per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated, and renewables, including offshore wind, which has big potential in the blustery oceans around the island nation.

Read More on Green Car Reports

Plug-In Hybrid London Taxi Plant Opens In U.K. Owned by Chinese Firm Geely

The London Taxi Company recently completed a U.K. factory that will build a new version of the taxi with a plug-in hybrid powertrain. Located in Ansty Park in Coventry, the plant cost £300 million (\$373 million), and will create more than 1,000 new jobs. The new plant will be devoted entirely to production of the new plug-in hybrid taxi, called the TX5. Taxis are expected to begin rolling off its assembly line before the end of the year, with production scheduled to ramp up fully in 2018. It will also use the Ansty Park factory site to house research and development facilities. The company had previously indicated interest in other types of electrified commercial vehicles, as a way to increase its potential market. Geely, the Chinese automaker, which also owns Volvo, quickly announced plans for a new taxi with a plug-in powertrain, and began investing in both the development of that vehicle and the new U.K. factory. The TX5 was designed at Geely's studio in Barcelona, and more or less retains the traditional look of a London taxi. But it features a new aluminum body structure and a plug-in hybrid powertrain that will provide significant electric only range. Read More on Green Car Reports



Study Finds Mega-Fracking in BC Linked to Earthquakes

A new study has found that the largest earthquake ever triggered by hydraulic fracturing in British Columbia followed industry's use of large volumes of water and occurred during a fracking-triggered swarm of 676 earthquakes between 2014 and 2015. The earthquake, triggered by the fracking activities of Malaysian-owned Progress Energy, registered 4.6 magnitude. It was about four kilometres underground and about 100 kilometres northwest of Fort St. John in the northern Montney formation. The earthquake could be felt nearly 180 kilometres away from the epicentre. The paper also identified the size of the fracks occurring in northeastern B.C. as a factor in triggering the 4.6 magnitude earthquake. A 5.0 magnitude quake can cause significant ground shaking and property damage. The hydraulic fracturing well associated with the 4.6 earthquake injected more than 160,000 cubic metres (42.3 million US gallons) of water, chemicals and sand over a three-week period in 132 stages. Each stage creates fractures in rock. "There is an apparent match between increase in the number of hydraulic fracturing stages and increase in the number of seismic events," the new study found. Hydraulic fracturing has already had a significant impact on the region's seismic patterns.

Read More on The Tyee

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India's Smart Villages At a Glance

In India, where about 70 percent of the population lives in villages, Prime Minister Narendra Modi followed his smart cities campaign with a smart villages campaign, to address suboptimal conditions and to provide people with reasons to stay, rather than move to the cities. As they build smart cities, governments and their partners, from the world of technology to the global development community, tend to overlook villages. But India offers a model of how to pursue both plans. "There is an increased urbanization due to the fact that urban centres are perceived to provide more opportunities and comfort," said Jinesh Shah, founding partner at Omnivore Partners, a venture fund investing in early stage agriculture and food technology companies in India. "A smart village will help the rural population with increased opportunity and comfort." Part of India's smart villages campaign is an attempt to remove hurdles for the agriculture sector, he said, but reducing the pressure of increased urbanization is also a motivation. More equal access to opportunities, as well as improved sanitation, health care benefits and job prospects in rural areas will help to reduce social unrest, he argued.

Read More on Devex

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY:

Ignoring Links Between Politics and Health

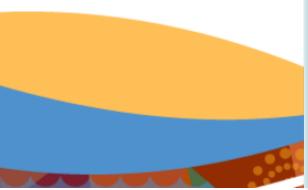
A recent statistics Canada report found that 40,000 Canadians a year die prematurely because their working and living conditions are not of the quality experienced by well-off Canadians. Gaps in income and wealth kill. These living and working conditions are shaped by public policies made by Canadian governments at all levels. This is why political scientist Harold Lasswell defines politics as Who Gets What, When, How. Evidence is clear that over the past three decades these public policies have increased income and wealth gaps among Canadians, led to stagnating incomes for 60 per cent of Canadians, and created an explosive increase in insecure and precarious employment, all of which contribute to disease and illness. Yet despite the strong link between living and working conditions are not improving for most Canadians and in fact declining for many, the issue of what has come to be called the social determinants of health, has not made it onto any public policy agenda at any level of government in Canada.





Canada 150+

Moving forward together



SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH:

How Indigenous People Are Rebranding Canada 150

The Canada 150 birthday celebrations could stand to be more inclusive of the Aboriginal experience. Vancouver, British Columbia is trying to make that happen. Vancouver, whose Indigenous population of 53,000 ranks third highest among Canadian metropolises, after Winnipeg (78,000) and Edmonton (62,000), is doing just that, with a \$7 million event it's calling Canada 150+. The plus symbol, another Advisory Committee suggestion, was added partly to counter the enduring myth that Canada prior to contact was empty an in need of civilization. Vancouver sits near the heart of Canada's pre-contact capital. By the 18th century, twice as many lived in thriving, well-fortified villages of fishers, tanners, potters and toy-makers surrounding the Georgia Strait as in the rest of Canada combined (more, even, than in New York). But while some 200 B.C. place names commemorate the voyages of Captains Cook and Vancouver, who arrived toward the end of that century, there isn't even a plaque to commemorate a smallpox plague that wiped out all but 10 percent of B.C.'s Indigenous inhabitants; arguably the most significant event in the province's history.

Read More on Macleans





QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Smoking is banned in public venues not because of the harm it does to smokers, who are free to make their own bad decisions, but due to the harm it imposes on others through the effects of second-hand smoke... When [will] the same rule be applied to the carbon dioxide emitted by vehicles. That harms everyone on earth through its contribution to climate change."



Green Car Reports, April 22, 2017

Read More on Green Car Reports

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
May 8-9	World Health Summit of the M8 Alliance	Montreal Canada	https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/ regional-meeting.html
June 1-2	Aboriginal Conferences	Canada	http://aboriginalconferences.ca/
June 12-23	McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Disease and Global Health	Montreal Canada	http://mcgill-idgh.ca/
June 16-18	North American Refugee Health Conference	Toronto Canada	http://www.northamericanrefugeehealth.com/agenda







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Stanford microbiologist Stanley Falkow once wrote, "I never met a microbe I didn't like." In the world of infectious disease, the smallest organisms can often cause the biggest health care problems, including epidemics, pandemics, and mass casualties. But, in addition to their capacity to destroy, many microbes live with us and on us, helping us survive.

Take the quiz to find out some of the few microbes STAT would like you to meet. Whether or not you decide to like them, we want to know: How much do you know about infectious disease?

Take the Quiz on Stat

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HERE'S HOW TO TACKLE ROOT CAUSES, NOT JUST SYMPTOMS, OF GENDER INEQUALITY





There are many promising trends addressing gender inequality in 2017. The development community is investing more in data, increasingly engaging men and boys, and refining strategies such as mainstreaming that are not delivering the results we hoped. But some trends, such as the emphasis on the business case for gender equality and a strong focus on women's economic empowerment, also warrant deeper reflection. While overarchingly positive and much-needed, emphasizing these without examining the root causes of gender inequalities runs the risk of overpromising and underdelivering on the outcomes we want to see. We must focus on designing programs that tackle root causes and not symptoms, alongside actively identifying and mitigating unintended consequences.

- 1. **Gender data investments fill critical gaps, but much work needs to be done:** There is a large set of open questions around women and girls' lived experiences and the root causes and manifestations of gender inequities. Over time, answering these will help us move from designing "gender aware" programs (ones that do not accidentally disadvantage women) to "gender transformative" (programs that actively seek to correct gender inequalities in access or uptake).
- 2. **Men and boys are well-recognized as part of the solution**: We must now go from theory to practice: Looking ahead, thinking needs to be translated into practice. Programs should be designed to engage men early and often. Effective engagement with men and boys needs to happen not just at the individual level, but at the community level through larger scale norm change.
- 3. **Gender mainstreaming is in urgent need of review, revitalization and replacement:** We need to develop easy-to-apply principles, tools and approaches to mainstreaming well. Looking ahead, more programs should flip mainstreaming on its head by building cross-sector programs that have a central focus on women's empowerment. This idea is driven by repeated findings that integrated approaches work best to serve women and girls.
- 4. **Gender investments are increasingly driven by business case arguments, but this comes with risks:** We now know that empowering women can be good for business and good for the global economy. Women are more likely to invest in their families and communities, be more loyal customers, and in many cases, more productive employees than men. However, it also comes with risks. The strength of the business case relies in part on existing inequalities. Why do women invest more in their families relative to men? Why are they more productive, more loyal employees? Feminists have long argued that these choices are in part driven by disempowerment or restricted choice, implying an inherent tension between maximizing these benefits and empowering women. The argument also paints a positive picture, when in reality, at least in the short term, shifts in power structures can mean men and boys can get left behind; there can be retaliatory violence.
- 5. Economic empowerment of women is now at the heart of the gender agenda, but we need integrated solutions to deliver sustainable results: Interventions that seek to achieve women's economic empowerment should address not just visible proximate causes (such as lack of education, skills or training) but also root causes (such as sociocultural norms, legal or policy-based discrimination, or unpaid work responsibilities) that hinder women's access to quality paid work and control over their pay. Programs should seek to anticipate and mitigate unintended consequences in advance.

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British Columbian taxpayers will be on the hook for \$40 million to clean up the worst mining spill in Canadian history and the company responsible has once again escaped criminal charges after a private prosecution.

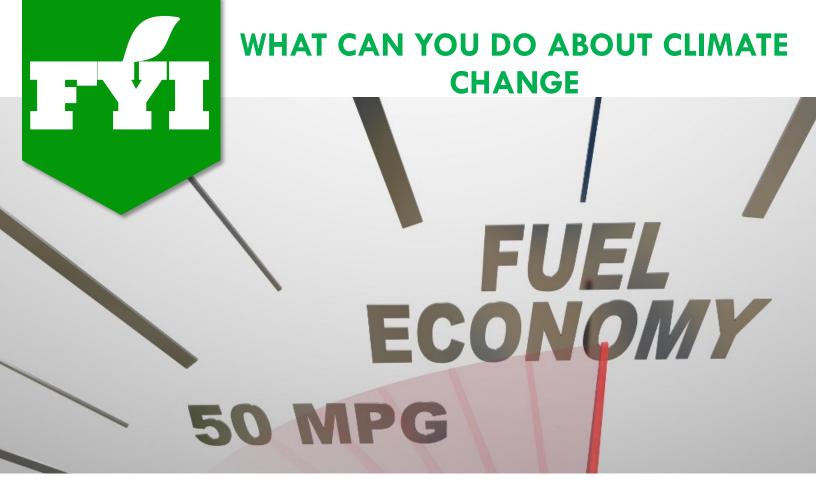
In August 2014 the 40-metre-high tailings dam at the Mount Polley mine near Williams Lake collapsed, sending 25-million cubic metres of contaminated sludge and mine waste sweeping into lakes and rivers, but no charges have been laid and no fines have been levied against Imperial Metals, the parent company of Mount Polley Mining Corp. The key message to Canadians is "this was the biggest mining spill in Canadian history and there have been zero sanctions and zero fines, and certainly that's not because of lack of evidence of damage to the environment," said Ugo Lapointe, Mining Watch Canada's program coordinator.

The stay of proceedings and lack of government action is frustrating as there is a three-year statute of limitations on some offences, Lapointe said. "This sets the wrong standards and sends the wrong signal to industry and other mines across Canada. It further undermines public confidence in the mining sector and erodes peoples' trust in the ability of our regulatory system to effectively protect our environment," he said.

Mining Watch is seeking costs and considering whether to take the case to a higher court, but public pressure is the best weapon and British Columbians should be asking politicians whether charges will be laid and demanding an explanation for the delay, Lapointe said.

A SumOfUs petition signed by more than 30,000 people urging the Trudeau government not to let those responsible off the hook will be presented shortly to federal ministers responsible for enforcing the Fisheries Act.

Read More on The Tyee



It may feel like a more urgent problem these days, with proposed cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency and each year warmer than the previous one.

You could drive a few miles fewer a year. Reduce your speed. Turn down your thermostat in winter. Replace your incandescent light bulbs with LEDs. Reduce your meat consumption. Any of those actions would help.

But none would come close to doing as much as driving a fuel efficient vehicle. If vehicles averaged 31 miles per gallon, according to research, the United States could reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 5 percent.

Improving fuel economy carries particular salience after the Trump administration announced this month that it would re-examine the progressively more stringent Obama-era fuel economy standards for vehicles in model years 2022 to 2025.

Changing how much we drive is not easy; it often requires a major change in lifestyle, like moving closer to work or making more frequent use of public transportation, which often takes longer and is less convenient than driving. It is much easier to buy a more fuel-efficient vehicle; cars with fuel economy much better than the new vehicle average of 25 mpg are widely available. This is where the role of government and its fuel economy standards for new vehicles becomes important. These standards have obvious direct effects on the industry in terms of what vehicles are made and sold, and their actual on road fuel-economy performance.

But the recently announced review of those standards by the Trump administration is bad news for the prospects of reducing both transporting emissions and the country's reliance on fossil fuels. And that will make it that much harder to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet to dangerous levels.

Read More on The New York Times

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The Post-Fossil City Contest, sponsored by the Urban Futures Studio at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, aims to imagine an urban utopia devoid of gasoline, diesel and coal, and the fumes and pollution associated with them. The competition tapped the creative juices of artists, designers, architects, urbanists, writers, photographers, filmmakers and visionaries. The 250 submissions from more than 40 countries have been whittled to 10 finalists. Some entrants warn of a bleak urban future defined by rising seas and failing services in the overwhelmed slums of developing cities. However, most take a rosier outlook. They imagine a day when cities are no longer befouled by tailpipe emissions and roaring engines. Urban air would be as sweet as that of the countryside. The never-ending din of traffic that is the norm in cities today would be replaced by nearly silent electric vehicles that barely hiss when accelerated.

The wackiest idea comes from designers Anastasia Eggers and Ottonie von Roeder, who propose a Cow on Tour that makes it easy for city folk to collect fresh milk. A smartphone app would allow urbanites to locate these "walking vending machines". Each cow would be equipped with a machine on its back powered by its own methane gas, in the form of farts.

Not everyone is optimistic. A submission titled People of Petrotopia depicts a dystopian future in which our insatiable appetite for fossil fuel has left cities ailing from pollution and climate change. Utrecht is pictured as a bleak landscape with crumbling buildings and flooded streets. A smattering of windmills and solar panels have failed to reverse the damage.

The finalists, announced last month in Utrecht, each received €1,000 (USD 1,070) to pursue their projects. All will be highlighted at the Post-Fossil City Exhibition in Utrecht, on 15 June. The competition winner, to receive €10,000 (USD 10,700) will be announced at the event.

Read More on Citiscope



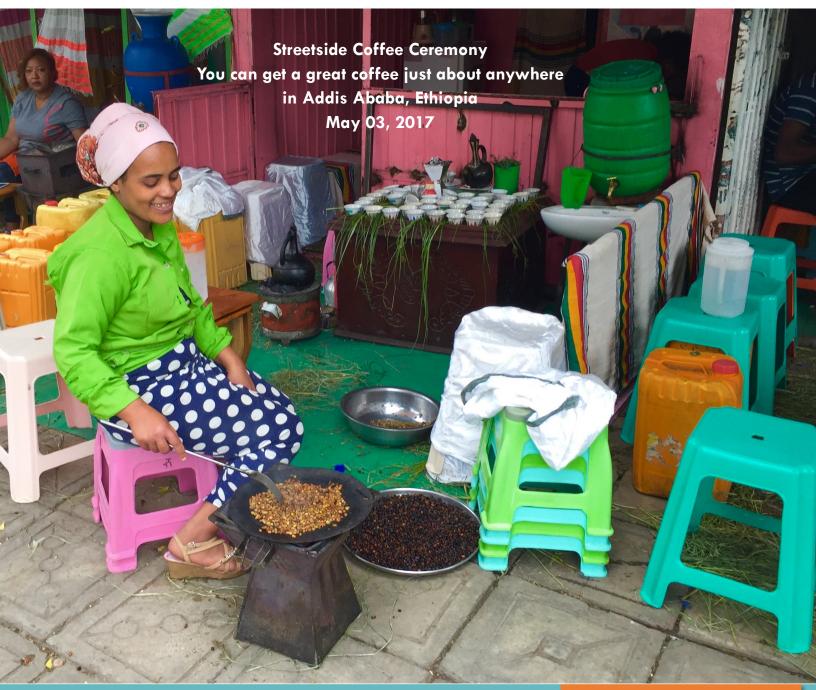
More seasoned development professionals may sometimes feel that once they reach their 50s and beyond, the opportunities dry up and they receive fewer call backs for jobs. Global development is not immune to these issues that impact hiring decisions in other sectors, such as ageism, but it is a cross-cutting issue with a number of factors at play. Many seasoned professionals fear discrimination even among employers in countries where laws are in place to protect them.

Chen Reis has worked in humanitarian assistance for over a decade and sees how these kinds of policies can be seen by some to be ageist and says that, as with all other industries, there are a number of perceptions about employing older professionals. There are, of course, a lot of positions out there that demand professionals who have extensive experience and are dedicated to their work regardless of age.

Here are some tips for navigating the employment landscape in the later years of your career.

- **1. Be familiar with mandatory retirement policies:** Knowing the mandatory retirement policies, if any, within an organization is a good place to start and saves you the time of applying to jobs where you are less likely to be seriously considered as a candidate.
- 2. Leverage your experience, to a point: Also, avoid putting too much detail about your early career work experience in your CV. You can leave off or just include employer and job titles for jobs that were over 20 years in the past, unless they are particularly relevant to the job. This will also help cut down on your CV length, another common challenge for more experienced professionals.
- 3. Take advantage of your network: Careers expert Tom Leamond advises senior professionals to build their career from within. If you are looking to take on a role with more responsibility and perhaps a higher salary, try to move within the same organization where they already know who you are and there is a natural stepping process.
- 4. Look more to jobs in HQ: Consider positions in headquarters or national offices, which may be desk-based roles but will value your previous hands-on experience in the field.
- **5. Make clear your ability:** If you are still willing and able to travel, spend time in the field or relocate, make this clear to the employer.
- 6. **Keep your skills current:** In an interview, try to avoid appearing like you know and have seen it all. This can signal to an interviewer that you are not open to learning and evolving, which is a requirement for anyone at any stage of a development career.
- 7. **Don't mention salary:** Instead focus on your motivation to bring your skills to that position and to work for that particular organization. Salary can be discussed further on in the hiring process when the employer makes you an offer.

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