



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS & GLOBAL HEALTH

Volume 5, Number 24

<https://planetaryhealthweekly.com>

June 13, 2019

NEW REPORT SUGGESTS 'HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION COMING TO AN END' STARTING IN 2050

An analysis published by a think-tank in Melbourne, Australia describes climate change as "a near- to mid-term existential threat to human civilization" and sets out a plausible scenario it could lead to over the next 30 years. One billion people would be forced to attempt to relocate from unlivable conditions, and two billion would face scarcity of water supplies. Agriculture would collapse in the sub-tropics, and food production would suffer dramatically worldwide. The 2050 scenario illustrates how easy it could be to end up in an accelerating runaway climate scenario, which would lead to a largely uninhabitable planet within just a few decades.

[Read more at Vice](#)



Credit: Mark Garlick/Science Photos Library via Getty Images

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'CANADIAN GENOCIDE': REPORT SEEKS JUSTICE FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

The National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its final report on June 3 at a ceremony in Gatineau, Quebec. The report refers to the violence against these women and girls as a race-based "Canadian genocide." It issued 231 calls for justice, recommendations of actions that governments and citizens must take to put an end to the violence. Indigenous women and girls in Canada are 12 times more likely to be murdered or to go missing than people from any other demographic, according to the report. Brian Eyolfson, one of the Inquiry commissioners said the main themes across the country were consistent: they all spoke of violence rooted in colonialism, racism and discrimination. [Read more at Global Citizen](#)



Credit: Andrew Meade/AFP



Credit: Rodger Bosch/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

COMPANIES SEE CLIMATE CHANGE HITTING THEIR BOTTOM LINES IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS

A new analysis of corporate disclosures reveals that major companies are bracing for the prospect that climate change could substantially affect their bottom lines within the next five years. Many firms are bracing for direct impacts. Hitachi Ltd., a Japanese manufacturer, said that increased rainfall and flooding in Southeast Asia had the potential to knock out suppliers and that it was taking defensive measures as a result. Google's parent company, Alphabet, Inc., noted that rising temperatures could increase the cost of cooling its energy-hungry data centers. [Read more at the New York Times](#)



Credit: NOAA

A RIVER IN THE SKY

Sometimes known as a Pineapple Express, atmospheric rivers carry moisture from the tropics and subtropics toward the poles and they are fundamental to the Earth's water cycle. They carry about 90% of the water vapour that's transported toward the North and South poles. When it collides with land, it releases tremendous rains that could last for a couple of days and trigger devastating landslides, floods and fatal avalanches. A study published last spring stated that climate change will make atmospheric rivers a lot bigger. Models indicate the typical atmospheric river in the 21st Century will be about 25% wider — 855 km versus 700 km — and 25% longer — 5,400 km versus 4,300 km — than those of the 20th Century. [Read more at The Star](#)



Credit: Elbino.no

WHY NORWAY LEADS THE WORLD IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE ADOPTION

Per capita, Norway has more electric car owners and drivers than anywhere else in the world. The country has made them more affordable than their gas counterparts, and over time, that has normalized the ownership of electric vehicles (EV). The overwhelming majority of people purchasing EVs says the number one reason is economic. Norway doesn't make electric cars cheaper; it makes gas- and diesel-powered cars far more expensive than they are in other countries. Taxation on gas and diesel vehicles turns into incentives for EVs, whether powered via batteries or fuel cells. [Read more at Green Car Reports](#)



Credit: Eric Bridiers / U.S. Mission Geneva / CC BY-ND

THE U.N. HAS FAILED CIVILIANS

According to the UN, more than 22,800 civilians were killed or injured in 2018 alone across just six countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. All five permanent Security Council members are parties to many of these conflicts, and are thus responsible for the failure to protect civilians. For instance, the Saudi-led coalition, supported by Western arms from the United States, United Kingdom and France, have also injured and killed thousands of civilians and deliberately blocked food assistance in Yemen. The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross Peter Maurer noted the long-term impacts of such conflict on communities, stating: "We see damaged infrastructure leading to the collapse of essential health, water systems and more."

[Read more at Inter Press Service](#)

W.H.O. NEEDS \$14B — HERE'S HOW IT PLANS TO RAISE IT

Over the next five years, the World Health Organization will need some \$14.1 billion, according to estimates released in September. This will be used to help deliver the organization's much-touted "triple billion" goals of protecting 1 billion more people from health emergencies; reaching 1 billion more with health coverage; and improving the health and well-being of 1 billion more people. In an interview with Devex, Imre Hollo, director for strategic planning said "We always think about health expenditures as expenditures, and this is the first time that we actually come and show that this is an investment that brings about concrete results." [Read more at Devex](#)



Credit: Shelly Kittleston/IPS



Credit: Sean Gallup/Getty

EXERCISE, NOT PILLS, BETTER AT PREVENTING DEMENTIA

Last month, the World Health Organization released a report regarding dementia and listed guidelines for prevention. These include getting enough exercise; treating other health conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol; having an active social life; and avoiding or curbing harmful habits such as smoking, overeating and drinking too much alcohol. Evidence is weak that some of these help preserve thinking skills, but they're known to aid general health, the WHO says. But they take a firm stance against vitamin B or E pills, fish oil or multi-complex supplements that are promoted for brain health because there's strong research showing they don't work.

[Read more at CBC](#)



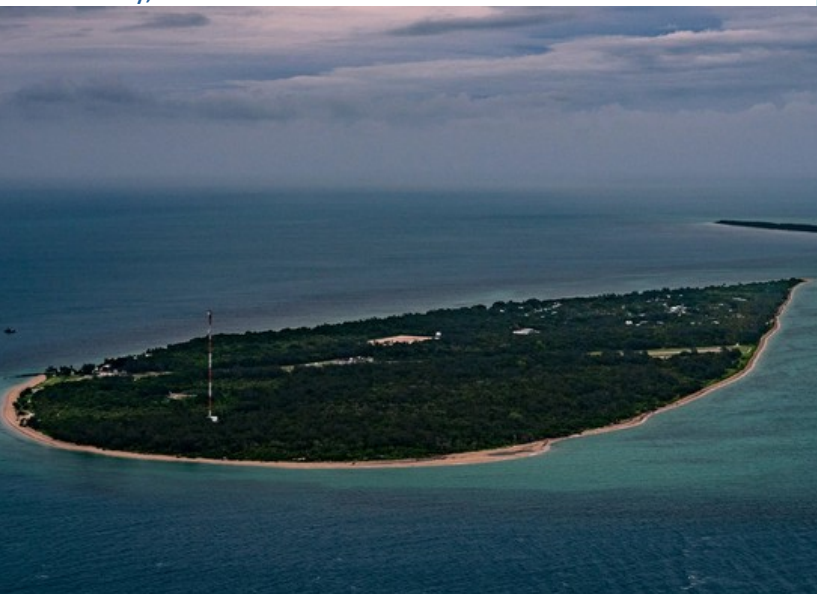
Credit: Lancet

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

TRUMP'S LATEST ATTACK ON FEDERAL CLIMATE SCIENCE MAY BACKFIRE

Last fall, the White House released the second volume of the Fourth National Climate Assessment. Andrew Wheeler, then the acting administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, accused the 300 scientists who authored the National Climate Assessment of political bias and vowed to “take a look at the modeling” to ensure “more realistic projections.” EPA spokesman James Hewitt defended changing “inaccurate modeling that focuses on worst-case emissions scenarios” that “does not reflect real-world conditions.” The Trump administration’s push comes as climate change is finally becoming a top concern for voters across the developed world. [Read more at Wired](#)

See Also: [White House Tried to Stop Climate Science Testimony, Documents Show](#)



Credit: Channi Anand/Associated Press

SPOTLIGHT ON OPINION

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE APPROACHES TO PLANETARY HEALTH: NEW IDEAS FOR A GLOBALISED WORLD

This chapter explores the challenges of adapting global governance regulatory frameworks, processes and outcomes beyond the traditional confines of nation-state interests to address the emergent concept of planetary health that recognizes the oneness and wholeness of human and ecological health. Global governance involves multiple actors (nation-states and non-state actors), with better prospects to address pandemic diseases, climate change, biodiversity loss, trans-boundary pollution, and other global health issues – nearly all of which defy the geopolitical boundaries of nation-states.

[Read more at Sydney University Press](#)



Credit: Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg/Getty Images

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

THEIR ISLANDS ARE BEING ERODED. SO ARE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS, THEY SAY

Eight Torres Strait Islanders are taking action as climate change pushes the tides ever higher, and their islands and ancient culture, are at risk of vanishing. In a landmark claim to be submitted last week at the United Nations, they argue that Australia, by failing to take adequate steps to reduce carbon emissions, has violated their fundamental human rights, including the right to maintain their culture. The Australians’ argument is the first to seek the weight of the United Nations behind such a climate claim, and it could set a precedent for how the populations most vulnerable to the effects of global warming can seek redress under international law. The claimants call on the country to help fund sea walls and other infrastructure that might save the Torres Strait Islands, which have a population of about 4,500, and to meet the emissions targets set under the Paris climate agreement. [Read more at The New York Times](#)



“The spike in (Amazon) deforestation is depressing, but hardly surprising: you have a government in Brazil who is dismantling nearly every environmental policy put in place since 1992 and who is harassing federal environmental agents, thus empowering environmental criminals.”

Carlos Rittl, executive secretary of, an NGO formed by a coalition of Brazilian environmental groups

***See:
Deforestation of Brazilian Amazon surges to record high***

Read more at The Guardian

Credit: Vinicius Mendonca/AP

EVENTS TABLE

DATES	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
June 10th - 21st	5th McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Diseases and Global Health	Montreal Canada	http://mcgill-idgh.ca/
June 10th - 22nd	Health Systems Summer Institute	Baltimore Maryland	https://www.jhsph.edu/departments/international-health/continuing-education/institutes/health-systems-summer-institute/index.html
June 12th - 13th	Community Health Connections	Toronto Canada	https://www.cachc.ca/2019conference/
June 14th - 16th	North American Refugee Health Conference	Toronto Canada	https://facmed.registration.med.utoronto.ca/portal/events/reg/participantTvoeSelection.do?method=loa
June 24th - 28th	Global Ecological Integrity Group	Trieste Italy	http://www.globalecointegrity.org/
June 24th - 29th	Trieste Conference of the Global Ecological Integrity Group	Trieste Italy	https://www.globalecointegrity.org/
July 10th - 11th	Combatting Corruption and Promoting Equity in the Health Sector	San Diego USA	http://www.ghpolicy.org/Corruption-Workshop/Overview.html
September 14th - 18th	Latin American Summit of Sustainable Communities	Intikamari, Azulay, Ecuador	https://redcasalatina.org/se-viene-el-ecco-2019/
October 7th - 11th	Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power	Vienna Austria	https://www.iaea.org/atoms4climate
October 15th - 18th	Global Symposium of Citizenship, Governance and Accountability in Health	New Delhi India	http://www.copasahglobalsymposium2019.net/
November 22nd - 24th	2nd International Symposium on Community Health Workers	Dhaka Bangladesh	http://chwsymposium2019.icddrb.org/abstract_submit Deadline for submissions: 30 June



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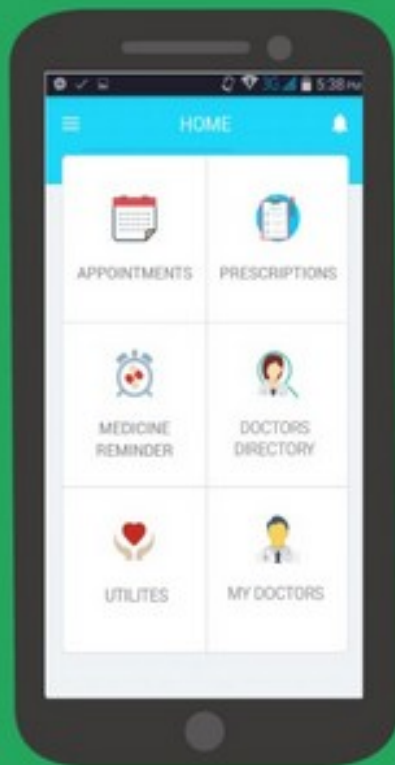
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SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA

5 APPS THAT CHAMPION GENDER EQUALITY AROUND THE WORLD



Credit: Global Citizen

Sheboard: The app uses predictive text to suggest empowering and less sexist language in context to girls and women.

Lulu's journey: The app works as an educational game to help users learn about menstrual hygiene.

Girl rising: Inspired by the film Girl Rising, the app allows users to complete tasks to help a character get to school and participate in the journey of nine girls from around the world who had to fight for their education.

Hello Doctor: This app connects patients with doctors via video and audio calls. You can purchase packages of calls, depending on how many you think you might need.

SafePal: The app is a platform where users can report instances of sexual violence confidentially. They can also find service providers for help that are in close proximity to them. [Read more at Global Citizen](#)



Could understanding other cultures' concepts of joy and well-being help us reshape our own? The Positive Lexicography Project aims to catalogue foreign terms for happiness that have no direct English translation. Tim Lomas, lecturer in applied positive psychology at University of East London launched the project following his participation in the annual congress of the International Positive Psychology Association where he stumbled on the Finnish word *sisu* loosely defined as "human perseverance." The Positive Lexicography Project might help the field of psychology, which is often criticized for focusing too much on Western experiences and ideas, develop a more cross-cultural view of well-being.

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THE LIMITS OF AFRICA'S MALARIA VACCINE PILOTS



Credit: VOA News

The launch in April of the world's first malaria vaccine pilots — targeting 360,000 children a year across Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi — was heralded by many as the beginning of the end for a disease that kills around 400,000 people a year, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. But the reality is far less simple. In clinical trials, it prevented 4 in every 10 cases of malaria, reducing the need for hospitalization by 40%, and the need for blood by transfusion by 30% — a great achievement, but not a miracle cure. WHO itself, which greenlighted the piloting of GlaxoSmithKline's RTS,S malaria vaccine in 2017, describes it as a complementary malaria control tool that will be added to the list of recommended measures for prevention. Those include routine use of insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor sprays, and rapid malaria testing and treatment. [Read more at Devex](#)

See also: Here's how people in Nigeria are avoiding (typhoid) vaccination
[Read more at Devex](#)



10 COMMON TRAVEL SCAMS — AND HOW TO AVOID THEM



Credit: Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post

When we are on our own turf, the scam artists are often obvious. But on foreign territory, we are more susceptible to deceptions. Bernier-Toth, who has lived in African and the Middle East offers this advice: “Be polite, but wary; trust, but verify, and just say ‘No, thank you.’” Also, check the State Department’s (and other countries’) country information for alerts specific to your destination. The article offers advise on how to avoid counterfeit currency, fake accidents and scams by corrupt cabbies, amongst others.

[Read more at The Washington Post](#)



WOOD: HOUSING, HEALTH, HUMANITY



Credit: PlanetArk

The use of wood in the interior of a building has clear physiological and psychological benefits that mimic the effect of spending time outside in nature. The feelings of natural warmth and comfort that wood elicits in people have the effect of lowering blood pressure and heart rates, reducing stress and anxiety, increasing positive social interactions and improving corporate image. These benefits are particularly important for environments where it is difficult to incorporate nature indoors, such as hospitals where strict health and safety guidelines may prevent the presence of plants, and office environments where views from the window are of roads and neighbouring concrete buildings. Responsibly sourced (and certified) timber has clear health and happiness benefits, as well as being a weapon in the struggle against climate change by both storing carbon and eliminating emissions. Wood is one of the oldest and most versatile building materials used by humanity but it also has a large part to play in the future of health and housing. [Read more at Holz100 Canada](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

HOW FACULTY CAN HELP STUDENTS IN THEIR JOB SEARCHES



Credit: Istockphoto.com/Erhui1979

Many students look to their instructors for career guidance and will continue to do so, writes Allyson Hoffman, which is why it is important for instructors to be prepared to offer sound advice. In addition to referring students to their institutions' career services departments, the author notes, instructors can invite career professionals into the classroom. Hoffman notes that this invitation can be made even more productive by working with the career professional beforehand to tie the session directly to course material. Hoffman also suggests offering students methods for organizing their job search and applications, recommending professional groups, connecting on LinkedIn, and talking openly about one's own job experiences. [Read more at Inside Higher Ed](#)

Panel Discussion on Health Research Opportunities in Africa
with Drs. Yann Meunier, Dennis Raphael, Dicki Akanmori and Robert Sebbag
Society for the Advancement of Science in Africa 6th Annual Conference
University of Toronto
June 6, 2019



Credit: David Zakus

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