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May 2010 – Issue 1

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SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS

21st CENTURY AID: RECOGNISING SUCCESS AND TACKLING FAILURE. Oxfam International. April 28, 2010.

Aid plays a role in saving millions of lives, and yet despite its achievements poverty continues to cast a shadow over the lives of some 1.4 billion people worldwide. This has opened up questions over the effectiveness of aid and lately, unleashed a barrage of criticism, with critics using individual examples of failed aid to argue that all aid is bad and should be reduced or phased out altogether, says the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bp137-21st-century-aid.pdf> [PDF format, 58 pages].

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO): AN OVERVIEW. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jeanne J. Grimmett. April 8, 2010.

Dispute settlement in the World Trade Organization (WTO) is carried out under the WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU). In effect since January 1995, the DSU provides for consultations between disputing parties, panels and appeals, and possible retaliation if a defending party fails to comply with a WTO decision by an established deadline. Automatic establishment of

panels, adoption of panel and appellate reports, and authorization of requests to retaliate, along with deadlines and improved multilateral oversight of compliance, are aimed at producing a more expeditious and effective system than had existed under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). To date, 405 complaints have been filed, approximately half involving the United States as complainant or defendant.
http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS20088_20100408.pdf [PDF format, 15 pages].

INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURES: MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS' INVESTMENTS IN ENERGY POLICY. World Resources Institute. Smita Nakhoda and Athena R. Ballesteros. April 2010.

This report reviews loans provided by Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to developing countries for electricity policy from 2006–2008. It examines those policies, regulations, and institutional capacities in the electricity sector that will direct both public and private investment in sustainable energy options. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
http://pdf.wri.org/investing_in_sustainable_energy_futures.pdf [PDF format, 50 pages].

SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES AND POLICIES TO PROMOTE REGULATORY REFORM AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT THE SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Jacobo Pastor Garcia Villarreal. April 28, 2010.

This report is part of the OECD-Mexico initiative “Strengthening of Economic Competition and Regulatory Improvement for Competitiveness”. It summarizes the findings of several case studies on best practices to promote regulatory reform and entrepreneurship at the sub-national level. It has benefited from the participation of three Mexican states (Baja California, Jalisco, and Puebla), as well as of three provinces from other countries, British Columbia (Canada), Catalonia (Spain), and Piemonte (Italy). By including both, Mexican and international experiences, this report derives practical lessons for sub-national governments to improve their regulatory quality and create dynamic business environments. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/6/61/45083032.pdf> [PDF format, 86 pages].

ASSESSING RESERVE FLOWS FOR THE MARA RIVER: KENYA AND TANZANIA. World Wildlife Fund. Web posted April 27, 2010.

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission is a specialized institution of the East African Community that is responsible for coordinating the sustainable development agenda of the Lake Victoria Basin. Its vision is to promote, facilitate and coordinate activities of different actors towards sustainable development and poverty eradication of the Lake Victoria Basin. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
http://assets.panda.org/downloads/environmental_flows_assessment_mara_1.pdf [PDF format, 60 pages].

LRA: A REGIONAL STRATEGY BEYOND KILLING KONY. International Crisis Group. April 28, 2010.

To make an end of the brutal Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) of Uganda once and for all, national armies, the U.N. and civilians need to pool intelligence and coordinate their efforts in new and creative ways, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/africa/horn-of-africa/uganda/157%20LRA%20-%20A%20Regional%20Strategy%20beyond%20Killing%20Kony.ashx> [PDF format, 38 pages].

UNJUST AND UNHEALTHY: HIV, TB, AND ABUSE IN ZAMBIAN PRISONS. Human Rights Watch. April 27, 2010.

The report documents the failure of the Zambian prison authority to provide basic nutrition, sanitation, and housing for prisoners, and of the criminal justice system to ensure speedy trials and appeals, and to make the fullest use of non-custodial alternatives. Poor conditions and minimal medical care for prisoners lead to the transmission of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) - including difficult-to-treat and potentially deadly drug-resistant strains - that threaten the lives of both inmates and the general public, the report says. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/04/27/unjust-and-unhealthy-0> [HTML format with links].

CURRENCY MANIPULATION: HISTORY SHOWS THAT SANCTIONS ARE NEEDED. Economic Policy Institute. Robert E. Scott. April 29, 2010.

International Economist Robert Scott says the U.S. should identify China and four other nations as currency manipulators and impose tariffs if they do not revalue their currencies. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://epi.3cdn.net/8f85a759c149f29f59_2im6bxuju.pdf [PDF format, 7 pages].

"I WANT TO HELP MY OWN PEOPLE:" STATE CONTROL AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN BURMA AFTER CYCLONE NARGIS. Human Rights Watch. April 28, 2010.

The report details the Burmese military government's response to Nargis and its implications for human rights and development in Burma today. The report describes the government's attempts to block assistance in the desperate three weeks after the cyclone, which struck Burma's Irrawaddy Delta on May 2, 2008, and the concerted response from increasingly assertive Burmese civil society groups to overcome government restrictions to providing assistance. The report details continuing violations of rights to free expression, association, and movement against Burmese aid workers and their organizations by the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/04/29/i-want-help-my-own-people-0> [HTML format with links].

ROUGH DIPLOMATIC WATERS ON KOREAN PENINSULA. Council on Foreign Relations. Scott A. Snyder. April 28, 2010.

Absent evidence of N. Korea's involvement, S. Korea's response to the recent sinking of one of its ships has been measured. But public anger about the incident will impact June elections and increase scrutiny of the defense ministry, says CFR Korea expert Scott Snyder. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.cfr.org/publication/22003/rough_diplomatic_waters_on_korean_peninsula.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fregion_issue_brief [HTML format, various paging].

WHY TRADE FIGURES DO NOT PROVE CHINA IS REBALANCING. New America Foundation. Samuel Serraden. April 27, 2010.

China's trade surplus declined in the first quarter, and during March the country ran a deficit of \$7.2 billion, its first monthly trade deficit since 2004. Contrary to some analyses, this is not proof that the economy has made significant progress toward rebalancing or a reason for the United States to back away from pushing China on yuan appreciation. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.newamerica.net/publications/policy/why_trade_figures_do_not_prove_china_is_rebalancing [HTML format, various paging].

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE NETHERLANDS ARMED FORCES: A STRATEGIC SURVEY. RAND Corporation. Matt Bassford et al. April 28, 2010.

This is a comparative study of several different armed forces to illustrate contrasts and similarities with those of the Netherlands. It was conducted within the context of the NL MOD's Future Policy Survey, which is a review of the Netherlands' future defense ambition, required capabilities and associated levels of defense expenditure. The Future Policy Survey was delivered to the Netherlands Parliament in April 2010. The overarching aim of the Dutch Future Policy Survey is to provide greater insight into how to exploit and enhance the potential contribution of the Netherlands armed forces.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2010/RAND_TR690.pdf [PDF format, 84 pages].

IRAN SANCTIONS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kenneth Katzman. April 9, 2010.

Numerous laws and regulations have been adopted or issued to try to curb Iran's support for militant groups and slow its weapons of mass destruction programs. The sanctions are intended to reduce the revenue available to Iran's government and to generate domestic pressure within Iran to adopt policies more acceptable to the international community. The wide range of U.S. sanctions restrict U.S. trade with and investment in Iran, prohibit U.S. foreign aid to Iran, and require the United States to vote against international lending to Iran.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS20871_20100409.pdf [PDF format, 34 pages].

IRAQ: A COMPROMISE PM? Council on Foreign Relations. Rachel Schneller and Bernard Gwertzman. April 29, 2010.

Iraq's political standoff may be resolved with a compromise candidate, says CFR's Rachel Schneller. But it won't happen according to a U.S. timetable. And it shouldn't affect U.S. plans to withdraw combat troops this summer. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
http://www.cfr.org/publication/22015/iraq.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Finterview [HTML format, various paging].

NORTH KOREA AND SYRIA: A WARNING IN THE DESERT. YaleGlobal. Gregory L. Schulte. April 28, 2010.

Six-Party Talks began in 2003, with China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the U.S. teaming up to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear-weapons ambition. Talks continued on and off with isolated North Korea, as it inched forward with its own nuclear development and clandestine export of nuclear material. One example of North Korea's nuclear proliferation emerged in 2007 when Israeli bombers destroyed a secretly built nuclear reactor in Syria. Since then, Syria has covered up any remaining traces. The author argues that the international community should not only step up its efforts to interdict North Korea's efforts to proliferate nuclear weapon technology, but also insist on the IAEA's investigation of its role in the construction of the Syrian reactor and draw the world's attention to its dangerous nuclear trafficking [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/north-korea-and-syria-warning-desert> [HTML format, various paging].

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: FACT SHEET ON LEADERS AND ELECTIONS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Julissa Gomez-Granger and Mark P. Sullivan. April 2, 2010.

The fact sheet tracks the current heads of government in Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. It provides the dates of the last and next elections for the head of government and the national independence date for each country.
http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/98-684_20100402.pdf [PDF format, 5 pages].

BRIDGING THE GAP: DEVELOPING A TOOL TO SUPPORT LOCAL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS. RAND Corporation. Melinda Moore et al. April 28, 2010.

U.S. policymakers have stepped up systematic disaster preparedness efforts sharply since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Against a backdrop of natural disasters that occur each year in the United States and heightened concern about pandemic influenza, there is an emerging national consensus that the best path is an all-hazards approach to disaster preparedness planning and that effective local planning is critical. Military

installations and their civilian counterparts — local government and local health-care providers, especially the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs — can strengthen local-level disaster preparedness planning. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2010/RAND_TR764.pdf [PDF format, 289 pages].

THE CASE FOR AUDITING THE FED IS OBVIOUS. Cato Institute. Arnold King. April 27, 2010.

Recently, the Federal Reserve has significantly altered the procedures and goals that it had followed for decades. It has more than doubled its balance sheet, paid interest to banks on reserves held as deposits with the Fed, made decisions about which institutions to prop up and which should be allowed to fail, invested in assets that expose taxpayers to large losses, and raised questions about how it will avoid inflation despite an unprecedented increase in the monetary base, says the author. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://www.cato.org/pubs/bp/bp118.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AND WORK ACTIVITY OF 2009 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES. Bureau of Labor Statistics. April 27, 2010.

In October 2009, 70.1 percent of 2009 high school graduates were enrolled in colleges or universities, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This was a historical high for the series, which began in 1959. Recent high school graduates not enrolled in college in October 2009 were more likely than enrolled graduates to be in the labor force (70.0 compared with 42.1 percent).
<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/hsgec.nr0.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY IN U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS: FALL 2008. National Center for Education Statistics. Lucinda Gray et al. Web posted April 28, 2010.

The report presents data from a fall 2008 Fast Response Survey System (FRSS) survey of public schools on the availability and use of educational technology. It includes information on computer hardware and Internet access, availability of staff to help integrate technology into instruction and provide timely technical support, and perceptions of educational technology issues at the school and district level. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010034.pdf> [PDF format, 66 pages].

GOVERNMENT ONLINE. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Aaron Smith. April 27, 2010.

Government agencies have begun to open up their data to the public, and a surprisingly large number of citizens are showing interest. Some 40% of adult internet users have gone online for raw data about government spending and activities. This includes anyone who has done at least one of the following: look online to see how federal stimulus

money is being spent (23% of internet users have done this); read or download the text of legislation (22%); visit a site such as data.gov that provides access to government data (16%); or look online to see who is contributing to the campaigns of their elected officials (14%). [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Government_Online_2010.pdf [PDF format, 44 pages].

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF LGBT OLDER ADULTS. Center for American Progress. Michael Adams and Jeff Krehely. Web posted April 28, 2010.

The report discusses solutions for addressing the unique barriers and inequalities faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender elders. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/lgbt_elders.pdf [PDF format, 90 pages].

LANGUAGE USE IN THE UNITED STATES: 2007. U.S. Census Bureau. April 2010.

The number of people 5 and older who spoke a language other than English at home has more than doubled in the last three decades and at a pace four times greater than the nation's population growth, according to a new U.S. Census Bureau report analyzing data from the 2007 American Community Survey and over a time period from 1980 – 2007. In that time frame, the percentage of speakers of non-English languages grew by 140 percent while the nation's overall population grew by 34 percent.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/acs-12.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

LOST IN TRANSLATION: CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN CLIMATE SCIENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY. Center for a New American Security. Will Rogers and Jay Gullledge. April 25, 2010.

National security policymakers point to climate change as a key trend that will shape the current and future global security environment, but do not always have the scientific information they need to plan and prepare for the security challenges it may cause. The report explores the gap between the science and policy communities and offers recommendations for how they can work together to ensure the United States can effectively plan for the national security implications of climate change.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/Lost%20in%20Translation_Code406_Web_0.pdf [PDF format, 58 pages].

PESSIMISTIC PUBLIC DOUBTS EFFECTIVENESS OF STIMULUS, TARP. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. April 28, 2010.

The public remains doggedly downbeat about the condition of the national economy, even as many experts and economists see signs of recovery. As has been the case for most of the past two years, about nine-in-ten (88%) rate national economic conditions as

only fair or poor, and over the past year there has been no decline in the percentage saying the economy will stay the same (36%) or get worse (19%) a year from now. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/608.pdf> [PDF format, 35 pages].

STATEMENT OF ROBERT D. REISCHAUER TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REFORM. Urban Institute. Robert D. Reischauer. April 27, 2010.

Urban Institute President Robert Reischauer advises the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform: "First, don't waste time looking for silver bullets or new approaches that hold out the promise of painless sacrifice. There are none to be found." Instead, he recommends mining wisdom from government agencies and think tanks to forge a long-term plan. The catch, he says, will be finding the political will to enact the sacrifices required across all sectors of society. Reischauer's ultimate caveat is that spending cuts and tax increases must be viewed by the electorate as credible and effective. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/901343-fiscal-responsibility-and-reform.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].

U.S. TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS: NOAA HAS EXPANDED ITS TSUNAMI PROGRAMS, BUT IMPROVED PLANNING COULD ENHANCE EFFECTIVENESS. U.S. Government Accountability Office. April 28, 2010.

NOAA adopted strategic plans for the Tsunami Program in 2008 and NTHMP in 2009, which it developed by following key planning practices and including most of the critical components of strategic plans identified by leading organizations, but some components have not been fully developed. GAO found that NOAA's planning process followed practices critical to creating effective strategic plans, such as involving stakeholders. Both plans also include most of the components of effective strategic plans--such as mission statements and long-term goals--but other necessary components were missing or incomplete.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10490.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].

WILL ARIZONA BE AMERICA'S FUTURE? Brookings Institution. William H. Frey. April 28, 2010.

As the controversy surrounding Arizona's new immigration legislation continues, William Frey identifies a "cultural generation gap" in relation to largely white baby boomers and older citizens that may be fueling anti-immigrant sentiment in the state. He explores this trend and provides perspective on what it may mean for the rest of the United States. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0428_arizona_frey.aspx# [HTML format with links].

2010 SPECIAL 301 REPORT. Office of the United States Trade Representatives. Web posted May 4, 2010.

The report reflects the Administration's resolve to encourage and maintain effective Intellectual Property Protection and enforcement worldwide. It identifies a wide range of serious concerns, ranging from troubling "indigenous innovation" policies that may unfairly disadvantage U.S. rightsholders in China, to the continuing challenges of Internet piracy in countries such as Canada and Spain, to the ongoing systemic IPR enforcement challenges in many countries around the world.

http://www.ustr.gov/webfm_send/1906 [PDF format, 54 pages].

ASSESSING THE BENEFITS OF AVOIDED CLIMATE CHANGE: COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS AND BEYOND. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. May 2010.

The report conveys the proceedings of an expert workshop on the economic benefits of avoided climate change. Drawing from the environmental economics, impacts and vulnerability, and risk analysis communities, the workshop sought to glean insights on how to better quantify the benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/benefits-workshop-proceedings.pdf> [PDF format, 252 pages].

FIFTEEN NUCLEAR AGENDAS TO WATCH. Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. April 30, 2010.

The Review Conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty gets underway amid new concerns about Iran and North Korea and disputes between nuclear haves and have-nots. Fifteen countries will play a special role in the debate. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/cetxo0> [HTML format, various paging].

THE HEALTH SECTOR AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN A TIME OF WAR. U.S. Institute of Peace. Anajalee Kohu et al. April 28, 2010.

The challenges of effectively addressing sexual and gender-based violence in war torn communities are daunting. There is a growing consensus that a multi-sectoral approach is essential, one in which the health sector can play a central role. The brief describes the pivotal role the health sector can play, obstacles to its exercising these needed functions, and steps that can be taken to contribute to developing support for survivors as part of an integrated approach. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.usip.org/files/resources/PB25%20Health_Gender_Violence_War.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages].

HOW CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (ISO 26000) MANDATES UNDERMINE FREE MARKETS. The Heritage Foundation. James Roberts. May 3, 2010.

Activist groups and statist bureaucrats at the U.N. and around the world are seeking to impose corporate social responsibility (CSR) requirements on firms through the

International Organization for Standardization's proposed ISO 26000 standards, scheduled to be approved in Copenhagen in mid-May 2010. While CSR is promoted as a path to laudable social goals (such as health care, education, and infrastructure construction in developing countries), in practice it can devolve into a thinly disguised form of coercion requiring companies to transfer some of their profits to host government authorities or to organizations or people favored by them. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2010/05/Corporate-Social-Responsibility-Standards-ISO-26000-Bad-for-Business> [HTML format, various paging].

NPT REVIEW FACES CHALLENGES AS IRAN KNOCKS ON DOOR. YaleGlobal. Leonard S. Spector. May 3, 2010.

Threatening to build, possess or use nuclear weapons does not do much to win friends or influence neighbors, as the old saying goes, particularly as more nations acquire the bomb. More than 180 nations convene at the UN this month, starting today, to continue regular five-yearly review and negotiations aimed at reducing these weapons. Progress is slow because decisions at the UN conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty are made by consensus, explains nonproliferation expert Leonard S. Spector.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/npt-review-faces-challenges> [HTML format, various paging].

NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE ZONES AS A NEW DETERRENT. U.S. Institute of Peace. Janene Sawers. April 28, 2010.

Nuclear weapon-free states can establish a new regional security framework through the strengthening of existing and creation of new Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs). These zones operate under the assumption that more nuclear weapons make the world inherently less safe and demonstrate that countries do not need nuclear weapons to deter attack. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.usip.org/files/resources/PB%2024%20Nuclear%20Weapon-Free%20Zones%20as%20a%20New%20Deterrent.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].

REGIME AND PERIPHERY IN NORTHERN YEMEN: THE HUTHI PHENOMENON. RAND Corporation. Barak A. Salmoni et al. May 3, 2010.

For nearly six years, the government of Yemen has conducted military operations north of the capital against groups of its citizens known as “Huthis.” In spite of using all means at its disposal, the government has been unable to subdue the Huthi movement. Along with southern discontent and al-Qa’ida-inspired terrorism, the Huthi conflict presents an enduring threat to the stability of Yemen and the regime of its president. This book presents an in-depth look at the conflict in all its sociocultural, political, and military aspects. Basing their research on a wide variety of sources, both Western and non-Western, the authors provide a history of the Huthi movement and its origins in the Zaydi branch of Islam. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2010/RAND_MG962.pdf [PDF format, 412 pages].

THE ROLE OF NATURAL GAS IN A LOW-CARBON ENERGY ECONOMY. World Watch Institute. Christopher Flavin and Saya Kitasei. April 30, 2010.

The report provides an initiative designed to explore and communicate the potential of natural gas, renewable energy, and energy efficiency to work together to build a low-carbon economy. The project provides a forum to examine potential environmental, social, and political obstacles that must be addressed if natural gas is to accelerate, rather than delay, a low-carbon energy transformation. Partnering with leading NGOs, academic institutions, industry, and the public sector, the initiative will propose needed actions, with a focus initially on the United States. The initiative will later focus on energy policies internationally, in particular in India, China, Europe and Africa.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.worldwatch.org/files/pdf/Worldwatch%20Gas%20Paper%20April%202010.pdf> [PDF format, 23 pages].

A MEDIA MINEFIELD: INCREASED THREATS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN UGANDA. Human Rights Watch. May 2, 2010.

As Uganda plans for general elections in 2011, freedom of expression across the country is in significant jeopardy. On a superficial level, Ugandan media seem to enjoy considerable latitude, especially those based in Kampala, which regularly carry a range of opinions, including occasional criticism of government policies. In reality, however, the report finds genuinely free and independent journalism is under threat, particularly outside the capital. The government deploys a wide range of tactics to stifle critical reporting, from occasional physical violence to threats, harassment, bureaucratic interference, and criminal charges, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/05/02/media-minefield> [HTML format with links].

THE SUCCESS OF TOURISM IN RWANDA – GORILLAS AND MORE. The World Bank. Hannah Nielsen and Anna Spenceley. April 2010.

Rwanda is well known for its mountain gorillas. First brought to international attention by the conservation efforts of Dian Fossey in the 1960s and 70s, Rwanda's gorillas have featured in numerous documentaries and have in the recent past been visited, for example, by Bill Gates, Natalie Portman and Ted Turner, who have all participated in the annual gorilla naming ceremony. Rwanda and Uganda are the only two countries in the world where mountain gorillas can be visited safely at the moment.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/akTRGy> [PDF format, 29 pages].

CRISIS FOR EUROPE IN GREEK DEBT? Council on Foreign Relations. April 30, 2010.

The IMF and European leaders have gotten serious about Greece's debt, says CFR's Charles Kupchan. But the crisis also raises concerns about the euro-zone's unity.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.cfr.org/publication/22027/crisis_for_europe_in_greek_debt.html [HTML format, various paging].

2010 CENSUS COOPERATION WITH ENUMERATORS IS CRITICAL TO A SUCCESSFUL HEADCOUNT. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Robert Goldenkoff. April 30, 2010.

This is the statement made by Robert Goldenkoff, director, strategic issues, before the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, in Los Angeles, California.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10665t.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

AMERICA'S FUTURE: LATINO CHILD WELL-BEING IN NUMBERS AND TRENDS. National Council of La Raza. April 28, 2010.

The data offers a comprehensive overview of the state of Latino children by integrating a range of key factors and outcomes in the areas of demography, citizenship, family structure, poverty, health, education, and juvenile justice. It provides an overview of current national and state-level trends for Latino children under age 18 relative to non-Hispanic White and Black children, documenting both regional variations and changing trends since the year 2000. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.nclr.org/section/audience/researchers/latino_child_well_being [HTML format with links].

CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATORS IN THE UNITED STATES. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. April 27, 2010.

The report presents 24 indicators, each describing trends related to the causes and effects of climate change. It focuses primarily on the United States, but in some cases global trends are presented to provide context or a basis for comparison.

http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/indicators/pdfs/ClimateIndicators_full.pdf [PDF format, 80 pages].

FILIPINO IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES. Migration Policy Institute. Aaron Terrazas and Jeanne Batalova. April 2010.

The United States is home to about 1.7 million Filipino immigrants, making them the second-largest immigrant group in the United States after Mexican immigrants. The Filipino immigrant population grew rapidly during the 1970s and 1980s and has

continued to grow (although at a slightly slower pace) since then. In addition, the United States is home to about 1.4 million native-born US citizens who claim Filipino ancestry. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/USfocus/display.cfm?id=777> [HTML format, various paging].

“FROZEN” DEFINED-BENEFIT PLANS. Bureau of Labor Statistics. April 2010.

During the current economic recession, as employers search for ways to reduce costs, the phrase “frozen retirement plans” is heard with greater frequency. Frozen plans are those that are closed to employees not previously participating in the plan and/or place limits on future benefits for some or all active participants. The brief focuses on defined-benefit retirement plans that are frozen.

http://www.bls.gov/opub/perspectives/program_perspectives_vol2_issue3.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages].

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY: FATAL AND NONFATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES. Bureau of Labor Statistics. April 23, 2010.

Oil and gas industries are frequently in the news. Much of the time this news is related to changes in prices of oil and gas, which affect most consumers in one way or another. Another less frequent subject of media attention is when disasters strike, as in the offshore oil drilling platform explosion and fire on April 20, 2010. The overall rate of injuries and illnesses with days away from work due to fires and explosions in all industries was 0.2 per 10,000 full-time workers in 2008, composed of 2,320 cases with days away from work. There were 174 fatal injuries due to fires and explosions in 2008, 18 of which were in the oil and gas industry.

<http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/os/osar0013.pdf> [PDF format, 7 pages].

THE POLARIZATION OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE U.S. LABOR MARKET. Center for American Progress. David Autor. April 30, 2010.

The paper analyzes the state of the U.S. labor market over the past three decades to inform policymaking on two fronts. The first is to rigorously document and place in historical and international context the trajectory of the U.S. labor market, focusing on the evolving earnings, employment rates, and labor market opportunities for workers with low, moderate, and high levels of education. The second is to illuminate the key forces shaping this trajectory. The report explores the causes and consequences of these trends in U.S. employment patterns in detail. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/pdf/job_polarization.pdf [PDF format, 48 pages].

PREPARING TEACHERS: BUILDING EVIDENCE FOR SOUND POLICY. National Research Council. April 29, 2010.

Teachers make a difference. The success of any plan for improving educational outcomes depends on the teachers who carry it out and thus on the abilities of those attracted to the field and their preparation. Yet there are many questions about how teachers are being prepared and how they ought to be prepared. Yet, teacher preparation is often treated as an afterthought in discussions of improving the public education system.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12882 [HTML format with links].

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF STUDENT SUCCESS: HOW COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE IMPROVING DEGREE COMPLETION. Southern Regional Education Board. April 2010.

The report profiles 15 four-year public colleges and universities nationwide whose success in raising graduation rates may provide other institutions with practices and strategies that work to help more students succeed. It also outlines common approaches and strategies that these institutions are using to boost student success for other institutions, university systems and states to use. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
http://publications.sreb.org/2010/10E02_Promoting_Culture.pdf [PDF format, 52 pages].

PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND PREVENTING CHILDHOOD OBESITY: TRENDS IN RECENT LEGISLATION. National Conference of State Legislatures. Amy Winterfeld et al. April 2010.

The report highlights actions on school nutrition, body mass index and fitness screening, transit-oriented development and local food production and consumption as emerging trends in state policies designed to prevent childhood obesity.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/20100419promotinghealthycommunities.pdf> [PDF format, 42 pages].

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON OIL SPILL. The White House. President Barack Obama. May 2, 2010.

“Currently, the most advanced technology available is being used to try and stop a leak that is more than 5,000 feet under the surface. Because this leak is unique and unprecedented, it could take many days to stop. That’s why we’re also using every resource available to stop the oil from coming ashore and mitigating the damage it could cause. And much of the discussion here at the center was focused on if we, and when we have to deal with these mitigation efforts,” says President Obama.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-oil-spill> [HTML format, various paging].

“SOCIALISM” NOT SO NEGATIVE, “CAPITALISM” NOT SO POSITIVE. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. May 4, 2010.

“Socialism” is a negative for most Americans, but certainly not all Americans. “Capitalism” is regarded positively by a majority of the public, though it is a thin majority. There are certain segments of the public – notably, young people and Democrats – where both “isms” are rated about equally. And while most Americans have a negative reaction to the word “militia,” the term is viewed more positively by Republican men than most other groups. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. <http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/610.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

TAX ARBITRAGE BY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. Congressional Budget Office. April 30, 2010.

Colleges and universities enjoy a variety of federal tax preferences that are designed to support a broader public purpose, the advancement of higher education and research. The use of proceeds from lower-cost tax-exempt bonds to directly finance the purchase of higher-yield securities, a practice known as tax arbitrage, is prohibited by law. Nevertheless, as discussed in the study, the law as currently implemented allows many colleges and universities to use tax-exempt debt to finance investments in operating assets while, at the same time, they hold investment assets that earn a higher return. <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/112xx/doc11226/04-30-TaxArbitrage.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

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