



Issue - 24 27th December 2013

## Leadership – Population

### **Leadership**

#### **SAARC Women Parliamentarians Meet in Maldives**

Speakers and parliamentarians from South Asian countries gathered in Maldives 21 December 2013 for the seventh South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) speakers and parliamentarians' conference. The first session of the conference, which is being held in Bandos island resort, saw meetings of female South Asian parliamentarians and secretary-generals of SAARC parliaments. The female parliamentarians meeting, Maria Ahmed Didi, MP from the Maldives, discussed the opportunities available in South Asia to female parliamentarians and obstacles to increasing the role of female parliamentarians. The secretary generals meeting, chaired by the secretary general of the Maldives parliament Ahmed Mohamed, discussed ways to cut administrative costs of the parliaments of South Asian countries.

#### **Delay, Graft Erode Parliament's Credibility**

Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar said that delays, apathy and corruption erode the credibility of institutions such as "Parliament" causing disillusionment and unrest while observing that Parliaments have to prove their trustworthiness by evocatively taking up popular issues. She viewed efforts must be made to ensure transparency and certainty of executive action. She also said that the existence of an impartial judiciary to uphold the rule of law and protect individual rights and liberty is equally important for sustaining democracy. She further said that we must harness the

potential of media for consolidating democracy. Ms. Kumar was speaking in Male (Maldives) at the SAARC Parliamentarians conference and said that the people of SAARC region have demonstrated their resolve for safeguarding and deepening democracy and now it is for parliamentarians of the region to make democracy consequential for them.-(The Asian Age)

#### **HIV/AIDS Bill's Waiting 7 Yrs. for in Indian Parliament's Nod**

Even after more than seven years since it was finalised by the union health ministry, the HIV/AIDS Bill's inordinate wait for its final Parliamentary nod did not end yet as the ministry could not introduce it in Parliament during the just concluded winter session. The chances of the Bill getting the Parliament's nod are bleak as this could be the last full-fledged session of Parliament before the next general elections which is due in May 2014. The Parliament may meet once again sometime in February next year, just for passing the vote-on-account, ahead of the 2014 polls. So, practically the fate of the Bill will be decided by the next government. The Bill seeks to end discrimination meted out to the HIV patients and ensuring access to right to treatment for them as part of the Constitutional Right to Health. – (Pharmabiz)

#### **A New Year's Leadership Ambition for USAID**

For U.S. foreign aid, 2014 set bold aspirations against a backdrop of dysfunctional budgetary and legislative decision-making in Congress. If the U.S. government is going to drive a relevant foreign assistance agenda forward, it will have to take advantage of opportunities early next year to embed a growing list of goals within a clearer vision of how U.S. can serve a world where poverty and fragility increasingly intersect. “The United States will join with our allies to eradicate... extreme poverty in the next two decades,” said Obama, echoing some and foreshadowing other similar pronouncements from the World Bank, the U.K. DIFID and others. U.S. Agency for International Development officials are looking now at what effect initiatives they have already launched — like “Feed the Future” and the “New Alliance for Food Security” — have on extreme poverty reduction. There are signs the administration and aid supporters in Congress will set their sights on more concrete achievements than “leadership ambitions” in 2014; Energy poverty experts are looking for co-sponsors on the “Electrify Africa Act”, a piece of legislation that predates Obama’s Power Africa initiative, and which would make it easier for government agencies to support investments in sub-Saharan energy

projects.-(US AID)

### Population Institute Media Award Winners

Washington, DC –The Population Institute announced the winners of the 34th annual Global Media Awards competition. The recipients made a significant contribution to public discussion and understanding of population and family planning related issues. The Population Institute is proud to recognize these individuals and news outlets for their journalistic excellence and valuable insights.

- *Isaac Masingati*, a reporter at Malawi’s The Daily Times, will also receive the Best Article or Series of Articles award for “Too Many People, Too Few Resources.”
- *Alan Weisman*, the author of several books, including the international best-seller *The World Without Us*, will receive the Best Book award for his book *Countdown: Out Last, Best Hope for a Future on Earth?*
- *East Los High* will be recognized as the Best TV Show for a highly popular 24-episode made-for-television series that ran exclusively on Hulu. Co-created, co-written and directed by Carlos Portugal, *East Los High* is the first U.S. produced, English language series with an all Latino cast.
- *Earthworms* with host Jean Ponzi will receive the award for Best Radio Show.
- *Blessed Fruit of the Womb* will receive the award for Best Film or Miniseries.
- *Carmen Barroso* of International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere and Michael Brune of the Sierra Club will receive the award for Best Opinion Piece for “Women at the Center of a Sustainable World.”

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“  
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members of humanity, in the finest  
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Several interested individuals and small scale enterprises have launched "Foundation for Leadership Initiatives" (Registered) to support developmental leadership. The iLead is an effort to provide information on who leads.