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Population Institute 2013 Report Card on Reproductive Health and Rights

WASHINGTON — The Population Institute today released its second annual report card on reproductive health and rights in the U.S., and the results were not encouraging. Thirteen states receive a failing grade, and the U.S. as a whole received a “C-.” In releasing the report card, Robert Walker, the organization’s President, said, “This year we have seen a lot of victories at the national level, but with states limiting the full scope of that progress. The major victories include: HHS ruling that Plan B One Step be made available over the counter without an age restriction, the Affordable Care Act giving women access to family planning services without a co-pay requirement, and expanded Medicaid eligibility ensuring that millions more women would be eligible to access reproductive health services. Unfortunately, at the state level, attacks on reproductive health care have continued unabated and 25 states have refused to expand their Medicaid program denying millions of women access to health care.” (More on Poplist)

Table HIV/AIDS Bill, Indian Activists Demand

Activists and persons living with HIV/AIDS on Monday demanded that members of Parliament spare time for the 2.5 million persons living with HIV/AIDS and their dependents, this February. They want the HIV/AIDS Bill to be tabled in the Parliamentary session next month. Activists had spent five days in Delhi last month trying to convince MPs of the importance of the Bill, but it did not make it to Parliament. “We want MPs to think of people in Nagaland with HIV/AIDS who are forced to rear pigs to make a living. When research shows that persons living with HIV/AIDS can live longer if provided with free treatment, why aren’t MPs supporting the Bill, which advocates provision of free treatment,” she asked at a press meet on Monday. “There is discrimination everywhere in schools, hospitals, employment. The

Bill had been listed for tabling in Parliament in December, but the session came to a close before that. If it is not tabled in February it will lapse,". iLead had reported that HIV/Aids bill has been pending in the parliament for long time. (The Hindu)

Experts Predict New Baby Boom in China

Experts predicted Monday that a short-term baby boom will arrive after the municipal government announced plans to loosen family planning restrictions later this year. The baby boom could last for two to five years after the looser rules take effect, said Wu Ruijun, the director of the Population Research Institute at East China Normal University. "There has been an accumulation of couples willing to have a second child who will qualify after the government loosens the restrictions," Wu told the Global Times Monday. Under the loosened restrictions, couples with Shanghai residency will be able to have a second child if at least one spouse is the only child in his or her family. Currently, Shanghai couples are only allowed to have a second child if both spouses are the only child in their families. Wu said the new policy will give about 400,000 families the right to have a second child and predicted a short-term spike in the city's future population. (Global Time)

China Establishes Population and Health Data Team

China's health and family planning authorities set up an advisory body on Tuesday to make better use of population and public health information. The team, consisting of 28 experts from fields including medicine, demography, engineering, mathematics and law, will provide suggestions for strategy, policy and planning based on population and public health data, according to the National Health and Family Planning Commission. The team will promote cooperation between experts and institutes, governmental and non-governmental organizations, from China and abroad. The commission issued a circular last month, setting targets of building an information network at central and local levels on public health, family planning, medical services, health insurance and drug management. (Crienglish.com)

Extreme Wealth and Saving Lives : Oxfam Report

Oxfam has just released a concise and, I dare say eye-popping, report titled "Working for The Few: Political Capture and Economic Inequality (PDF)". It notes that "Some economic inequality is essential to drive growth and progress, rewarding those with talent, hard earned skills, and the ambition to innovate and take entrepreneurial risks. However, the extreme levels of wealth concentration occurring today threaten to exclude hundreds of millions of people from realizing the benefits of their talents and hard work." First article is from The Guardian and reports on the Oxfam study. Its easy to sum up: There are 85 people on the planet right now whose

financial wealth is equal to the wealth of 3.5 billion other people; clearly this arrangement has systemic implications related to global socio-economic development moving forward, and subsequently, must also to some degree affect global population dynamics. (Populationmedia.org)

Institute for Youth Development Setup, India

Indian Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs, Jitender Singh announced that the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development would be established at Chandigarh. He said the institute would cater to the needs of the youth of northern India. There are national level civil society related International Youth Center in Delhi and 3 Regional Youth Centers, Initiated by German Foundation. (NetIndian)

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