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Leadership | Women

UNEP Leadership Admits Population Growth is an Important Issue

The United Nations Environment Programme has just released a report titled "Assessing Global Land Use: Balancing Consumption with Sustainable Supply" which provides a comprehensive overview of the scientific options for sustainable land management. Achim Steiner, the UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director, has this to say. We can take some solace that the report does indeed note that implementing "Family planning programmes to slow down population growth" as part of resource management policy options at the country level is "relevant" (pp. 16 of the report). It also notes near the end of its 5th chapter (pp. 70) that "An effective policy to control human fertility and thus growth of the world population may have a more pronounced impact on future food security than efforts to enhance crop yields." The report also has a good section reviewing available evidence "showing that yield increases are slowing, whereas population is still growing and has more resource intensive dietary demands. Thus, more land is needed for food and feed. At the same time, agriculture is losing fertile soil to expanding cities and infrastructures." (Poplist)

One in four young people in developing countries unable to read

One in four young people in developing countries are unable to read a sentence, according to a report, which warns that poor quality education has left a "legacy of illiteracy" more widespread than previously believed. Research published by UNESCO, the UN's educational, scientific and cultural organization, suggests that 175 million young people lack even basic literacy skills. "Access [to education] is not the only crisis – poor quality is holding back learning even for those who make it to school," said UNESCO Director-General, in a foreword to the 11th annual Education for All global monitoring report, which measures progress towards global goals. An

estimated 250 million children are not learning basic reading and maths skills, according to the report, even though half of them have spent at least four years in school. This "global learning crisis" costs developing countries billions of dollars a year in wasted education funding, it warns. Ten countries – India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo – account for almost three-quarters of the world's illiterate adults, according to the report. (UNESCO)

Indian Women Village Leader Chosen for Leadership Meet in US

A woman sarpanch (village head) from Dhunkada panchayat in Ganjam district's (Orissa-India) Polasara block has been selected as the only Indian to participate in the international leadership programme conducted by the United States department of state. Twenty-two-year-old Arati Devi was selected through a series of interviews by US officials. The programme involves visiting places in the US and conducting group discussions from February 18 to March 7. Arati will participate in a meet on "state government functions, government transparency and accountability" at Springfield, Illinois. She will converse with representatives from Israel and Malaysia. As a sarpanch, Arati's main accomplishment was to address problems of distribution of public distribution system (PDS) wheat in her panchayat. Around 800 families benefitted from the initiative, a source said. She also started a six-month adult literacy programme for women in her area. (Times of India)

Building leadership skills a key priority for India Inc: Survey

Developing leadership skills for the next phase of business growth is a key productivity challenge, 49% of corporate India said in a Randstad workforce survey. As growth momentum continues to shift towards emerging countries like India, its growing knowledge based economy will demand for new and adaptive capabilities with a key focus on leadership skills, the survey revealed. The Randstad Workforce 360 survey provides an understanding of the HR Game Changers for 2014, through insights from around 500 HR leaders in India. Today's business leaders believe that success depends on their ability to understand and adapt their workforce at warp speed. When it comes to recruitment, they are certain of who will benefit their organization the most," Randstad said. The survey reveals that in the next one year, 50% of Indian employers are inclined towards recruiting knowledge workers into the organization. (Times of India)

Pacific Women Leaders Stand Together

A group of Pacific women parliamentarians, former parliamentarians, future parliamentarians, policy makers and civil society are meeting in Fiji to advance

women's political participation and leadership in the region. The Pacific Islands have consistently produced the lowest number of women in governance in the world. In the Islands that comprise the Pacific Island Forum (without Aust and NZ), only 4.7% are women. If the 13 women elected in the 2006 Fiji election are not included, the figure drops even lower to 2.6% for the remaining Islands. The 20 women from seven different Islands participating in the workshop organized by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) have come together to address the low levels of participation but also to share approaches to transformative leadership that priorities consensus building, accountability and solidarity. (thejetnewspaper)

Majority of Indian Man Believe should have final word at Home - ICRW

"Over the last 25 years, billions of dollars from across the public, private, and social sectors have been spent on efforts to close the gender gap. But it hasn't closed significantly. If we don't start to work with men, we might still be here in another 25 years," India is home to some of the most inequitable attitudes toward women today. A recent study by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) found that 81 percent of men surveyed believed that the man should have the final word on decisions in the home, 68 percent were of the opinion that a woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together, and 65 percent said that there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.

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Message for Leaders

"Foreign aid alone is not enough to end global poverty, but neither is trade. Aid for trade is a simplistic solution that doesn't necessarily change the lives of the poorest people including women who are often outside of the formal economy."

(Mark Chenery, community engagement chief at ActionAid Australia)



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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.