



Issue - 31 12th April 2014

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Population

Top UN officials urge inclusion of population issues in post-2015 agenda

Top United Nations officials on Monday called for the inclusion of population issues in the post-2015 global development, in order to address new challenges faced by the people and to improve their lives. They made the appeal at the opening meeting of the 47th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development. This year's session will focus on the progress and challenges since the landmark International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994. UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Wu Hongbo said, "People are at the heart of sustainable development." "We need to address population issues urgently, as few factors will shape the global development agenda as fundamentally as the size, structure and spatial distribution of the world's population." "With the collective wisdom and support of member states, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, we can fully integrate existing and emerging population challenges into the post-2015 UN development agenda," Ashe said. (Xinhua)

Philippines RH Law is Valid, but Conscientious Objection Allowed

The controversial 'Reproductive Health Law' has just been backed by the Philippine's Supreme Court, saying it's constitutional except for key provisions on family planning. In a judgment delivered April 8, after 16 years of legal battles, the Court accepted the overall system of the law for family planning services but also recognized the right to conscientious objection with regards to individual doctors or private health care facilities. The law introduces methods of also artificial family planning, such as contraception, public health care assistance to stop overpopulation. Among the articles that will have to be modified: art. 7, which also imposed private religious organizations "to provide modern family planning methods, both natural and artificial". The Court has

recognized the right to conscientious objection by declaring penalties and sanctions unconstitutional for doctors who refused to provide information or services on artificial methods of family planning. The bill imposed doctors to provide a full range of "reproductive health" services, such as contraception, sterilization and abortion services, without providing for conscientious objection. (News.va)

Leadership

African, Arab parliamentarians meet in Addis Ababa

African and Arab parliamentarian met at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa on Saturday last week to discuss means of bolstering cooperation between the two sides. "We should pull our resources together for social, economic and political development of the two regions," Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn told the opening session of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world (ASSECAA). "The association seeks to foster economic, trade and investment cooperation between Africa and Arab world, which are endowed with massive resource that enable them maximize mutual benefit in all economic spheres," The press statement said "It aims at contributing positively to conflict resolution and the mobilization of efforts to surmount the formidable environmental and health challenges facing Arab and African nations."

British MPs vote on development bill to tackle gender inequality

MPs are poised to vote on a private members' bill that would place a statutory obligation on the UK government to consider the impact of its overseas aid spending on reducing gender inequality. Campaigners are confident the international development (gender equality) bill, proposed by Conservative MPs and supported by the international development secretary, Justine Greening, will be voted through to its final stage in the House of Commons and proceed to the House of Lords for consideration. The bill, which has crossparty support, calls for gender considerations to be embedded into every aspect of Britain's aid spending. It also places a duty on the secretary of state to consider how gender inequality can be reduced when disbursing development and humanitarian funds. "The legislation places a duty on the secretary of state to consider gender equality in all decisions in how the UK spends its aid budget," adding that there needed to be a fundamental rethink among all donors about how their aid impacts on gender equality. (Guardian)

UNDP Engages Sierra Leone Parliament

United Nation development program in collaboration with Parliament of Sierra Leone last week facilitated a workshop for parliamentarians and the constitutional review committee members on mediation and conflict resolution in the constitutional review process at the House of Parliament in Freetown,Parliamentarians and CRC members discussed the causes of conflict of Africa and the role of national constitution case study of Liberia cote d'voire ,Guinea Bissau, Central African Republic, South Sudan Kenya and Sierra Leone root causes and post conflict experience and critical issues, pre conflict, peace agreement and the role of parliamentarians in promoting the peace process and identifying emerging conflict issues, early warning and developing early

responses. (Awareness Times)

Mentoring Workshop for South Asian Women Leaders

Collective Changes, a global women's mentoring and leadership program, led a interactive business mentorship workshop, Women as Political Leaders, for five South Asian women leaders to help each develop a mentoring program in their respective countries. These women with diverse backgrounds in advocacy, civil societies, women in politics, as well as human rights were nominated by their U.S. Embassy to participate in this State Department-sponsored exchange program hosted by the World Affairs Council's International Visitor Program. The Women's Mentorship Workshop was held at the Gates Foundation in Seattle and Washington.(WebWire)

6th International Parliamentarians' Conference on the ICPD, Stockholm

The Sixth International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPC/ICPD), to be held in Stockholm, Sweden on 23-25 April 2014, will mark the 20th anniversary of the ICPD. During the Stockholm 2014 IPCI, parliamentarians will have a chance to follow up on the commitments made during the previous IPCI conferences in Ottawa, Strasbourg, Bangkok, Addis Ababa and Istanbul. They will also produce a forward-looking and action-oriented declaration and action plan that will build upon previous Commitments. The conference is organized by European Form of Parliamentarians (EPF) and UNFPA.

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Message for Leaders

**“When it comes to health and family planning, the personal,
Is still political”**

Tewodros Melesse, D.G, IPPF



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