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Population | Leadership

Indonesia to revitalize Family Planning

The Indonesian government, through the National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN), signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in Sanur, Bali, on Saturday to revitalize the national family planning program, which has been stagnant for the last few years. The total budget set under the MoU is US\$40 million for four years. “[The family planning] program fell short following the reform era. It was not placed as a major priority in the development programs of the post-reform administrations,” Fasli Djalal, BKKBN Chairman told The Jakarta Post after the signing. Family planning enjoyed its heyday in the early 1980s and 1990s in Indonesia. [More](#)

BUT: New Regulation to Restricts Legal Abortions in Indonesia

The regulation on reproductive health, signed with little media attention last Friday by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, stipulates that women who get pregnant as a result of rape may apply for a legal abortion, but only within 40 days of their last period. An existing article in the 2009 Health Law, however, places no such restriction on when a rape victim may get an abortion. The new rule, critics say, will give rape victims virtually no time to make a clear and informed decision about whether they want to abort the fetus. “Rape victims in rural areas, for instance, often never find out that they’re pregnant” until two or three months later, she added. “That’s when their expected period is typically about two weeks late. So it’s only after 40 days that you can make a reasonably accurate determination of whether a woman is pregnant or not,” [More](#)

UN Projection: 9.6 Billion by 2050

Until recently, the great global food challenge was how to feed 9 billion people in 2050. But no longer – the number of mid-century mouths just jumped. Now it’s projected to be 9.6 billion, closing in on double-digit billions. And forget expectations that world population will stabilize this century: By 2100, according to the latest UN projections, people on the planet will number 10.9 billion – and will still be growing by 10 million a year. These hundreds of millions of unanticipated future humans come from the “medium-fertility,” or best-guess, calculations of UN demographers, in their 2013 biannual projections of future world population growth. And what a surprise their calculations are, dashing the hopes of optimists who assumed that human fertility was falling everywhere and that population growth would end “on its own” within a few decades. What’s interesting about the new projections, however, isn’t what they say about future populations. Not even demographers know how many people will be living 50 years from now. What’s interesting is what the numbers say about today’s 7.2 billion humans. Because what the new projections say, and loudly, based the 2010 round of country censuses, is that women in many of the world’s poorest and most conflict-prone countries are having significantly more children than previously thought, largely because many governments are no longer making family planning a high priority. Only 10 years ago, the UN Population Division was projecting there would be no more than 8.9 billion people alive in 2050. That number has just jumped by 700 million – an increase nearly as large as the population of Europe. [More](#)

35th Annual Global Media Awards: Call for Entries

Each year Population institute U.S.A. honors journalists, filmmakers, radio and television show hosts, and editorial cartoonists from around the world who write about population issues. The awards are designed to promote accurate and broader media coverage of population and development issues. 2013 marks the 34th year for the Global Media Awards. This year, Population Institute will give out a dozen awards, including awards for best radio show, best television show, and best editorial cartoonist. The awards honor those who have contributed a greater public awareness of the various challenges related to population and reproductive health. The awards serve to encourage editors, news directors, and journalists to acquire a more in-depth knowledge of population issues and to stimulate higher journalistic standards for reporting on global population issues. [More](#)

Caribbean Endorses Plan to Reduce Adolescent Pregnancy in Region

The Caribbean Community's (Caricom's) Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) has approved a plan to reduce the number of adolescent pregnancies in each country of the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean by at least 20 per cent by 2019. It is estimated that around 20 per cent of women in the Caribbean have had at least one child by the age of 19. Furthermore a considerable percentage of adolescent girls give birth before the age of 15. Available data indicate that girls who become pregnant at 15 or younger are more likely to experience premature delivery, low infant birth weight, perinatal mortality and health problems with their new-borns. Additionally, pregnant adolescents are more likely than adults to have unsafe abortions, which contribute substantially to permanent health problems and maternal deaths. Their education is also likely to be interrupted thereby reducing the opportunity to realise their full potential. [More](#)

Leadership

Arabic Women Leadership summit

The Dubai Business Women Council (DBWC) is now the official supporting partner for the Arab Women in Leadership and Business Summit. Scheduled to take place on September 22 and 23, the summit will host women business and government leaders from around the world. [More](#)

11th Arctic Conference of Parliamentarians in Canada

The Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region is a biennial conference for parliamentarians representing the eight Arctic countries and the European Parliament. The first Parliamentary Conference concerning Arctic cooperation was held in Reykjavik, Iceland. The next conference will be held in the Whitehorse, Canada 9-11 September 2014. The main items on the agenda are: Sustainable Infrastructure Development, Governance Models and Decision-Making Processes, Enhancing Northern Economies: Responsible Resource Development and Capacity Building, Environmental Challenges [More](#)

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Message for Leaders

“Youth are 1.8 billion strong. It’s time their needs and rights are prioritized by world leaders”

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