

NTS BULLETIN

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MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

WHO Declares Swine Flu Pandemic

'The world is now at the start of the 2009 influenza pandemic,' says Dr Margaret Chan, Director of the World Health Organization (WHO).

11 June 2009, BBC News.

On the basis of available evidence and expert assessments of the evidence, the scientific criteria for an influenza pandemic have been met. The level of influenza pandemic alert has been raised from phase 5 to phase 6.

While the phase indicates widespread geographical distribution, the overall severity of the influenza pandemic is considered, at this stage, to be moderate. Many, though not all, severe cases have occurred in people with underlying chronic conditions. Based on limited, preliminary data, conditions most frequently seen include respiratory diseases, notably asthma, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and obesity.

The WHO announced that countries should prepare to see cases, or the further spread of cases, in the near future. Countries where outbreaks appear to have peaked should prepare for a second wave of infection. Guidance on specific protective and precautionary measures has been sent to ministries of health in all countries. Countries with no or only a few cases should remain vigilant.

Additional Info:

[Click here to read the latest updates on the World Health Organization \(WHO\) website.](#)

[What is Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response \(EPR\) Level 6?](#)

[FAQ on Influenza A \(H1N1\).](#)

[World map and timeline of laboratory confirmed cases and deaths.](#)

[Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network.](#)

HEALTH SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- 'Swine flu vaccine appeal to firms', 20 May 2009, *BBC*.
- 'Real-time info key to tackling epidemics', 27 May 2009, *SciDev.Net*.
- 'Tropics are swine flu mutation hotspot, warn scientists', 28 May 2009, *SciDev.Net*.
- David Batty, 'Resistance to malaria drug growing, experts warn', 29 May 2009, *The Guardian*.
- Andy Coghlan, 'Health treaties are "window dressing" to many nations', 10 June 2009, *New Scientist*.
- 'Influenza pandemic alert raised to phase 6', 11 June 2009, WHO.
- Maria Cheng and Frank Jordans, 'WHO: Swine flu pandemic has begun, 1st in 41 years', 11 June 2009, *Associated Press*.

- Tan Ee Lyn, 'Experts call for close monitoring of H1N1 changes', 14 June 2009, *Reuters*.

Papers & Reports

- Kumanan Wilson, et al., 'Establishing Public Health Security in a Postwar Iraq: Constitutional Obstacles and Lessons for Other Federalizing States', *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, vol. 34, no. 3, 2009.

This article examines the public health consequences of the conflict in Iraq, with results indicating that re-establishing public health security will require large investments in infrastructure and the creation of effective systems of governance. Reflecting on the Iraqi situation, the authors conclude that other federalizing countries emerging from conflict should ensure that their constitutions provide the federal government with the necessary authority to manage threats to public health security effectively.

- Michael R. Reich and Keizo Takemi, 'Global Action for Health System Strengthening: Policy Recommendations to the G8', Task Force on Global Action for Health System Strengthening, Japan Center for International Exchange, 2009.

Following up on the declaration of the G8 Tokyo Summit, this document provides an overview of Japan's activities on global health and presents policy recommendations for G8 action. The focus is on health system strengthening and the unique role of the G8 in global health governance and architecture. The document concludes with a discussion of future directions.

- Susan Jaffe, 'Health Policy Brief: Competitive Bidding in Medicare Advantage', *Health Affairs*, 5 June, 2009.

The Obama administration has proposed a plan that could save \$177 billion over 10 years through a new competitive-bidding system for "Medicare Advantage". This approach is said to enable the market, not Medicare, to set Medicare Advantage payment rates. However, opponents claim that the large savings proposed by the President's plan could only be achieved through dramatic cuts in payments to the private insurers, forcing increased fees or drop out of the program.

Events & Announcements

NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration, 25-26 June 2009.

- DGHI announces Global Health Diploma between Duke and Peking University, July 2009.

Latest Publications

- *Women's Global Health and Human Rights*, Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2009.

By Padmini Murthy and Clyde Lanford Smith.

This book discusses the similarities and differences in health and human rights challenges that are faced by women globally, including best practices and success stories. The book also includes sections specifically devoted to globalisation, gender-based terrorism and violence, cultural practices and health problems. It ends by evaluating progress made to date and challenges that lay ahead. The authors include a wide ranging team of outstanding human rights activists, health practitioners and scholars focusing on women's rights issues.

News & Commentaries

- Nayan Chanda, 'Bound Together: Climate sans borders', 22 May 2009, *Business World*.
- William Chandler, 'A guide to U.S.-China climate cooperation', 26 May 2009, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Web Commentary.
- 'Small nations seek middle ground in climate talks', 4 June 2009, *Associated Press*.
- Nitin Sethi, 'Next debate: Climate 'treaty' or 'agreement'?' 4 June 2009, *The Economic Times*.
- Suzanne Goldenberg, 'Barack Obama seeks US-Chinese deal on global warming', 4 June 2009, *The Guardian*.
- Henry Sanderson, 'China: Will ensure stimulus protects environment', 5 June 2009, *Associated Press*.
- John Vidal, 'Bonn: Tax on rich nations' ships and planes could fund climate aid', 8 June 2009, *The Guardian*.

Papers & Reports

- Anna Korppoo, et al. 'Towards a New Climate Regime? Views of China, India, Japan, Russia and the United States in the road to Copenhagen', the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) Report 19, 2009.

This report outlines the backgrounds of five major carbon emitters: China, India, Japan, Russia and the United States and their views on the post-2012 pact, and contemplates these views in light of the EU position.

- Jessica Ayers and Saleemul Huq, 'Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change: An update', International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Briefing, June 2009.

Over a billion people - the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities - will bear the brunt of climate change. For them, building local capacity to cope is a vital step towards resilience. Community-based adaptation (CBA) is emerging as a key response to this challenge. Tailored to local cultures and conditions, CBA supports and builds on autonomous adaptations to climate variability, such as the traditional *baira* or floating gardens of Bangladesh, which help small farmers' crops survive climate-driven floods. Above all, CBA is participatory – a process involving both local stakeholders, and development and disaster risk reduction practitioners. As such, it builds on existing cultural norms while addressing local development issues that contribute to climate vulnerability. CBA is now gaining ground in many regions, and is ripe for the reassessment offered here.

- Ivan Bond, et al., 'Incentives to Sustain Forest Ecosystem Services', International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), 2009.

Paying people to protect forests can be an effective way to tackle deforestation and climate change but only if there is good governance of natural resources, says a study funded by Norway's Government and published on 5 June by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). The new study by researchers at IIED, the World Resources Institute and the Center for International Forestry Research looked at existing efforts to pay people in developing nations to protect ecosystems in return for the services — such as fresh water, wild foods and climate control — they provide. It aimed to see if such payments

could be used to help tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, an approach known as REDD that is gaining international support under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

- Robert Bailey, 'The Right to Survive in a Changing Climate', Oxfam Background Paper, 2009.

The potential human costs of climate change are unimaginable, and will be borne overwhelmingly by those least responsible for causing the problem: the world's poor. Driven by upward trends in the number of climate-related disasters and human vulnerability to them, this paper argues that the responsibility for climate change lies with industrialised countries, which must take urgent action to cut greenhouse gas emissions and accept their obligations to pay for adaptation in the developing world and bolstering the humanitarian system. So far, industrialised-country action on all these fronts has been nowhere near what is required, with the result that hundreds of millions of lives and livelihoods from now and into the future are at risk.

- 'The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis', Global Humanitarian Forum Human Impact Report on Climate Change, 29 May 2009.

This report offers a comprehensive look based on the latest information and inputs from world-leading scientists on the human impact of climate change. The report includes estimates of the numbers of deaths and casualties as a result of climate change, the economic costs of climate change, and projections 20 years into the future.

Events & Announcements

- IFPRI 2020 Panel Discussion, Climate Change - Adaptation and Poverty, 25 June 2009, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC, USA.
- The Politics of Climate Change Agreement, 6-7 July 2009, Chatham House, London, UK.

Latest Publications

- *Adapting Cities to Climate Change: Understanding and addressing the development challenges*, London: Earthscan, 2009.

Edited by Jane Bicknell, David Dodman and David Satterthwaite.

This volume brings together, for the first time, a wide-ranging and detailed body of information identifying and assessing risk, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in urban centres in low and middle-income countries. Framed by an overview of the main possibilities and constraints for adaptation, the contributors examine the implications of climate change for cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and propose innovative agendas for adaptation. The book should be of interest to policy makers, practitioners and academics who face the challenge of addressing climate change vulnerability and adaptation in urban centres throughout the global South.

News & Commentaries

- Nicholas Dulvy and Edward Allison, 'A place at a table?' 28 May 2009, *Nature Reports Climate Change Commentary*.
- 'Climate change talks mustn't forget fisheries: Responses to climate change must protect aquatic ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture – and make the most of them', 1 June 2009, *FAO Newsroom*.
- 'Agriculture is essential for facing climate change: Climate change mitigation from agriculture could also benefit hunger and poverty reduction', 3 June 2009, *FAO Newsroom*.
- 'Global food supply gradually steadying: But shocks could still be in store', 4 June 2009, *FAO Newsroom*.
- 'Call for stronger anti-hunger system: FAO Director General Addresses World Grain Forum in Russia', 6 June 2009, *FAO Newsroom*.
- 'Extending responsible fisheries management to the ocean deeps: On World Ocean day, FAO releases technical guidelines on deep sea fishing', 8 June 2009, *FAO Newsroom*.
- Javier Blas, 'The grab for Africa's farmland', 8 June 2009, chinadialogue.net.

Papers & Reports

- 'A Billion Hungry People', Oxfam Briefing Paper 127, 2009.

This paper offers recommendations on the actions that should be carried out by governments, supported by aid agencies and donors, in providing systematic emergency assistance as well as longer-term support to those in need, and to better protect people in chronic poverty against shocks such as drought, floods, and market volatility.

- Guillaume Gruère, 'Should Asian Countries Adopt GM Crops Despite Trade Regulations?' International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Brief 13, 2009.

This brief summarises a study evaluating the potential economic effects of introducing genetically modified (GM) food crops in India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines in the presence of trade regulations.

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 'International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas', 2009.

These technical guidelines aim at helping the fisheries sector reduce its impacts on fragile deep-sea fish species and ecosystems. The guidelines provide a framework that countries can use, individually and in the context of regional fisheries management organisations, to manage deep sea fisheries in high-seas areas outside of national jurisdictions.

Events & Announcements

- China International Food Safety & Quality Conference + Expo, 23-24 Sept 2009, Landmark Hotel & Towers, Beijing, China.

News & Commentaries

- 'Thailand/ASEAN: ASEAN Power Administrators discuss guidelines to minimize losses in energy delivery', 4 May 2009, Thai Government Public Relations Department.
- 'Falling gas prices deny Russia a lever of power', 16 May 2009, *The New York Times*.
- 'Baltic Shipyard starts building first energy unit of floating NPP', 18 May 2009, *Interfax*.
- 'A nuclear fuel bank is on the horizon', 21 May 2009, TODAYonline.com .
- 'By 2020, the ratio of natural gas in China's total primary energy will reach 12 percent', 22 May 2009, *Business Wire*.
- '43 more nations planning to have nuclear power plants', 26 May 2009, *Kyodo News*.
- 'Bullish OPEC banks on demand bounce', 29 May 2009, *AFP*.

Papers & Reports

- Cleo Paskal, 'The Vulnerability of Energy Infrastructure to Environmental Change', Briefing Paper, Energy, Environment and Resource Governance, Chatham House, April 2009.

According to the author, much of the energy infrastructure is located in areas which could increasingly become physically unstable as a result of environmental change. This is evident in contemporary instances of environment-related disruptions to energy installations inland and offshore. However, the author also pointed out that substantial investments in new energy infrastructure are possible due to scheduled decommissioning and revised environmental standards, among other developments. It is argued that new as well as existing energy infrastructure should be designed or refitted to adapt to environmental change.

Events & Announcements

- Future Models for Energy and Water Management under a Regulated Environment, 20 – 22 July 2009, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- Indonesia Geothermal Energy World Conference, 21–24 July 2009, Bali, Indonesia.

Latest Publications

- Urban Energy Transition: From Fossil Fuels to Renewable Power, University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia: World Council for Renewable Energy, Elsevier: 2008.

Edited by Peter Droege.

Urban energy transition would become one of the most important in the future global drive towards achieving energy efficiency, and ultimately, sustainable energy development. Targeting policymakers, industrial players and the academia from multiple disciplines, this book compiles numerous working concepts, technological directions and country-specific organisational perspectives in order to derive a better systems-based understanding of policy frameworks for urban renewable energy development. The theme of the book is premised on an impending end of the 'Great Fossil Fuel Revolution', which had propelled urban development in the past century. Urban developmental pressures, climate change and supply risks served as the *raison d'être* for energy transition strategies involving cross-cutting fields

of disciplines which straddle beyond the energy sector into urban planning and management, for instance.

About Us

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies is a research centre of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

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