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MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

Satellites Used to Predict Infectious Disease Outbreaks, 24 Aug 2009, Scientific American.

Recent events clearly illustrate a continued vulnerability of large populations to infectious diseases, related to our changing human-constructed and natural environments.

A single person with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in 2007 provided a wake-up call to the United States and global public health infrastructure, as the health professionals and the public realized that today's ease of airline travel can potentially expose hundreds of persons to an untreatable disease

associated with an infectious agent. Ease of travel, population increase, population displacement, pollution, agricultural activity, changing socioeconomic structures, and international conflicts worldwide have each contributed to infectious disease events.

Nothing is larger in scale, has more potential for long-term effects, and is more uncertain than the effects of climate change on infectious disease outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics.

Today, however, satellite imaging could play a critical role in predicting such events and in mounting an effective response. Satellite remote sensing represents a technology for synoptic acquisition of spatial data and the extraction of scene-specific information.

Additional Info:

Download the full paper here.

World Health Organization (WHO) Public Health Mapping Programme.

WHO Q&A: What is GIS; GIS for public health; uses of GIS in public health?

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., GIS modeling and mapping software and technology.

HEALTH SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- 'Recommended use of antivirals: Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Briefing Note 8', World Health Organization (WHO), 21 August 2009.
- Katherine Harmon, 'Satellites used to predict infectious disease outbreaks', 24 August 2009, Scientific American.
- Tan Ee Lyn, 'Asia way short of vaccine to fight swine flu – WHO', 25 August 2009, Reuters.
- Sudeep Chand, 'UN warns over swine flu in birds', 27 August 2009, BBC News.
- 'Families of seafarers exposed to high risks of HIV', 28 August 2009, The Philippine Star.
- 'WHO: Worldwide death toll of A/H1N1 flu rises over 2,100', 28 August 2009, Xinhua.
- Phil Mercer, 'Papua New Guinea hit by cholera', 31 August 2009, BBC News.

Papers & Reports

- Ruth Levine & Danielle Kuczynski, 'Fixing Global Nutrition Institutions', Center for Global Development, August 2009.

This paper describes the major institutional weaknesses in global nutrition and presents two recommendations to address the joint problems of incoherence, lack of institutional leaders, and persistent underfunding.

- Christina Droggitis, Nandini Oomman & David Wendt, 'Going Beyond Gender as Usual: Why and How Global HIV/AIDS Donors Can Do More for Women and Girls', CGD Brief, Center for Global Development, August 2009.

Global AIDS donors have both an opportunity and a responsibility to ensure that HIV/AIDS programs take into account gender-related issues. But how are the three major global HIV/AIDS programs performing? A new study by CGD's HIV/AIDS Monitor reviewed gender-related activities of the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the World Bank's Africa Multi-Country AIDS Program.

- Ellen O. Wahoush, 'Reaching a hard-to-reach population such as asylum seekers and resettled refugees in Canada', *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, vol. 87, no. 8, August 2009.

Global migration of people, whether voluntary or forced, means health-care professionals and staff need to communicate effectively as they care for progressively more diverse communities, often with specific needs, varied language abilities and literacy.

- H1N1 2009 influenza virus infection during pregnancy in the USA, *The Lancet*, vol. 374, no. 9688, pp. 451-8, 8 August 2009.

Pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza virus has been identified as the cause of a widespread outbreak of febrile respiratory infection in the USA and worldwide. We summarized cases of infection with pandemic H1N1 virus in pregnant women identified in the USA during the first month of the present outbreak, and deaths associated with this virus during the first 2 months of the outbreak.

- '2009 Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infections', Chicago, Illinois, April-July 2009, Center for Disease Communication (CDC), 28 August 2009.

On 21 April 2009, the CDC reported the first cases of 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) virus infection in the United States. On 24 April, in response to those reports, the Chicago Department of Public Health established enhanced surveillance for 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) virus infections. The first cases were identified on 28 April. This report summarizes laboratory-confirmed cases identified during 24 April-25 July and provides clinical and epidemiologic data for a subset of those cases.

Events & Announcements

- Sixty-second session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia, 7-10 September 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Sixtieth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, 21-25 September 2009, Hong Kong.
- World Heart Day, 27 September 2009.
- World Vaccine Congress Lyon, 5-8 October 2009, Palais des Congrès de Lyon, France.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- 'Eighth Meeting of the Sub-regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution', 19 August 2009, ASEAN Secretariat.
- 'Australia passes 20% renewables bill', 20 Aug 2009, *The Guardian*.
- Richard Black, 'Hijacked by climate change?' 27 Aug 2009, *BBC News*.
- Indonesia able to reduce carbon emission by 60% until 2030: Official', 27 Aug 2009, *Xinhua*.
- Clare Cozens, 'Himalayan nations to hold first climate talks', 28 Aug 2009, *AFP*.
- 'Top legislature endorses climate change resolution', 28 Aug 2009, *Xinhua*.
- Tom Zeller Jr., 'High cost to deal with climate shift', 30 Aug 2009, *The New York Times*.
- Iftikhar Gilani, 'Pakistan, India agree to adopt common stand on climate change', 30 Aug 2009, *Daily Times*.

Papers & Reports

- Bard Harstad, 'Rules for Negotiating and Updating Climate Treaties', Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, August 2009.

A climate treaty is characterized by a large number of parameters: What should the abatement or emission levels be? How should the burden to abate be distributed across countries? What should the time profile for the emission levels be? Should there be issue linkages with other policy areas? Should there be any side transfers between some countries and, if so, what should the transfers be? This richness in parameters implies that there is a lot to decide and negotiate before the final climate treaty is ready. Moreover, there is great uncertainty regarding the future costs and benefits of abatement. Today, it is not yet known how much abatement will be desirable in the future. This means that any climate treaty must be updated, or renegotiated, quite frequently in the coming years. The realized climate policies depend on future international negotiations – and the rules governing these.

- Jan von der Goltz, 'Climate Change Negotiating Positions of Major Developing Country Emitters', Working Paper 177, Center for Global Development, August 2009.

Developing countries with large greenhouse gas emissions play a decisive role in negotiating a post-Kyoto climate agreement. No effective program to reduce global emissions is possible without their support. At the same time, developing countries face a delicate task in balancing their growing responsibility for a livable climate with the pursuit of continued economic development. This article discusses the negotiating positions major developing country emitters are taking on core issues. Among the most vital unsettled questions are burden sharing between developed and developing countries, the role of the market in the international climate architecture, as well as implementation arrangements. An annex discusses current mitigation policies of major developing country emitters, and argues that developing countries are already taking meaningful action to limit the growth of their greenhouse gas emissions.

- Florence Daviet, 'Legally REDD: Building Readiness for REDD by Supporting Developing Countries in the Fight Against Illegal Logging', Working Paper, World Resources Institute, 10 August 2009.

If reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) is to work effectively, developing countries will need support to build the capacities required for enforcing their own laws and regulations. At present, timber production that violates the developing country's own laws both acts as a barrier to REDD and costs these countries billions of dollars per year. This paper examines the approach taken by Parties to the challenge of illegally produced timber, and proposes measures to support developing countries in tackling this problem that could form part of the climate framework to be negotiated in Copenhagen.

Events & Announcements

- Forest Carbon Markets and REDD, 23-24 September 2009, Washington, D.C., USA.
- Ninth session of the AWG-KP and seventh session of the AWG-LCA, 28 September - 9 October 2009, United Nations Conference Centre of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand.
- UNFCCC technical workshop on advancing the integration of approaches to adaptation planning, 12-14 October 2009, Bangkok, Thailand.

Latest Publication

- *Assessing the Costs of Adaptation to Climate Change: A Critique of the UNFCCC Estimates*, International Institute for Environment and Development, August 2009.

By Martin Parry, Nigel Arnell, Pam Berry, David Dodman, Samuel Fankhauser, Chris Hope, Sari Kovats, Robert Nicholls, David Satterwaite, Richard Tiffin & Tim Wheeler.

This book takes another look at the costs of adapting to climate change. The estimates for 2030 used by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change are likely to be substantial under-estimates. Professor Martin Parry and his co-authors look at the estimates from a range of perspectives, and conclude that:

- The current cost assessments do not include some key sectors, such as ecosystems, energy, manufacturing, retailing, and tourism.
- Some of the sectors included have been only partially covered in cost estimates.
- The additional costs of adaptation have sometimes been calculated as 'climate mark-ups' against low levels of assumed investment.

In some parts of the world, low levels of investment have led to an adaptation deficit, and this deficit will need to be made good by full funding of development, without which the funding for adaptation will be insufficient. Residual damages also need to be evaluated and reported because not all damages from climate change can be avoided. There is an urgent need for more detailed assessments of these costs, including case studies of costs of adaptation in specific places and sectors. This report aims to demonstrate the need for the further and transparent refinement of cost estimates for responding to climate change.

FOOD SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- “Greening” agriculture key to fighting climate change, boosting food security - UN’, 24 July 2009, *UN News Centre*.
- ‘World struggles to meet urgent hunger challenge’, 30 July 2009, World Food Programme.
- ‘FAO initiates debate on declaration for World Summit on Food Security’, 31 July 2009, *Food and Agricultural Organization Newsroom*.
- ‘Technological transfer and South-South cooperation key to food security in Asia-Pacific’, *UNESCAP News Service*, 25 August 2009.
- ‘Sustainable agriculture key to recovery from financial crisis in Asia - UN’, 25 August 2009, *UN News Centre*.
- ‘ASEAN states plan to establish rice cartel’, 19 August 2009, *ANTARA News*.
- Teguh Prasetyo, ‘Indonesians’ love affair with rice bad for their health, food security’, 23 Aug 2009, *The Jakarta Globe*.
- ‘Food security law will lead to “insecurity”: CPM’, 27 Aug 2009, *The Times of India*.

Papers & Reports

- ‘The State of Agricultural Commodities Markets 2009: High Food Prices and the Food Crisis - Experiences and Lessons Learned’, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), 2009.

In the first half of 2008, the world was facing the highest food price levels in 30 years and a global food insecurity crisis. Although international food prices have since fallen, they are still above the levels seen in recent years and are expected to remain so. FAO estimates that soaring food prices pushed another 115 million people into chronic hunger in 2007 and 2008, bringing the world total to nearly one billion hungry people. This report explains why food prices increased and the steps needed to ensure that high food prices become an opportunity for developing country farmers to help safeguard world food supplies at affordable prices. It focuses on the extent to which ‘new’ explanations - biofuel demand, record oil prices and increasing food demand in China and India - can account for the sudden food price inflation as well as the role of traditional market drivers. It also explores why so few producers in developing countries responded by investing more and increasing production. ‘The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2009’ aims to bring to a wider public an accessible discussion of agricultural commodity market issues and policy matters. It seeks to provide an objective and straightforward treatment of economic issues for all those interested in agricultural commodity market developments and their impact on developing countries.

- Bart Minten, Thomas Reardon & Anneleen Vandeplass, ‘Linking Urban Consumers and Rural Farmers in India: A Comparison of Traditional and Modern Food Supply Chains’, IFPRI Discussion Paper 00883, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), July 2009.

Food supply chains are being transformed in a number of developing countries due to widespread changes in urban food demand. To better anticipate the impact of this transformation and thus assist in the design of appropriate policies, it is important to understand the changes that are occurring in these supply chains. In a case study of

India, the authors find that overall urban consumption is increasing; the urban food basket is shifting away from staples toward high-value products; and modern market channels (modern retail, food processing, and the food service industry) are on the rise. The authors document differing practices in traditional and modern food supply chains and identify an agenda for future research.

- Derek Headey, Sangeetha Malaiyandi & Fan Shenggen, 'Navigating the Perfect Storm - Reflections on the Food, Energy, and Financial Crises', IFPRI Discussion Paper 00889, IFPRI, August 2009.

The closely interlinked food, fuel and financial crises pose a significant new challenge to the global effort to reduce poverty. In short run, the oil-biofuels nexus was clearly the driving force behind the surge in food prices, but export restrictions and panic purchases turned a tightened market situation into a crisis. New evidence reveals that food prices rose sharply in many countries and that global poverty levels have increased markedly. The good news is that the supply response in many countries was strong. The impacts of the financial crisis on poor countries have yet to fully roll out, but it is clear that additional people will fall into poverty and become food insecure. In the long run, there are strong indications that the global food system is fundamentally changing in a number of dimensions. Biofuels are here to stay, and energy and food prices have adjusted to a higher equilibrium, albeit with large volatility. Trade protection has also resurfaced, but so too have renewed investments in the agricultural sector. These fundamental shifts bring with them opportunities and risks that require internationally coordinated responses with strong national buy-in, as well as timely and relevant research.

Events & Announcements

- World Food Day, Food and Agriculture Organization, 16 October 2009.
- High-Level Expert Forum on How to Feed the World in 2050, 12-13 October 2009, Rome, Italy.
- Committee on World Food Security, 14-17 October 2009, Rome, Italy.

Latest Publication

- *Rice Today*, International Rice Research Institute, July-September 2009.

Rice Today is the only international magazine dedicated to rice-related research for development. *Rice Today* explores the world of rice sciences and its impact on global food security, poverty alleviation and environmental protection and provides timely analysis on those issues. The July-September 2009 Issue of *Rice Today* features 'Making rice less thirsty'. This feature article discussed ways in which water consumption rice can be reduced. Other articles include 'The promise of Latin America', 'Uganda's rice revolution', 'India Analysis' etc.

ENERGY SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Bill Tarrant, 'Analysis: Is Myanmar joining nuclear club with N. Korea aid?' 11 August 2009, *The Star Online*.
- Chris Flood, 'Subdued recovery in global oil demand expected', 12 August 2009, *Financial Times*.
- Jamil Anderlini and Peter Smith, 'China and Australia sign \$41bn energy deal', 18 August 2009, *Financial Times*.

- Kiran Stacey, 'Renewed strength in energy sector fuels broad recovery', 20 August 2009, *Financial Times*.
- Dennis Posadas, 'Clean coal: Is it hope or hype?' 20 August 2009, *The Jakarta Post*.
- Ambrose Evans Pritchard, 'China powers ahead as it seizes the green energy crown from Europe', 24 August 2009, *Daily Telegraph*.
- 'Energy "as vital" as China for new global power', 25 August 2009, *Australian Broadcasting Corporation*.
- Fareed Mahdy, 'Disarmament: Africa joins the nuclear-free club', 26 August 2009, *IPS*.

Papers & Reports

- Mohsin S. Khan, 'The 2008 Oil Price "Bubble"', Peterson Institute for International Economics Policy Brief No. PB09-19, August 2009.

This report ponders over two interrelated questions: 'Was the oil price increase of over 50 per cent in the first half of 2008 a "bubble"?' and 'If it was a bubble and oil prices overshot their long-term equilibrium level in the first half of 2008, did they undershoot when the bubble burst in the second half of the year?' Exploring the likely explanations through either the 'peak oil theory' or 'market fundamentals theory', the author concluded that while the latter phenomenon obviously played a role in the general run-up in the oil prices from 2003 on, it is fair to say that speculation drove an oil price bubble in the first half of 2008, based on a variety of indicators. Projecting for the future, the author added that there would be an upward pressure on oil prices in 2009 or so as the world emerges from recession, oil demand recovers and inventories begin to decline to average or normal levels. However, he added, whether this would turn into a 2008-type bubble depends on the degree of speculation in the oil market.

Events & Announcements

- All-Energy Australia '09, 7-8 October 2009, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
- The 30th Annual Oil & Money Conference, 20-21 October 2009, London, United Kingdom.
- 12th Vietnam OGP (Oil Gas & Power), 28-29 October 2009, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Latest Publication

- *Sustainable Energy Production and Consumption: Benefits, Strategies and Environmental Costing*, The Netherlands: Springer, 2008.

Edited by Frano Barbir and Sergio Ulgiati.

This book volume originates from the proceedings of the NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Sustainable Energy and Consumption and Environmental Costing held in Naples, Italy, on 4-7 July 2007. The authors recognize the need to strike a balance between ensuring access to commodity and energy markets worldwide in order for a proper diffusion of welfare and wealth among societies, and the need to ensure prudent utilization of available resources directly and indirectly linked to energy in order to prevent planetary instability as a result of inadequate knowledge and management. Covering the issues of energy efficiency, security, renewable energy and environmental constraints, the volume advocates a coherent energy strategy to take into account the myriad of factors contributing to both socioeconomic equity worldwide and environmental stability.

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