

NTS Bulletin March 2010 (Issue 1)

Issues:

- HEALTH SECURITY
- CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS
- FOOD SECURITY
- ENERGY SECURITY

Note: Please click on the respective titles or headers for the full report.

Disclaimer: All links and news reports are correct at the time of publication.

MAIN HIGHLIGHT

On 12 January 2010, Haiti was struck by a 7.0 earthquake killing between 200,000 to 250,000 people. The death toll was estimated to be the largest ever incurred in a single country as a percentage of population. Moreover, the Inter-American Development Bank estimated the damage caused by the earthquake at approximately USD 13.2 billion, making it the most destructive natural disaster in modern times. Then on 27 February 2010, Chile was hit by an 8.8 earthquake. As of 1 March 2010, the death count from the earthquake has been reported as 708 and is set to increase as more areas become accessible.

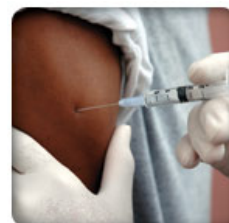
Additional Info:

- Eduardo A. Cavallo, Andrew Powell, and Oscar Becerra, *Estimating the Direct Economic Damage of the Earthquake in Haiti*, IDP Working Paper 163, Inter-American Development Bank, February 2010.
- 'Chile earthquake: more than 700 dead, 2 million displaced', *The Associated Press*, 28 February 2010.
- Rory Carroll, 'Chile's earthquake was horrible – but it could have been so much worse', *The Guardian*, 1 March 2010.
- 'Chile earthquake: where the tsunami struck', *The Guardian Datablog*.
- 'Security concerns spread as Chile quake death toll rises', *CNN*, 1 March 2010.
- Ned Potter, 'Chile Earthquake, Tsunami Warnings: The Science of Disaster', *ABC News*, 28 February 2010.
- 'Chile quake generates small tsunami in Japan', *The Associated Press*, 28 February 2010.

HEALTH SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Azlan Othman, 'Regional Cooperation Vital In Tackling Infectious Diseases', *Brunei Direct*, 18 February 2010.
- 'Dry Winters Linked to Seasonal Outbreaks of Influenza', Harvard School of Public Health Press Release, 22 February 2010.
- Bryan Walsh, 'After H1N1, Researchers Warn of a Potential New Superbug', *Time Magazine*, 22 February 2010.
- 'Pandemic has not yet peaked, WHO experts advise', *Reuters*, 23 February 2010.
- 'H1N1 pandemic at less severe end of spectrum: WHO', *Reuters*, 24 February 2010.
- 'Japan Commits \$2 Million To Boost Immunization In Haiti, Bringing Post-Quake Total For UNICEF To \$8.5 Million', *Medical News Today*, 24 February 2010.
- Andi Abdussalam, 'Many RI regions on dengue alert, death toll reaches tens', *Antara*, 24 February 2010.
- Shan Juan, 'Pandemic has peaked in most of country', *China Daily*, 25 February 2010.



Latest Publications

- L. Marks, S. Cave, D.J. Hunter, 'Public health governance: views of key stakeholders', Royal Society for Public Health, January 2010, vol. 124, no. 1, pp. 55-59

This journal article looks at the different views of stakeholders on public health governance through conducting focus group discussions and interviews. The authors conclude that different governance arrangements and approaches to governance can influence health outcomes through their impact on commissioning strategies, public health practice and performance management regimes. Failure to address these issues will hamper the development of a stewardship role in local organisations and across a local public health system.

- Paul B Spiegel, Heiko Hering, Eugene Paik, Marian Schilperoord, 'Conflict-affected displaced persons need to benefit more from HIV and malaria national strategic plans and Global Fund grants', *Conflict and Health*.

This article deals with access to HIV and malaria control programmes for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The primary source of funding for malaria and HIV programmes for many countries is the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). The study conducted by the authors analyses the current HIV and malaria National Strategic Plans (NSPs) and Global Fund approved proposals from rounds 1–8 for countries in Africa hosting populations with refugees and/or IDPs to document their inclusion. The findings suggest that many countries exclude these groups from their funding proposals, thus failing to treat this

as a public health imperative.

- Y. Payaprom, P. Bennett, P. Burnard, E. Alabaster and H. Tantipong, 'Understandings of influenza and influenza vaccination among high-risk urban dwelling Thai adults: a qualitative study', *Journal of Public Health* 2010, vol. 32, no. 1, pp. 26-31

The 2004 outbreak of influenza A H5N1 and the WHO's recommendation for national pandemic plans has led the Thai Ministry of Public Health to develop an influenza vaccination programme for high-risk adults. To date there is no available information to guide this intervention and on how to maximise the uptake of the vaccine by the Thai population. To address this knowledge gap, this study explores factors influencing urban-dwelling Thai adults' decisions as to whether or not to have the vaccine. It explores their beliefs about influenza and influenza vaccination, and other influences on their decisions.

- E. Y. Y. Chan, Y. Gao, and S. M. Griffiths, 'Literature review of health impact post-earthquakes in China 1906–2007', *Journal of Public Health Advance*, 2010, vol. 32, pp. 52-61

This article highlights the paucity of literature on the impact on health post-earthquake in China between 1906 and 2007. The review suggests that disaster mitigation policies need to reflect the needs not only of the disaster-related impacts on health but also of the ongoing health needs of the chronically ill, and to establish safeguards for the well-being of the vulnerable populations.

- Safe Drinking Water Alliance: Experiences in Haiti, Ethiopia, and Pakistan; Lessons for future water treatment programs, USAID Global Development Alliance (2010).

The Safe Drinking Water Alliance (SDWA) is an alliance of Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP), Population Services International (PSI), CARE USA, and Procter & Gamble (P&G) brought together by the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Global Development Alliance (GDA) to address some of the challenges created by lack of access to safe water. In this joint study, the Alliance tested three marketing models to increase demand for water treatment and to identify P&G's household water-based treatment product in each model. These models include a commercial marketing model in Pakistan, a social marketing model in Haiti, and an emergency relief model in Ethiopia.

- 'Inequalities fuelling HIV pandemic', International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Nov 2009

This International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) report provides several examples of HIV programmed adapted by Red Cross societies to focus on needs of minority groups in Latin America and the Caribbean, and points out various factors that are not adequately addressed to reduce the impact of HIV in the region. According to the report, the HIV pandemic in the two regions is fuelled by a range of social and economic inequalities exacerbated by high levels of stigma, discrimination of highly vulnerable groups, and persistent gender inequality and homophobia.

- Anna Bellos, Kim Mulholland, Katherine L O'Brien, Shamim A Qazi, Michelle Gayer, Francesco Checchi, 'The burden of acute respiratory infections in crisis-affected populations: a systematic review', *Conflict and Health*, 2010, vol. 4, no.3

The authors of this article deal with acute respiratory infections (ARIs) in the context of humanitarianism. Pointing out that ARIs have historically received little attention in the humanitarian sector, and that crisis due to armed conflict, forced displacement and natural disasters in fact increase vulnerabilities to such infections, the authors performed a systematic review to generate evidence on the burden of ARI in crises, and to inform prioritisation of relief interventions.

- Wuxiang Shi, Virasakdi Chongsuvivatwong, Alan Geater, Junhua Zhang, Hong Zhang, and Daniele Brombal, 'The influence of the rural health security schemes on health utilization and household impoverishment in rural China: data from a household survey of western and central China', *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 2010, vol. 9, no. 7

This study documents the coverage of The New Rural Cooperative Medical Scheme (NRCMS, voluntary health insurance) and the Medical Financial Assistance (MFA, financial relief program), which were established in 2003 for rural China, and assesses their effectiveness on access to in-patient care and protection against financial catastrophe and household impoverishment due to health spending, and identifies the factors predicting impoverishment with and without these schemes.

Events & Announcements

- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) International Symposium and Workshop, 12–14 April 2010, Melbourne, Australia. The theme for the Symposium and Workshop is Integrating Science and Management.
- XVIII International AIDS Conference, 18–23 July 2010, Vienna, Austria.

[^ To the top](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

News & Commentaries

- David Rothkopf, 'Averting Disaster', *Newsweek*, 15 January 2010.
- Norichika Kanie, 'Green Growth and a New World Order', *Global Asia*, January 2010.
- Rafał Kownacki, 'Humanitarian Disaster in Haiti – A Challenge for the International Community', *Bulletin PISM no. 17 (93)*, 1 February 2010.
- Nikka Corsino, 'Is Metro Manila prepared for a major earthquake?', *GMANews.TV*, 12 February 2010.
- 'Kseniya Lvovsky, Making the Most of Climate Finance: A Development Perspective', *Climate-L.org*, 18 Feb 2010.
- Pia Faustino, 'RP backtracks on support for Copenhagen Accord', *GMANews.TV*, 19 February 2010.
- Jagdish Bhagwati, 'A new approach to tackling climate change', *Financial Times*, 22 February 2010.
- Stevie Emilia, 'Pledged emissions cuts targets will not be effective: Study', *The Jakarta Post*, 24 February 2010.
- 'National climate change adaptation fund needed: Oxfam study', *The Hindu*, 24 February 2010.



- 'Lingering drought leaves 7.5 mln people with water shortage in southwest China', *Xinhua News*, 24 February 2010.

Latest Publications

- Marc Landy, 'Climate Adaptation and Federal Mega-disaster Policy: Lessons from Katrina', Resources for the Future Issue Brief 10-02, February 2010.

This issue brief is one in a series that results from the second phase of a domestic adaptation research project conducted by US based think-tank Resources for the Future. As defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, adaptation includes a set of actions to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities in response to climate change. According to the brief, to date, little research has addressed public policy options to frame the United States' approach to adapt to a changing climate. In light of scientific evidence of extreme and unpredictable climate change, prudent policy requires consideration of what to do if markets and people fail to anticipate these changes, or are constrained in their ability to react.

- Linda Siegele, 'Adaptation & the Copenhagen Accord', Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development Briefing Note, February 2010.

This briefing note focuses specifically on the treatment of adaptation in Copenhagen Accord – the most discussed outcome of the December 2009 Copenhagen climate change conference.

This briefing note focuses specifically on the treatment of adaptation in the Copenhagen Climate Change Accord, the outcome of the Copenhagen climate change conference in December 2009. The brief discusses issues such as funding, technology, response measures, infrastructure and differentiated vulnerabilities in the context of adaptation.

- 'Climate Change: a development challenge – Factsheet', International Fund for Agricultural Development, February 2010.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has released a factsheet titled 'Climate Change: a development challenge', which describes its work on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The note underscores that up to 35% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions result from agriculture and deforestation. Highlighting that the rural poor manage large areas of land and forest, it calls for carbon trading schemes to include mechanisms to compensate the rural poor, and for policymakers to incentivise carbon sequestration and soil and water conservation. The note also outlines IFAD's efforts to streamline climate change adaptation and mitigation into its programmes. It includes information on a biogas project in China; a programme for developing mechanisms to Reward the Upland Poor of Asia for Environmental Services (RUPES); an adaptation project in Peru; and partnerships on climate change between IFAD and other international organisations.

- Percy E. Sajise, Mariliza V. Ticsay and Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (eds), 'Moving Forward: Southeast Asian Perspectives on Climate Change and Biodiversity', ISEAS/SEARCA, 2010.

This book explores the two-way link between climate change and the state of biodiversity in Southeast Asia. By drawing on the experiences and lessons shared by representatives from research and development agencies, academic institutions, donors and other organisations, and the crosscutting issues contributed by experts, this book aims to provide insights, lessons, and perspectives on how Southeast Asia is dealing with these twin concerns.

- Robin Mearns, Andrew Norton (eds), 'The Social Dimensions of Climate Change: Equity and Vulnerability in a Warming World', World Bank, December 2009.

This edited volume is a compilation of the revised versions of papers presented at an international workshop convened by the World Bank, covering the social dimensions of climate change. The volume includes discussions on the social and political implications of climate change, focusing attention on how changes in physical environment interact with socio-economic systems such as health, livelihoods and development, what the consequences of this would be for society and how best we can address them.

- 'World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change', World Bank, November 2009.

The World Development Report 2010 looks at what climate change means for development policy, and explores how public policy can change to help people cope with risks, new or worsened, how land and water management must adapt to better protect natural environment while supporting a growing and more prosperous population, and how energy systems will need to be transformed.

- 'UNEP Year Book: New Science and Developments in our Changing Environment', United Nations Environment Programme, 2010.

The UNEP Year Book 2010 reports on new environmental science and recent developments in our changing environment. It looks at progress in environmental governance; the effects of continuing degradation and loss of the world's ecosystems; impacts of climate change; how harmful substances and hazardous waste affect human health and the environment; environmentally related disasters and conflicts; and unsustainable use of resources. The chapters correspond to UNEP's six thematic priorities.

Events & Announcements

- UNFCCC: the eleventh session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 11); The ninth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 9), Bonn, Germany, 9–11 April 2010.
- East Asian Summit (EAS) High-Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities, Singapore, 2-4 March 2010.

[^ To the top](#)

FOOD SECURITY

News & Commentaries



- 'Haiti: Food Security Task Force Established By Three Rome-based United Nations Agencies', World Food Programme Press Release, 12 February 2010.
- 'Information Note on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change in the Post-Copenhagen Processes', FAO, 2010.
- Paul Virgo, 'DEVELOPMENT: Free Hungry Mouths of Red Tape', *IPS*, 18 February 2010.
- 'Strong farmers' organizations key to achieving food security', IFAD, 18 February 2010.
- 'Food Insecurity in Hundreds of Villages', *Tempo Interactive*, 24 February 2010.
- Marianne Go, 'Crop damage due to drought hits P3.7 billion', *The Philippine Star*, 25 February 2010.
- Sean Yoong, 'UN plans Asia's 1st food relief hub for disasters', *Yahoo News*, 25 February 2010.
- 'WFP Boosts Humanitarian Rapid Response Capacity in Asia with New Base in Malaysia', WFP News Release, 25 February 2010.



Latest Publications

- 'Radically Rethinking Agriculture for the 21st Century', *Science*, 12 February 2010: vol. 327, no. 5967, pp. 833–834.

By N. V. Fedoroff, D. S. Battisti, R. N. Beachy, P. J. M. Cooper, D. A. Fischhoff, C. N. Hodges, V. C. Knauf, D. Lobell, B. J. Mazur, D. Molden, M. P. Reynolds, P. C. Ronald, M. W. Rosegrant, P. A. Sanchez, A. Vonshak, and J. K. Zhu

Noting the implications of climate change for agriculture, this journal article looks at the acceptance and use of contemporary molecular techniques as well as the increasing development of farming systems that use saline water and nutrient flows as factors that will determine the ability of agriculture to meet this century's growing demands for food, fibre and fuel whilst reducing the environmental impact of their production.

- 'Smart Investments in Sustainable Food Production: Revisiting Mixed Crop-Livestock Systems', *Science* 12 February 2010: Vol. 327, no. 5967, pp. 822–825.

By M. Herrero, P. K. Thornton, A. M. Notenbaert, S. Wood, S. Msangi, H. A. Freeman, D. Bossio, J. Dixon, and M. Peters.

This journal article examines investments made in the agriculture sector in order to deliver sustainable food production. It argues that faced with population growth and climate change, small-holder farmers should be the first target for policies to intensify production by carefully managed inputs of fertiliser, water, and feed to minimise waste and environmental impact, supported by improved access to markets, new varieties, and technologies.

- 'Crop Prospects and Food Situation, Global Information and Early Warning System', FAO, February 2010.

This brief provides updates on crops and food situation in various regions of the world.

- Ruth Vargas Hill and Maximo Torero (eds) 'Innovations in Insuring the Poor', IFPRI, 2009.

This set of briefs considers how to increase the tools available to poor households to manage agricultural and health risks. The focus is on how to develop insurance markets, along with other financial instruments such as credit, savings, and social protection policies. The series does not document the proven impact of insurance markets for the welfare of poor people; rather, it brings together briefs written by businesspeople, policymakers, and researchers that document innovations, lessons learned, and areas of future work and action.

- Marie-Caroline Badjeck, Edward H. Allison, Ashley S. Halls, Nicholas K. Dulvy, 'Impacts of climate variability and change on fishery-based livelihoods', *Marine Policy*, Volume 34, Issue 3, May 2010.

Using a livelihood framework, this paper synthesizes the pathways through which climate variability and change impact fisherfolk livelihoods at the household and community level. With mounting evidence of the impacts of climate variability and change on aquatic ecosystems, the resulting impacts on fisheries livelihoods are likely to be significant, but remain a neglected area in climate adaptation policy. In this paper, the authors identify current and potential adaptation strategies and explore the wider implications for local livelihoods, fisheries management and climate policies.

- 'State of Food and Agriculture 2009: Livestock in the Balance', Food and Agriculture Organization, January 2010.

The State of Food and Agriculture, FAO's annual flagship publication aims to provide science-based assessments of important and current issues in the food and agriculture debate. The report draws attention to the rapid expansion of the livestock sector – driven by population growth, urbanisation and rising affluence. It emphasizes the need for broader rural development policies and increased governance of the livestock sector, to ensure its impact on the environment is limited.

- 'Towards food sovereignty: Reclaiming autonomous food systems', International Institute for Environment and Development, February 2010.

'Towards Food Sovereignty' is an online book with full colour photo illustrations and linked video and audio files. It describes the ecological basis of food and agriculture, the social and environmental costs of modern food systems, and the policy reversals needed to democratise food systems. The photos, video clips and audio recordings show farmers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, fisherfolk, food workers and consumers all working to promote food sovereignty – highlighting the importance of locally controlled and diverse food systems to sustain both people and nature.

- William D. Schanbacher, 'The Politics of Food: the Global Conflict between Food Security and Food Sovereignty', Praeger Security International, 28 February 2010.

This book argues that our current global food system constitutes a massive violation of human rights. The author makes the case that the food security model for combating global hunger – driven by the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and other organisations – is a failure, too dependent on trade and too reliant on international agribusiness. Instead, the emerging

model of food sovereignty – helping local farmers and businesses produce better quality food – is the more effective and responsible approach. Through numerous case studies, the book examines critical issues of global trade and corporate monopolisation of the food industry, while examining the emerging social justice movements that seek to make food sovereignty the model for battling hunger.

Events & Announcements

- Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010-farming the waters for people and food, Bangkok, Thailand, 9–12 June 2010.

[^ To the top](#)

ENERGY SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Ma Jiali, 'China, India Stoke Energy Bond', *China Daily*, 2 February 2010.
- Grace Chua, 'Singapore should consider nuclear energy', *Straits Times*, 2 February 2010.
- 'Russia gets Vietnam's first nuclear power deal: sources', *AsiaOne.com*, 9 February 2010.
- 'Marubeni to build biomass and coal plant in Singapore', *Japan Today*, 10 February 2010.
- 'Indonesian experts prefer renewable source to nuclear power plant', *People's Daily Online*, 11 February 2010.
- 'Indonesia Offers Fiscal Incentives for Using Renewable Energy', *Silobreaker*, 12 February 2010.
- Watcharapong Thongrung, 'Japan seen as good role model for govt to follow', *The Nation* (Thailand), 15 February 2010.
- Jessica Cheam, 'Nuke power a key source of energy in region soon?' *AsiaOne.com*, 16 February 2010.
- 'DOE still has reservations on using nuclear power despite looming power crisis', *Balita.ph*, 17 February 2010.



Latest Publications

- Mario Coccia, 'Energy metrics for driving competitiveness of countries: Energy weakness magnitude, GDP per barrel and barrels per capita', *Energy Policy*, vol. 38, issue 3 (March 2010), 1330–1339.

Pointing out the lack of analysis of energy indicators used for measuring the performance of economic systems overtime, the author attempts to determine and display new metrics which concern energy weakness, productivity and efficiency of countries supporting industrial organisation. Under a newly proposed theoretical framework, the author suggests using the following new metrics: 1) magnitude of energy weakness; and 2) GDP per barrel of oil that is an indicator of productivity concerning the input energy, and barrels of oil per capita that indicates energy efficiency. Using 27 member countries of the European Union as the sample, the author tests the validity of the proposed new metrics and derived results, which suggest the basic driving scientific information for rational decisions aimed at improving economic stability and 'competitive advantage of nations' over time. She also cautioned, however, that other factors which could affect the economic and energy processes of countries would have to be considered in order to improve on future research about energy indicators.

- Fabian Kesicki, 'The third oil price surge – What's different this time?' *Energy Policy*, vol. 38, issue 3 (March 2010), 1596-1606.

The author re-examines the oil price spikes of the period 2003-2008, prior to the onset of the financial crisis. Using the oil price spikes of the 1970s and 1980s, he attempts to qualitatively analyse lessons from history with respect to typical features defining significant surges of the global oil prices. Comparing these three periods of oil price surge, the author found some differences that starkly distinguished the causes of the latest price spike from the ones in the 1970s and 1980s. Unlike the previous historical experiences, the oil price spike experienced in 2003–2008 was not brought about by any single event, but a combination of various circumstances. The author concludes that an interaction of fast demand growth, low level investments during the 1990s, tight refinery capacities, geopolitical uncertainty and a weak US dollar essentially acted together to drive the last oil price increase.

Events & Announcements

- FLNG 2010, 22–25 March 2010, Singapore
- Power & Electricity Asia 2010, 5–9 April 2010, Singapore
- Green Fuels & Vehicles China 2010, 8–9 April 2010, Shanghai, China
- Algae Biofuel Workshop 2010, 12–13 April 2010, New Delhi, India

[^ To the top](#)

About the Centre:

The Centre for NTS Studies was inaugurated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan in May 2008. The Centre maintains research in the fields of Climate Change, Energy Security, Health Security, as well as Internal and Cross Border Conflict. It produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building capacity to address NTS issues and challenges in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. The Centre also provides a platform for scholars and policymakers within and outside Asia to discuss and analyse NTS issues in the region.

In 2009, the Centre was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation as a lead institution for the MacArthur Asia Security Initiative, to develop policy research capacity and recommend policies on the critical security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific.

The Centre is also a founding member and the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia). More information on the Centre can be found at www.rsis.edu.sg/nts