

# MDG News Update



Issue 36 - May-June 2009

## Highlights

### E-DISCUSSION ON THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS (UN News, July 2009)



The discussion examined the global system of financial governance and there was a general consensus that international institutions have taken the effort to build awareness of with the recognition of the impact on developing countries. Key suggestions included the need for the global system to develop robust international monitoring mechanisms to flag potential problems as well as for developing countries to reduce reliance on exports by building and expanding their domestic markets. The discussion also focused on specific country-level impacts, options and responses. It also drew reflections on the [Outcome Document](#) of the recent UN Conference on World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development. [More](#)

### G20 AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS FOR THE MD (Media Global, 18 May 2009)



At the G-20 Summit in April 2009, leaders of the world's 20 largest economies approved measures aimed at delivering economic change. UNDP's Poverty Group Director Selim Jahan was interviewed by Media Global to offer his views on if the G20's commitment would result in positive economic change for developing countries in the midst of the financial crisis. Specific issues touched included the short as well as long-term impact of the global financial crisis on trade and human development, the implications for the MDGs, and the strategy of UNDP's Poverty Group in responding to the financial crisis, and also in addressing human development issues in least developed countries. In responding to a question regarding the impact of the crisis on the MDGs, Mr. Jahan believed that instead of stealing the international spotlight of the MDGs, the current crisis actually strengthened the case for putting more resources on poverty-reduction, MDGs and human development. [More](#)

## Recent Meetings

### THE UN CONFERENCE ON WORLD FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPEMNT

(New York, USA, June 2009)



The UN Conference on World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development organized by Mr. d'Escoto Brockmann, the President of the General Assembly, was convened from 24 to 26 June.

Notably, the Conference came to the conclusion that the

ongoing crisis is threatening the economic and social progress achieved on the MDGs by developing countries, and it is further endangering the achievement of their national development objectives including the MDGs. [Click here](#)

### UNFPA WORKSHOP ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (RH) COSTING AND FORECASTING OF RH COMMODITIES

(Bangkok, Thailand, 18 -22 May 2009)

In support of the core mandate of UNFPA to achieve

MDG NEWS UPDATE is a publication of the Facilitation Team of the MDG-Net and the UNDG MDG Policy Network. This issue was written and edited by [Junting Wei](#), [Kayla Keenan](#) and [Hideko Hadzialic](#). The digital editor is [Dishan Nanayakkara](#). The team would like to thank those that have contributed to this issue. To feature your news and announcements in the next MDG NEWS UPDATE send a message to the Facilitation Team. To receive this newsletter and participate on e-discussions on the MDGs, register to the MDG-Net at: [mdg-net@groups.undp.org](mailto:mdg-net@groups.undp.org)

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universal access to reproductive health by 2015 in accordance with International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to realize MDG 5, the UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional office organized a training workshop on Reproductive Health Costing and Forecasting of Reproductive Health Commodities in May 2009.. The workshop was intended to to build capacity of national professionals, particularly those affiliated to established national and regional intuitions, so that the learned techniques could be best used to develop wider capacity in the areas of RH costing and forecasting. [Click here](#)

### **UNDP GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV): POLICIES, ACTIONS AND IMPACT**

(Caracas, Venezuela, 21-22 April 2009)

Within the framework of the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2008-2011, the UNDP Global Conference on GBV; Policies,

Actions and Impact, was held in Venezuela. The conference focused on addressing GBV issues in a multi-sectoral



way, through UNDP's focus areas of governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, and sustainable development. The conference discussed the lessons learnt from regional strategies aimed

at changing attitudes and behavior, including innovative ways to work effectively with men and boys, and the media. [Click here](#)

## **Development in the News**

### **EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY DEPENDS ON LEADERSHIP, UN LABOR CHIEF TELLS JOBS SUMMIT**



The head of the United Nations International Labor Organization (ILO) told a global jobs summit in Geneva that leadership is crucial for rapid recovery of

employment amid the ongoing economic downturn. [Click here](#)

### **CONTINUING AFRICAN TOUR, UN DEVELOPMENT CHIEF HEADS TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

(UN News, 12 June 2009)



Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator and UNDG Chair, travelled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) today on the latest leg of her African tour.

During her first trip to Africa as Administrator, Helen Clark visited a UNDP-supported voter registration center in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Ms. Clark arrived in the capital Kinshasa after visiting Liberia. UNDP and the international community continue to support the Congolese government and people in its efforts to hold transparent and fair local elections. [Click here](#)

### **HAITI HAS BEST CHANCE IN DECADES FOR DEVELOPMENT – UN ENVOY BILL CLINTON**

(UN Daily News, 15 June 2009)

The new United Nations envoy on Haiti, Bill Clinton, today



laid out his vision to advance development in the small and impoverished Caribbean nation, stressing that, more than ever before, the country has the opportunity to advance. [Click here](#)

### **INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM ON AFRICA – AFDB/ UNECA/ OECD**

(African Development Bank News, 5 June 2009)



The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual International Economic Forum on Africa was held in Paris and hosted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the African

Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Conference participants debated the findings of the latest edition of the African Economic Outlook (AEO) which offers a comprehensive overview of the economic, social and political development of the continent. This year the conference looked at the successes and failures of the role of information and communication technologies in creating effective development policies on the continent. [Click here](#)

### **UN SECRETARY-GENERAL AT SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS HIGHLIGHTS IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE REGION**

In an address to the Fifth Summit of the Americas, taking place in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted the impact of climate



change on the Americas, from the shrinking glaciers in the Andes to deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon and the rising sea levels

endangering the small islands of the Caribbean. He also stressed the need to protect populations, including indigenous peoples, and to create financial incentives to preserve forests and the livelihoods of those who depend on them. [Click here](#)

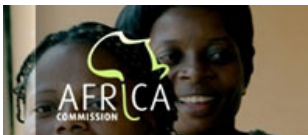
## Announcements

### UNDP LIBRARY ON THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS

Visit the UNDP Library on the crisis housed on the service space on [UNDP's response to the economic crisis](#). The resources are organized by topics, regions and highlight important readings. The page also includes presentations and talking points/speeches. [Click here](#)

### AFRICA COMMISSION REPORT – A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO BOOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(allAfrica.com, 26 May 2009)



The Africa Commission report was launched by the Danish Cooperation and Development Minister, Ulla

Toernaes. The minister said the report was the outcome of a collective endeavor and commitment that started last year with a view to seeking solutions that could help Africa's development efforts. Its targeted objectives include private sector development considered as the engine of growth, youth job creation, education, capacity building, among others. The collective ambition, the minister said, was to

create a global partnership in order to bring about a new dynamic which is expected to enable the continent lay a solid continent. [Click here](#)

### UNDP HAS ALLOCATED RESOURCES TO SUPPORT 18 COUNTRIES TO UNDERTAKE Poverty Social Impact Assessments (PSIA)

(UNDP News, June 2009)

UNDP has allocated resources to support eighteen countries to undertake PSIA to help identify the impact of the economic and financial crises and to generate policy responses to mitigate human development impacts. Studies are being conducted for countries in Eastern Europe, Africa, East Asia, the Caribbean and the Middle East- Moldova, Armenia, Lithuania, Kiribati, Syria, Philippines, Namibia, Morocco, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Paraguay. A regional study for Barbados and Eastern Caribbean is also being conducted to identify the impact of the crisis in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These studies will be completed within four months to ensure their relevance and contribution to articulate adequate policy responses to the crises. [Click here](#)

## Upcoming Events

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS: 24-26 JUNE 2009

(World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, June 2009)



The International Conference on Anti-Corruption, Good Governance and Human

Rights (ACGGHR 2009) will be held in Paris from 24-26 June 2009. It aims to bring together researchers, scientists, engineers, and scholar students to exchange and share their experiences, new ideas, and research results about all aspects of Anti-Corruption, Good Governance and Human Rights, and discusses the practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted. [Click here](#)

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS: 24-26 JUNE 2009

[IISD, 23 March 2009]

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in cooperation with the Austrian Development Cooperation and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), is convening an International Energy Conference in Vienna, Austria, from 22 to 24 June 2009. The objective of the Conference is to provide an opportunity for policymakers, the private sector and civil society representatives from developing and industrialized countries to discuss energy issues in the context of the current global financial and economic crisis, stressing the need for more international cooperation, and demonstrating the role the United Nations can play in the field of energy. [Click here](#)

# Resources

## USING INDICATORS TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT - LESSONS FROM THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

(International Relations and Security Network, May 2009)



Richard Manning (2009); commissioned by the Danish Institute for International Studies. There is growing international discussion of good practice regarding the use of indicators to measure and incentivise development progress. The purpose of Manning's paper is to assess the impact of the MDG framework, and to consider whether there are features of it that have been either of particular value or problematic for achieving positive impacts. [Click here](#)

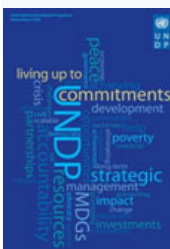
## TACKLING HUNGER: THE WAY FORWARD

(Interaction, April 2009)

The midterm review is underway on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The very first MDG sets the goal of halving, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. The Centre for Environment Concerns (India) has pioneered a model to turn the concept of "Food Assurance" into reality. An article by K.S. Gopal, featured in Monday Developments, the bi-monthly magazine of InterAction, which is the largest alliance of US based NGOs (article starts on p. 10). [Click here](#)

## LIVING UP TO COMMITMENTS: 2009 UNDP ANNUAL REPORT

(UNDP, May 2009)



This report sums up UNDP's success in navigating the past year. As UNDP supports developing countries in how they address the current economic and financial crisis, it is staying true to the shared sets of values as set out by the Millennium Declaration. UNDP will stay the course as spelled out in the UNDP Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and focus its efforts on reducing poverty, promoting democratic governance, supporting crisis prevention and recovery efforts and achieving sustainable development results in energy and environment, efforts that are crucial to achieving the MDGs. [Click here](#)

## CORRUPTION AND DEVELOPMENT: ANTI-CORRUPTION INTERVENTION FOR POVERTY REDUCTION, REALIZATION OF THE MDGS AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This primer explores the theoretical and empirical

relationship between corruption and the various aspects of development including economic growth, poverty, human rights, gender, governance, human development, and environment and sustainable development. It recommends ways in which UNDP could integrate anti-corruption principles and strategies with its technical assistance to effectively implement anti-corruption interventions to reduce poverty, realize the Millennium Development Goals and promote sustainable development. [Click here](#)

## GREEN JOBS FOR THE POOR: A PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT APPROACH, POVERTY REDUCTION DISCUSSION PAPER, UNDP, PG, APRIL 2009

(Contributed by Radhika Lal, UNDP/BDP/PG-New York, 18 April 2009)



In this paper, Maikel R. Lieuw-Kie-Song explores the potential for governments to create 'green jobs' in developing countries by funding public employment activities to preserve biodiversity, restore degraded land, combat erosion, and conserve water. The paper draws on the experiences of the Working for Water programme in South Africa and the National Rural Employment Guarantee in India. It also identifies high-impact activities and explores implementation and funding mechanisms to maximize impact. [Click here](#)

## THE END OF ODA: DEATH AND REBIRTH OF A GLOBAL PUBLIC POLICY, CENTER FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT, MARCH 2009

(Contributed by Emmanuel Bor, UNDP Africa Sub-Regional Office in Dakar, 20 April 2009)



In this paper, Jean-Michel Severino and Olivier Ray describe shifts in the objectives of overseas development assistance (ODA) over time and conclude that it is time to put the concept itself to bed—in favor of what they propose should be called "Global Policy Finance." [Click here](#)

## POLICY RESPONSES TO THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS, IDS, IN FOCUS POLICY BRIEFING 7

(Contributed by Bharati Sadasivam, UNDP/PB, New York, 8 May 2009)



The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) undertook a set of rapid research projects on the financial crisis. This brief summarizes the conclusions from those projects [more](#)