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SDGs for All - January 2018 In Retrospect

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Ensuring Access to Sexual and Reproductive Rights – A Global Challenge



By Julia Zimmerman*

This is the fifth in a series of reports on the [Vienna UN Conference](#) from January 10-12, 2018, which discussed actions and challenges linked to the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) and in the

spirit of [SDG 17](#). The Vienna Liaison Office of the [Academic Council on the United Nations System \(ACUNS\)](#) organized this Conference co-ordinated by [Heather Wokusch](#). – The Editor

VIENNA (IDN) – Of the numerous and significant challenges currently facing women and girls globally, access to sexual and reproductive rights is high on the list. Experts in the field of women's sexual and reproductive health are trying to assure access and to spread knowledge about harmful practices.

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Women's Path to Leadership: Are We at a Turning point?



By Darline Giraud*

This is the fourth in a series of reports on the [Vienna UN Conference](#) from January 10-12, 2018, which discussed actions and challenges linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly 5 (SDG 5) and in the spirit of [SDG 17](#). The Vienna Liaison Office of the [Academic Council on](#)

the United Nations System (ACUNS) organized this Conference co-ordinated by [Heather Wokusch](#). – The Editor

VIENNA (IDN) – Women face unique challenges in attaining leadership positions. To determine multidisciplinary threads, a recent UN Vienna conference panel invited female leaders at different career phases to share their experiences and discuss means of creating opportunities for future generations.

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Nuclear-Weapons Ban Will Help Usher In Peace, Human Rights



By Jamshed Baruah

NEW YORK | TOKYO (IDN-INPS) – Eminent Buddhist philosopher [Daisaku Ikeda](#), president of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI), has welcomed the July 2017 adoption of the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW\)](#) as a turning point in the global history of efforts to achieve peace and disarmament,

emphasizing that while nuclear weapons exist, a world of peace and human rights will remain elusive.

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Renewed Efforts to Develop Renewable Energy East Africa



By Justus Wanzala

NAIROBI (IDN) – Heightened demand for energy, a shift in policy and the emergence of viable entrepreneurial innovations are propelling transition to sustainable energy in the East African region.

This emerged during a two-day conference organised by Kenya’s Strathmore University’s Energy Research Centre (SERC) in partnership with Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa ([RES4Africa](#)) – an association that promotes the deployment of large-scale and decentralised renewable energy in sub-Saharan African countries. The meeting was held on in Nairobi.

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‘Smart Farms’ Making Thai Agriculture Sufficient and Sustainable



By Kalinga Seneviratne

This article is the 20th in a series of joint productions of [Lotus News Features](#) and [IDN-InDepthNews](#), flagship of the [International Press Syndicate](#).

CHANTHABURI, Thailand (IDN) – Thai farmers are going back to basics under a “Smart Farms” formula supported by modern information communication

technology (ICT) integrated into a Buddhist concept of ‘sufficiency economy’ to make the kingdom’s lifeblood – agriculture and its small-scale farmers – sustainable into the foreseeable future.

“Some farmers use chemical fertiliser to get more fruits [from their trees] (but) their trunks die in three to five years. We use organic fertiliser here and our trunks will last for 30 years” said farmer Sittipong Yanaso, speaking to IDN at his lush multi-cropping durian plantation here. (P44) [CHINESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [TAGALOG](#) | [THAI](#)

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Women and Water Inseparable for Sustainable Development



By Krista Price*

This is the third in a series of reports on the [Vienna UN Conference](#) from January 10-12, 2018, which discussed actions and challenges linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly 5 (SDG 5) and in the spirit of SDG 17. The Vienna Liaison Office of the [Academic Council on the United Nations System \(ACUNS\)](#) organized this Conference co-ordinated by [Heather Wokusch](#). – The Editor

VIENNA (IDN) – A comfort often overlooked, the water served at the Vienna UN headquarters is locally sourced from mountains outside of the city. In Austria, water is a point of pride. This developed nation's water sector is committed not only to quality water systems but also to sustainable practices regarding the water and waste industry. For Austrians, and those frequenting the UN's conference rooms in Vienna, exceptional drinking water is a given.
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Bodies as Battlefields – Dangers Women Face During Conflicts



By Julia Zimmerman*

This is the second in a series of reports on the [Vienna UN Conference](#) from January 10-12, 2018, which discussed actions and challenges linked to the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) and in the spirit of SDG 17. The Vienna Liaison Office of the [Academic Council on the United Nations System \(ACUNS\)](#) organized this Conference co-ordinated by [Heather Wokusch](#). – The Editor

VIENNA (IDN) – When thinking of war and its inherent dangers, the first thought is probably death on the battlefield and the profound loss of human life that accompanies it; however, soldiers are not the only victims of war. Civilians are also greatly affected, and the impact can be especially devastating for women.
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Paving the Way to Empowering Female Leaders



By Ourania Roditi *

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VIENNA (IDN) – "We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back." This profound remark by the 16-year old 2014 Nobel Peace Laureate [Malala Yousafzai](#) underlines a self-evident truth which has yet to be reflected in global

...realized, and a... reality.

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Faith-based Organizations Asked to Support Refugees, Migrants



By Amina J. Mohammed

Amina J. Mohammed is the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General. Following are extensive excerpts from her remarks to the Fourth Annual Symposium on the Role of Religion and Faith-based Organizations in International Affairs with the focus: "Perspectives on Migration: Displacement and Marginalization, Inclusion and Justice"

in New York on 22 January 2018. - The Editor*

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – Not since the Second World War have so many people fled their homes to seek a place of greater safety. Some 66 million people – half of them children – have fled armed conflicts, persecution, poverty, climate change and natural disasters and are now refugees or displaced within their own countries.

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Thai Doctor Creating Multi-Faceted Approach to Sustainable Development



By Kalinga Seneviratne

CHANTABURI, Thailand (IDN) – A passionate, socially conscious doctor in this rural farming community in the north-east of Thailand is working with a school for marginalised children, supported by a foundation set up by Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the second daughter of late King

Bhumibol who died in October 2016.

The school aims at empowering the students to break into the medical field through an unconventional career path that is providing a multi-faceted approach to addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). (P41) [INDONESIAN](#) | [ITALIAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [KOREAN TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [TAGALOG](#) | [THAI](#)

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Tanzania Pushing Gender Empowerment Despite Hurdles



By Kizito Makoye

DAR ES SALAAM (IDN) – Despite efforts to promote gender equality, women and girls in Tanzania are still marginalised and largely under-utilised citizens – often suffering from discrimination and violence from their male counterparts due to a biased male-dominated system which often pushes women to the brink of survival.

However, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs), various initiatives are being implemented to empower women, although they still face obstacles that prevent them from reaching their full potential. (P40)
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Sustainability Is Developing Community From Within



By Kalinga Seneviratne

NAMOKANDA, West Bengal, India (IDN) – Six years ago this remote village of 130 households about 80 km from Santiniketan – the hometown of famous Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore – was a small picturesque village community surrounded by paddy fields, but without a sustainable development concept.

Today it is a confident community with most households having access to water and sanitation, and most of its children in school aspiring to go to university. One of the community leaders is even doing research in development communication at the famous [Visva-Bharati University](#), India's first 'institute of national importance', set up by Tagore.

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Cameroon's Catholic Bishops Fail to See Eye to Eye on 'Anglophone Problem'



By Ngala Killian Chimtom

YAOUNDE (IDN) – "It was like I was watching a horror movie" is how the bishop of Mamfe diocese in Cameroon's South West Region described the scene he saw in the village of Kembong village.

Mgr Andrew Nkea had visited the village in the wake of the deaths of four soldiers late December, killed by unknown assailants

(although the government claimed they were secessionists). In a retaliatory move, Cameroonian soldiers had incinerated the whole village.

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Landmark Vatican Conference on Nuclear Disarmament Brings a Breeze of Expectation



By Ramesh Jaura

The following article is based on an interview with Hirotsugu Terasaki, the Director General of Peace and Global Issues of the lay Buddhist organization Soka Gakkai International (SGI), in Tokyo, Japan. SGI was the sole Buddhist organization that participated in the Vatican Conference on nuclear disarmament on

November 10-11, 2017.

BERLIN | ROME (IDN) – There was an air of surprise when religious leaders and

representatives of civil society, officials of State and international organizations, eminent academics, Nobel Laureates, and students, gathered in the Vatican City against the backdrop of an escalating face-off between the U.S. and North Korea.

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