



Number 1 | 2016

Published by the [International Press Syndicate Group](#)
in cooperation with the [Global Cooperation Council](#)

Adolescent Girls in Bangladesh Defend Right to Learning



News Feature by Naimul Haq

COX'S BAZAR | Bangladesh (IDN) - Many young girls drop out from schools in Bangladesh largely due to poverty and poverty related causes. But strong motivations for continuing education have changed the scenario over the past few years.

Despite the practices of patriarchy and traditional beliefs against girls' education and employment in mostly poor families in the rural areas, adolescent girls in many regions of Bangladesh have demonstrated how defying such traditions can actually benefit their lives.

Shonglap – or dialogue that calls for capacity building or developing occupational skills and offers livelihood opportunities for marginalised groups of people in the society – has made a positive impact encouraging them to learn.

Ummey Salma, who quit school in 2011 due to extreme poverty, has joined Shonglap in South Delpara of Khurushkul in coastal Cox's Bazar district. In a group of 29 adolescent girls, Ummey, who lost her father in 2009, has been playing a leading role among the girls who meet six-days a week in the Shonglap session held at a rented thatched home in suburb Delpara. (P05) [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [THAI](#)

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Istanbul Summit to Find Ways Out of Humanitarian Crises



Analysis by Ramesh Jaura

BERLIN | NEW YORK (IDN) - It is an open secret that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has put his heart into the first-ever [World Humanitarian Summit](#) set for May 23 and 24 in Istanbul, the most populous city in Turkey and the country's economic, cultural, and historic hub.

If successful, the Summit would go down in

history as his lasting legacy. Because it symbolizes a cupola supported by four columns: the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), [Addis Ababa Action Agenda \(AAAA\)](#), [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the [Paris Climate Agreement](#).

The crux of Ban's message since September 2015, when world leaders endorsed 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 targets: "I call upon global leaders to place humanity – the concern for the dignity, safety and well-being of our citizens – at the forefront of all policies, strategies and decision-making. The World Humanitarian Summit must be for the people living on the frontline of humanity. They count on us. We cannot let them down." (P04) [CHINESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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Investing in Forests the Next Big Thing for Development Agenda



Analysis by Fabíola Ortiz

WASHINGTON, D.C. (IDN) - Investing in forests has become the next big thing as an essential segment of the development solution, whether for meeting climate goals, coping with extreme weather, boosting livelihoods, greening supply chains or carbon sinking. However, the world has lost

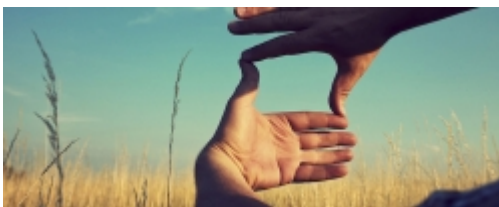
50 soccer fields of forests every minute, every day, over the last twenty years.

"This is a great tragedy," says Andrew Steer, President and CEO of the [World Resources Institute \(WRI\)](#), a global research organization that works in more than 50 countries. Managing forests has been difficult, he adds. Around one fifth of the global population (1.3 billion people) relies on forests for livelihoods.

According to the World Bank, about 350 million people live within or close to dense forests depending directly on them for their subsistence. And of those, nearly 60 million people – especially indigenous communities – are completely dependent on forests. (P03) [CHINESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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Achieving UN Goal of Development Aid Remains an Uphill Task



Analysis by Jaya Ramachandran

PARIS | NEW YORK (IDN) - Revitalizing the global partnership is Goal 17 of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) – adopted by world leaders in September

2015 at an [historic Summit](#) at the UN headquarters in New York.

It urges developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance (ODA) commitments, including the commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of the Gross National Income (GNI) given as ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent to least developed countries.

"ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries," says one of the Goal 17 targets endorsed by the world leaders. (P02) [JAPANESE TEXT PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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Sustainable Development Crucial to Countering Terrorism



Analysis by Jaya Ramachandran

GENEVA (IDN) - Within days of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington that considered modes of averting nuclear materials falling into the hands of terrorists, possible ways of Preventing Violent

Extremism drew the focus of a UN conference in Geneva.

The conference on April 7-8 was held against the backdrop that terrorist groups such as ISIL, Al-Qaida and Boko Haram have come to embody the image of violent extremism and the debate about how to address this threat.

An important element of a plan to counter all kinds of terrorism, according to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, has to be full implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), because fulfilment of these goals will address many of the socioeconomic drivers of violent extremism. The SDGs highlight women's empowerment and youth engagement, because societies with higher equality and inclusion are less vulnerable to violent extremism. (P01) [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT PDF](#) | [PORTUGUESE](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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UN Study Pleads for Inclusive Instead of Export-led Development



Analysis by Devinder Kumar

NEW DELHI (IDN) - Continued exclusive reliance on export-led development is “futile”, says the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in its flagship publication *Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific 2016* launched on April 28 in

Bangkok.

“Prospects of an export-led recovery in developing Asia-Pacific economies remain broadly subdued due to the weak economic outlook for the European Union and Japan alongside the somewhat better growth performance that is expected in the United States,” explains the study.

For many exporting economies in the region, particularly commodity-dependent economies, this challenge is compounded by moderating growth of the Chinese economy, which has been partly driven by much-needed rebalancing to sustain growth in the medium term, adds the report.

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G77 and China Disappointed at Outcome Document of Addis Ababa Follow-up



Analysis by J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) - The Group of 77 and China, representing 134 members from developing countries, has expressed

“disappointment” at the outcome document emerging from the three-day United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [Forum](#) on Financing for Development Follow-up – FfD Forum – at UN Headquarters in New York.

Underlining the importance of the Forum, G77 and China Chair Virachai Plasai, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand, explained that the

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand, explained that the developing countries' fates "still heavily depend on how to meet the financing gap in order to achieve the goal to end poverty and hunger, as well as Sustainable Development Goals in its three dimensions".

However, the FfD Forum is not only essential to developing countries but also to the overall global community since it takes stock of the implementation of [Addis Ababa Action Agenda \(AAAA\)](#), which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supports as well as complements the latter with concrete policies and actions.

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ESCAP Supports Plan to Finance 2030 Development Agenda



By International Press Syndicate

NEW YORK (IDN) - Asia-Pacific countries have reaffirmed the importance of a regional action-oriented follow-up plan for financing the [2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development](#) at a high-level event organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([ESCAP](#)).

The event was co-organised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Korea on the sidelines of the [ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development](#) from April 18 to 20 in New York.

It provided a platform for discussion on innovative financing source modalities and priorities in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also considered key regional issues with special reference to the least developed countries, landlocked developed countries, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

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Six Mekong Countries Reinforce Regional Drug Strategy



Analysis by J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) - The [Mekong Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) on Drug Control](#), a framework that incorporates law enforcement, criminal justice, alternative development, and health responses in six countries in East and Southeast Asia

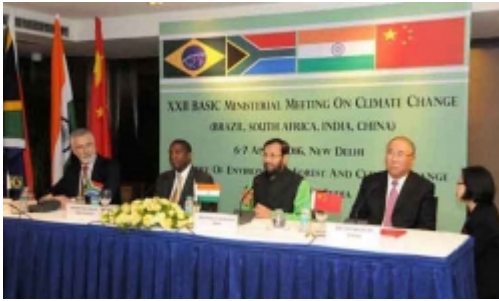
continues to be of critical importance more than twenty-five years after it was signed.

Despite significant efforts, the six MOU countries – Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam – that constitute the Greater Mekong Sub-region continue to face challenges in stemming the flow of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals in, to and from the area.

After a decade of steady declines, the illicit cultivation of opium poppy has increased each year since 2006. Today, cultivation is concentrated in Myanmar and Lao PDR. Synthetic drugs, particularly methamphetamine in pill and crystal forms, have emerged as the primary drug threat in the Sub-region. The diversion and subsequent trafficking of precursors chemicals, and the emergence of new psychoactive substances, also continue to impact the area. [SPANISH](#) | [GERMAN](#) | [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE](#)

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Rich Countries Asked to Honour Paris Climate Accord Pledges



Analysis by Devinder Kumar

NEW DELHI (IDN) - The world's four major newly industrialized countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China (BASIC) – have in effect warned that signing the Paris Climate Agreement at the High-Level Ceremony on April 22 in New York will lead nowhere unless all elements of an

ambitious accord are implemented in letter and spirit.

The High Level Signature Ceremony has been convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the world body's headquarters. Ban's second term as UN Chief expires end of the year.

The four BASIC countries have welcomed the adoption of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and acknowledged that the 21st Conference of Parties (COP-21) held in Paris in December 2015 marked "a milestone in global climate cooperation".

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Published by

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as part of a [media project](#) with Soka Gakkai International
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