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SDGs for All Newsletter - October 2021 In Retrospect

Youth Group Fights to Save Indigenous Land on The Palawan Island in the Philippines



By Nena Palagi

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan, Philippines (IDN) — It is a feat unimaginable by any modern standard. Six young people from this remote island of Palawan, in the Philippines, have taken on the goliaths of land ownership, and won. They got

over 40,000 hectares of land legally declared as protected habitat with the direct endorsement from the Indigenous custodians. (P19)
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Nations Protecting "Greedy" Pharma Companies Threaten Global COVID-19 Recovery



By Kalinga Seneviratne

SYDNEY (IDN) — The European Union (EU), United Kingdom, Japan and Australia are holding the world hostage by refusing to support a waiver of COVID-19 vaccine patents for the world to recover from the

pandemic. The World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)) remains at an impasse for one year.

Then, India and South Africa applied for approval of a waiver over Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for COVID-19 vaccines so that they could produce the vaccines—especially Pfizer and Moderna’s mRNA vaccines—to help their countries as well as many developing countries to recover faster from the pandemic.

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COP26: Protect Peace and Justice at the Climate Change Summit



Viewpoint by Arunabha Ghosh and Isabel Studer Noguez

While Dr Arunabha Ghosh is CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water, Dr Isabel Studer-Noguez is Director of Alianza University of

California-Mexico. Both sit on the international expert panel for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) initiative Environment of Peace.

STOCKHOLM (IDN) — When world leaders meet in Glasgow for the climate change summit (COP26) (October 31-November 12), they should be aware that their decisions will cast a long shadow over the future both of climate and security.

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WTO Extends Measures for LDCs to Access Knowledge, But Why not Go the Whole Way?



Viewpoint by Teresa Hackett

The writer is Copyright and Libraries Programme Manager at Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL). She oversees the development and delivery of a unique, copyright service for libraries in developing and transition countries, providing

specialist resources in multiple languages, and individual assistance on legislative issues.

VILNIUS, Lithuania (IDN) — When members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) recently agreed to extend the transition period by which Least Developed Countries (LDCs) must apply WTO rules on intellectual property, it was a welcome decision.

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As Asia Grapples 'Living With COVID-19' Media May Need to Shed Adversarial Culture



Viewpoint By Kalinga Seneviratne

SYDNEY (IDN) — Indonesia's popular tourism islands of Bali opened for tourism October 14, while Thailand announced that from November 1 vaccinated travellers from 19 countries will be allowed to visit the kingdom including its tourism island of

Phuket. Both those countries' tourism industry, which is a major revenue earner, has been devastated by over 18 months of inactivity that have impacted on the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of people.

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We Are in a Global State of Emergency on Extreme Poverty



Viewpoint by Shameran Abed

The writer is Executive Director, [BRAC International](#). Originally founded in 1972 as the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee and later known as the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, BRAC's operations have grown globally and with that growth, the organization is now simply known as BRAC.

DHAKA (IDN) — It is time we start treating extreme poverty as the global emergency it is. This [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#), October 17, we are looking at [100 million more people](#) being forced into extreme poverty by the end of 2021 as a result of COVID-19, joining nearly 700 million people who were living in extreme poverty before the pandemic struck.

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Coastal Developing Countries Count on A Sustainable Ocean Economy in the Aftermath of COVID-19



By Jamshed Baruah

GENEVA (IDN | [UNCTAD](#)) — Barbados, Belize and Costa Rica are looking beyond the pandemic and climate shocks by developing and implementing national trade strategies strongly linked to resilience, conservation and the sustainable use of their marine resources.

A [regional experience-sharing workshop](#) held on September 23-24 highlighted the need to adopt, elaborate and implement evidence-based and policy-coherent oceans economy and trade strategies (OETS) under the [UN Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\)](#) framework.

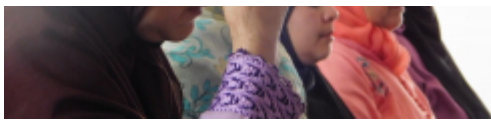
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Women's Empowerment and Yoga in Rural Morocco and in Your Life



Viewpoint by Catrin Waters

The writer is a student at University of Virginia in the U.S. and a volunteer with the [High Atlas Foundation](#), a U.S./Moroccan non-profit organization



focused on sustainable development.

VIRGINIA, USA (IDN) — Before you read this, I challenge you to pause

and ask your body the question: how do you like the thoughts I think about you?

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COVID-19 & the Global South: From Crisis Response to Sustainable Development



By [Rachel Gisselquist](#)

Rachel M. Gisselquist, a political scientist, is a Senior Research Fellow with the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)

and a member of the institute's senior management team. She works on the politics of developing countries, with particular attention to inequality, ethnic politics, state building and governance and the role of aid therein, democracy and democratization, and sub-Saharan African politics.

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Without Tourists Thailand's Famous Massage Industry on The Brink of Collapse



By [Pattama Vilailert](#)

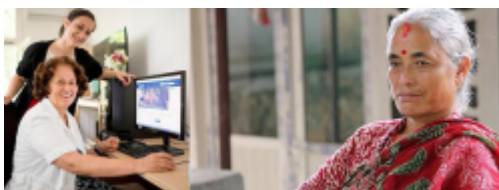
BANGKOK(IDN) — Thailand's famous tourist industry has been synonymous with its traditional massage parlours and treatment centres. But the

COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns are having a serious impact on the industry and may force foreign takeovers. The continuous lockdowns have impacted savagely on the spa and massage business. (P18)

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Enable Digital Equity For All Ages



Viewpoint by [Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana](#)

The writer is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic

and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

BANGKOK (IDN) — The growing number and share of older persons in Asia and the Pacific represent success stories of declining fertility and increasing longevity; the result of advances in social and economic development.

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33 Lafferty Street, Toronto, ONT M9C5B5, CANADA
Europaplatz 2, 8th Floor, 10557 Berlin, GERMANY
Ichimura bldg. 4F, 3-2 Kanda Ogawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo JAPAN 101-0052

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[Soka Gakkai International](#)

15-3 Samon-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0017, Japan



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