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Funding Needs for UN's 2030 Development Agenda Skyrocket – to Trillions of Dollars



By Shanta Rao

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – As the United Nations assesses the implementation of its [2030 Agenda for Development](#), including its 17 [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), the estimated funding needs keep skyrocketing --- from the initial millions and billions to trillions of dollars annually.

The President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Peter Thomson of Fiji, [said](#) on April 18 that SDG financing, including the eradication of extreme poverty by 2030, is going to cost about \$6 trillion annually -- and then to a hefty \$30 trillion through 2030.

At the same time, the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda \(AAAA\)](#), which outlines the implementation of the 17 SDGs, points to an infrastructure gap of some \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion annually in developing countries, while estimates of the global gap generally range from \$3 trillion to \$5 trillion annually. (P08) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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Uzbekistan Shows the Way for Dealing with Cultural Legacy



By Shastri Ramachandaran

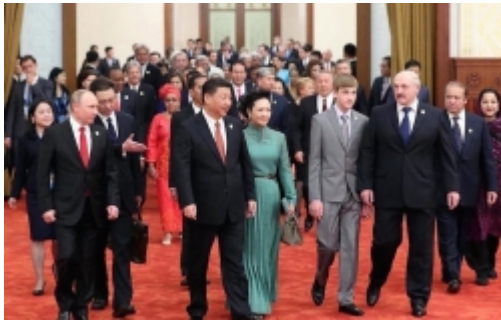
TASHKENT | SAMARKAND (IDN) - Cultural legacies, with their inevitable potential for controversies compounded by competing claims between contending nations, can be fraught affairs. Disputes over art works and artefacts of one country being found in another are legion. The [UNESCO](#) convention, which mandates return of

illegally acquired objects to country of origin when provenance is established beyond doubt, is actually an acknowledgement that disputes are bound to persist and, therefore, require a basis to be addressed.

Although there are numerous instances where countries have resolved disputes over cultural objects in an amicable manner, many a long-running controversial case remains unresolved. One of the best-known cases is that of India's fabled Kohinoor diamond.

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Global Development Through China's New 'Silk Routes'



Analysis by Kalinga Seneviratne

BANGKOK (IDN) - When China hosted a two-day conference in May to help revive the ancient trade routes from Asia to Europe and Africa it was greeted with scepticism by most of the western media. But in much of Asia the mood was more of optimism and opportunity.

CNN reported that “some countries raised concerns over the project seen as boosting Beijing's global clout on trade and geopolitics” – a reoccurring theme in many of the western media reports. While pointing out that the U.S., Japan, India and most of the European leaders had boycotted the meeting BBC described it as a Chinese bid for global leadership. Australia's ABC said that China wants its 'new Silk Routes' to dominate world trade.

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Critical Next Steps in Enhancing Women's Equality and Empowerment



By Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury

“I am proud to be a feminist ... all of us need to be. That is how we make our planet a better place to live for all,” writes Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations. He is an internationally recognized initiator of the UNSCR 1325 as the President of the UN Security Council in March 2000. He is the

Founder of the Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCoP), a civil society entity promoting the UN Declaration and Programme Action on Culture of Peace.

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The World's Poorest and Most Vulnerable Want Climate Action



By Ramesh Jaura

BONN (IDN) – The world's 48 poorest countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change are profoundly concerned whether "substantive progress" will be made in the months ahead on implementing the [2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement](#) in all its aspects.

This was emphasised by Chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group, Gebru Jember Endalew of Ethiopia, as

delegates from 140 countries closed the two-week session of the United Nations climate change negotiations on May 18 in Bonn.

The LDCs are a group of countries that have been classified by the UN as "least developed" in terms of their low gross national income (GNI), their weak human assets and their high degree of economic vulnerability. (P07) [ARABIC](#) | [FRENCH](#) | [GERMAN](#) | [HINDI](#) | [SPANISH](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [CHINESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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Strengthening the UN and its Creative Evolution into the Future



Interview with [Soka Gakkai International \(SGI\)](#) President Dr. Daisaku Ikeda

BERLIN | TOKYO (IDN-INPS) – Why is it important to highlight the role of young people in ushering in a New Era of Hope? Will the landmark UN Conference to negotiate “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination” succeed? How can

[UN Secretary-General António Guterres](#) ensure sufficient support from the international community for implementing the [SDGs](#) and the [Paris Climate Change Agreement](#)?

Ramesh Jaura, Editor-in-Chief and International Correspondent of IDN, flagship agency of the International Press Syndicate group, asked SGI President Dr. Daisaku Ikeda these and related questions in an e-mail interview. Read the Q&A in full: (P06) [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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Exercising Power Fairly More Important SDG Yardstick than Democratic Accountability



By Kalinga Seneviratne

BANGKOK (IDN) – In its 2017 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, the Bangkok-based UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([ESCAP](#)) makes an interesting argument in regards to achieving the Agenda 2030

Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) in seemingly downplaying the importance of democratic accountability and emphasizing that how power is exercised is more important.

“In the [Survey](#) for 2017 political dimensions, such as democratic accountability, are avoided, and governance is framed in terms of how power is exercised instead of how it is acquired,” the report says in its executive summary.

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Effective Governance Critical for the Quality of Asia-Pacific Economic Growth



By Shamshad Akhtar

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar is an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) and the Executive Secretary of the



(UN) and the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). – The Editor

BANGKOK (IDN) - The Asia-Pacific region's high and steady economic growth has been an anchor of stability for the struggling world economy in recent years. Developing economies of the region now account for almost a third of global GDP (gross domestic product), slightly less than the combined output of the developed economies of North America and Western Europe.

If the region continues to grow at the current pace, it would account for more than a half of world economic output by the year 2050. With its increasing importance, the role of traditional 'success factors' such as education, high investment and savings rates, reliance on world markets through exports, is likely to evolve as well. Future economic growth will need to rely more on productivity gains which, in turn, require effective institutions and better governance, in both public and private spheres.

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