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Myanmar May be Able To Learn From Sri Lanka To Resolve the “Bengali” Problem



By Jayasri Priyalal*

SINGAPORE (IDN) - The Rohingya crisis and influx of refugees to Bangladesh is headline stories in the media at present. As a Sri Lankan I could note the similarity of the conflicts of statelessness that prevailed in Sri Lanka then and Myanmar at present,

and Sri Lanka's approach to solving the crisis with India could be a framework for Myanmar to follow.

In 1948 when Sri Lanka gained independence from Britain, the island nation was left with about one million Tamils who were called "Indian Tamils" in Sri Lanka. They were brought to Sri Lanka from South India from the lowest Dalit caste to work in tea plantations that were set up on land the British confiscated from Sinhala peasants, who refused to work in those plantations. Thus the presence of these Tamils was deeply resented by the Sinhalese. British have created a stateless community who were neither Indian nor Sri Lankan citizens. (P24)

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Making the 3rd Industrial Development Decade for Africa a Reality with Actions on the Ground



By J Nastranis

UNITED NATIONS (IDN) – When the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution to declare 2016-2025 as the [Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa \(IDDA III\)](#) in August 2016, it stated: "Africa remains the poorest and the most vulnerable region in the world." And this despite the two previous decades.

The [Resolution A/RES/70/293](#) noted "the need for the continent to take urgent

action to advance sustainable industrialization as a key element of furthering economic diversification and value addition, creating jobs and thus reducing poverty," and contributing to the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

The Agenda with 17 Goals and 169 targets was adopted in September 2015. The Resolution reaffirmed "the importance of industrialization in supporting Africa's own efforts towards sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and accelerated development." (P23) [ARABIC](#) | [FRENCH](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SWAHILI](#)

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Over 110 Countries Commit to Halt Land Degradation



By Jaya Ramachandran

BERLIN | ORDOS CITY, China (IDN) – Land degradation is one of the planet's most pressing global challenges. A third of the world's land is degraded. But the good news is that by the end of the [13th session of the Conference of the Parties \(COP 13\) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#) on September 16,

2017 in China's Ordos City, 113 countries had agreed to specify concrete targets, with clear indicators, to reverse degradation and rehabilitate more land.

A new global roadmap to address land degradation was also agreed. The UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework is regarded as the most comprehensive global commitment to achieve [Land Degradation Neutrality \(LDN\)](#) in order to restore the productivity of vast swathes of degraded land, improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion people, and to reduce the impacts of drought on vulnerable populations. (P22) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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Experts Explore Pathways for the Global Compact for Migration



By Julia Rainer

VIENNA (IDN) – "Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims," was the

title of the Fifth thematic session of the UN General Assembly hosted on September 4-5 by the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV).

The event aimed at supporting the inter-governmental process designed to lead to the adoption in 2018 of a global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration – a goal agreed by the member states when adopting the [New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants](#) in September 2016.

Louise Arbour, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for International Migration, and Secretary-General of the session, opened the discussion with a strong appeal to the member states.

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Critical Thinking, Civic Values, Urged for Sustainability



By A.D. McKenzie

PARIS (IDN) – Given the rampant technological changes taking place, it's impossible to predict what the world will look like in even 20 years, and only the development of critical thinking and common civic values will help humankind to deal with the future.

That is the viewpoint of Sonia Dhillon Marty, head of a foundation that is seeking to “foster civic engagement” through art, architecture, design, sustainable farming and technology”, as she puts it. “If we are together, people will listen, politicians will listen,” Dhillon Marty said during a conference in Paris, September 12-13 at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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Water, Food and Energy Security for All is Possible



By Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General

Following is the text of a speech given by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (1997-2006), the founding chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation, and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, on September 7, 2017 at the ‘Making Waves’ conference in Afsluitdijk (English: Enclosure Dam), a major causeway in the Netherlands, constructed

between 1927 and 1932. It is being reproduced courtesy of the [Kofi Annan Foundation](#). – The Editor.

GENEVA (IDN-INPS) - I can't think of a more symbolic and inspirational location to promote innovative solutions around water, food and energy than the iconic Afsluitdijk. The dam is a masterpiece of Dutch engineering and a symbol for the country's centuries-long fight against flooding from the sea.

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Safe Piped Water Remains a Luxury Across Africa



By Jeffrey Moyo

MWENEZI; Zimbabwe (IDN) - Raviro Chawuruka scoops out sand from a well on a stream bank closer to her rural home in Rutenga, 443 km west of Harare, in Mwenezi district in Zimbabwe's Masvingo Province.

At the age of 72, Chawuruka says she has known no rest while scavenging for water, this as she daily battles it out with the sand-filled water well in the vicinity of her home. She stands out among millions of Africans to whom piped water still remains a luxury, decades after several African nations gained independence from their former colonisers: Zimbabwe over 37 years ago.

According to the [Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency](#), 65 percent of Zimbabwe's 14 million people such as Chawuruka are domiciled in rural areas, where they have become the number one victims of lack of piped water. (P21) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [CHINESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) |

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