



Number 5 | 2016

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

Costa Rica Setting its Sights on Sustainable Development



By Jose Rafael Quesada*

SAN JOSE (IDN) – Costa Rica, a small Central American country with a population of barely 5 million inhabitants, has a high [human development index](#) (ranking 69th worldwide) and is considered a consolidated democracy in Latin America.

High investments in education, good development of social security and high levels of openness and competitiveness in international markets make Costa Rica a candidate for membership of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development ([OECD](#)). (P26)

[JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#)

[Read More](#)

UN Turns to World's Youth for Achieving 2030 Agenda



By J Nastranis

NEW YORK (IDN) - As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's second term comes to an end on December 31, 2016, he has intensified efforts to focus on the concerns and aspirations of world's youth, urging

them to lead a global drive to break the patterns of the past and set the world on course to a more sustainable future.

“Young people are directly affected by the tragic contradictions that prevail today: between abject poverty and ostentatious wealth, gnawing hunger and shameful food waste, rich natural resources and polluting industries,” Ban said in his [message on International Youth Day](#), celebrated annually on August 12. (P25)

[JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [KOREAN TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

[Read More](#)

Thursday's Date with Calls for a Fairer Chile



Viewpoint by Pía Figueroa*



SANTIAGO (IDN) – Every year, as they have been doing since 2011, students in Chile take to the streets each Thursday, demanding a free and good quality education system.

They are increasingly being joined by their parents – tired of paying for expensive schooling which is certainly the most expensive in the whole of Latin America – and teachers who leave work to join the students with a call for proper definition of the teaching career. (P24)

[JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#)

[Read More](#)

Africa's Great Green Wall a New World Wonder in the Making



By Rodrigo Pérez

RIO DE JANEIRO (IDN-INPS) – Beneath the glitz and glamour, the Samba and Rio's Carnival-like atmosphere, this year's Olympic Games Opening Ceremony showcased the most impossible sounding dream of all – Africa's [Great Green Wall](#).

The initiative started a decade ago. Once completed it will be the largest man-made structure on Earth and a new Wonder of the World.

The progress made shows that land restoration efforts on a mass scale are both possible and offer hope. Senegal has already planted 12 million trees, Ethiopia has restored 15 million hectares of degraded land and Nigeria has created 20,000 jobs in rural areas.

[Read More](#)

UN in Desperate Need of Contributions to Peacebuilding Fund



By J Nastranis

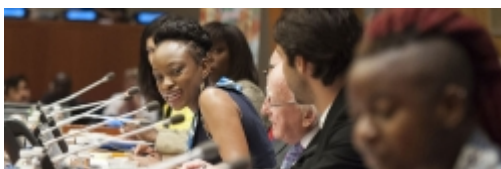
NEW YORK (IDN) – UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is concerned about the [Peacebuilding Fund](#) (PBF) facing "a desperate funding shortfall" and has asked Governments to help achieve a funding target of \$300 million at its pledging

conference in September.

The Fund was established in 2005 through resolutions of the [General Assembly](#) and [Security Council](#) to stand alongside the [Peacebuilding Commission](#) (PBC) and [Peacebuilding Support Office](#) (PBSO) and "support activities, actions, programmes and organizations that seek to build a lasting peace in countries emerging from conflict".

[Read More](#)

Youth Skills Development - Today's Critical Global Challenge



Analysis by Dr Palitha Kohona

Ambassador Dr Palitha Kohona is former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York- He chaired the negotiations on the Colombo Declaration on Youth.

COLOMBO (IDN) - On July 15, the United Nations observed the UN [World Youth Skills Day](#) designated by the General Assembly to highlight the need to rapidly develop marketable youth skills. On the same day, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([DESA](#)) released the [World Youth Report on Youth Civic Engagement](#). There were many events held around the world to mark this special day.

[Read More](#)

[Revelations of Australia's Abu Ghraib Force Gov't to Act](#)



By Kalinga Seneviratne

SYDNEY (IDN) - Screening of secretly filmed shocking footage of abuse of juvenile prisoners in a remote northern Australian prison by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC), renowned investigative reporting program 'Four Corners', has outraged thousands of Australians who took to the streets to protest and forced the government to act.

The video material filmed between 2010 and 2014 at the Don Dale youth detention centre in the Northern Territory in Australia and screened on July 25 has drawn comparisons to the treatment of prisoners in the notorious prisons run by the U.S. government in Abu Ghraib in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba.

[Read More](#)

Published by

The [International Press Syndicate](#) Group
as part of a [media project](#) with Soka Gakkai International
405 Lexington Avenue, 26th Floor, Manhattan, New York, 10174, USA
33 Lafferty Street, Toronto, ONT M9C5B5, CANADA
Marienstrasse 19/20, 10117 Berlin, GERMANY
Ichimura bldg. 4F, 3-2 Kanda Ogawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo JAPAN 101-0052

[Unsubscribe](#)