

# **INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER**

**United States Embassy  
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago**

## **Bimonthly Newsletter**

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Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks.

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### DEMOCRACY

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT: PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF PROCESSING TRENDS SHOWS IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVEMENT PLANS.** Statement of Linda D. Koontz, Director, Information Management Issues. [GAO-06-1022T] United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). July 26, 2006  
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d061022t.pdf> [pdf format, 66 pages]

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) establishes that federal agencies must provide the public with access to government information, thus enabling them to learn about government operations and decisions. To help ensure appropriate implementation, the act requires that agencies report annually to the Attorney General, providing specific information about their FOIA operations. In addition, Executive Order 13392, signed December 2005 [<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/12/20051214-4.html>], directs agencies to develop plans to improve their FOIA operations, including goals to reduce backlogs in FOIA requests.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AROUND THE WORLD 2006. A GLOBAL SURVEY OF ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT RECORDS LAWS**

David Banisar

Freedominfo.org. July 4, 2006

[http://www.freedominfo.org/documents/global\\_survey2006.pdf](http://www.freedominfo.org/documents/global_survey2006.pdf) [pdf format, 140 pages]

This document is purely a compendium of Freedom of information (FOI) laws in 68 countries. There is no introductory next, no conclusions or recommendations. Banisar starts right in with "Albania" and ends with "Zimbabwe." One particularly useful feature of this survey is the numerous hypertext links to primary sources in the footnotes. Example: the page that refers to the Antigua and Barbuda Freedom of Information Act, 2004 provides this link: [http://www.ab.gov.ag/gov\\_v2/government/parliament/laws/freedom\\_of\\_info.pdf](http://www.ab.gov.ag/gov_v2/government/parliament/laws/freedom_of_info.pdf)

**FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS: EXCEPTIONS TO THE FIRST AMENDMENT**

Henry Cohen

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service. Updated June 2, 2006

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/95-815.pdf> [pdf format, 42 pages]

This report provides an overview of the major exceptions to the First Amendment - of the ways that the Supreme Court has interpreted the guarantee of freedom of speech and press to provide no protection or only limited protection for some types of speech. For example, the Court has decided that the First Amendment provides no protection to obscenity, child pornography, or speech that constitutes "advocacy of the use of force or of law violation ... where such advocacy is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action."

## **HARBINGERS OF HOPE: PEACE INITIATIVES IN COLOMBIA**

Virginia Bouvier

United States Institute of Peace (USIP). August 2006

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr169.pdf> [pdf format, 20 pages]

This report stems from a conference co-sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and the Latin American Studies Program at Cornell University, held November 19-20, 2005. Colombia is in the midst of a prolonged and chronic, internal armed conflict that involves multiple armed actors (including guerrillas, paramilitary forces, state armed forces, common criminals, and drug traffickers) and has lasted for more than four decades. It also involves a broad range of individuals, organizations, and institutions dedicated to finding a nonviolent resolution to the conflict. Bouvier adds that President Alvaro Uribe was re-elected in May, which may give him a good position from which to pursue political solutions to the conflict.

## **SENATE ELECTION LAW GUIDEBOOK 2006. A COMPILATION OF SENATE CAMPAIGN INFORMATION, INCLUDING FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS GOVERNING ELECTION TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE**

United States Senate, Committee on Rules and Administration. 2006

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109\\_cong\\_documents&docid=f:sd010.109.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_documents&docid=f:sd010.109.pdf) [pdf format, 336 pages]

The 2006 publication contains a comprehensive compilation of constitutional and Federal statutory provisions and State election laws, relating to the nomination and election of candidates to the United States Senate. This Guidebook is designed as a ready reference, providing highlights of provisions of Federal and State laws pertaining to the election of Senators, as well as explanatory legal memoranda. It is designed to benefit senatorial candidates, the Committee on Rules and Administration, and the public in general.

## **THE 9-11 WAR PLUS 5: LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD AT U.S.-ISLAMIC WORLD RELATIONS**

Peter W. Singer

Brookings Institution. September 2006

<http://www.brookings.edu/fp/saban/analysis/singer20060901.pdf> [pdf format, 27 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The 9-11 attacks were a shockwave to the American public, and they left the country's foreign policy establishment struggling to find the right questions and the right answers. This paper traces the debates that have dominated the discourse among policymakers as they attempt to map out new courses of attitudes and actions over the coming decades. The author points to numerous incidents that have generated discussions that might never have taken place before the 2001 attacks, including the Dubai port controversy and the publication of irreverent Danish cartoons.

## **THE MACHINERY OF DEMOCRACY: PROTECTING ELECTIONS IN AN ELECTRONIC WORLD**

The Brennan Center Task Force on Voting System Security

New York University (NYU) School of Law, Brennan Center for Justice. June 27, 2006

<http://www.brennancenter.org/programs/downloads/SecurityFull7-3Reduced.pdf> [pdf format, 162 pages]

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The Task Force surveyed hundreds of election officials around the country, categorized over 120 security threats, and evaluated countermeasures for repelling attacks. They examined each of the three most commonly purchased electronic voting systems: electronic machines ("DREs") with - and without - a voter verified paper trail, and precinct-counted optical scan systems ("PCOS"). This document, which reports on the task force's findings, is the first systematic analysis of security vulnerabilities in each of these systems.

## **THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN STABILIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION**

Camille Pampell Conaway

United States Institute of Peace (USIP). August 2006

[http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/srs/srs\\_three.pdf](http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/srs/srs_three.pdf) [pdf format, 24 pages]

In January 2001, the U.S. Congress enacted the Afghan Women and Children Relief Act of 2001, calling attention to the needs of the civilian population following the overthrow of the Taliban, and mandating the provision of education and health care assistance for women and children. In March 2004, a bipartisan group of Congressional

members formed the Iraqi Women's Caucus to support women's access to education and training, and encourage their participation in the political process and democratic transition. In March 2005, the focus of Congress expanded from specific conflicts to global concern, and the Women and Children in Crisis and Conflict Protection Act of 2005 was drafted and referred to relevant committees.

#### **WHY TEMPLATES FOR MEDIA DEVELOPMENT DO NOT WORK IN CRISIS STATES: DEFINING AND UNDERSTANDING MEDIA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN POST-WAR AND CRISIS STATES**

James Putzel and Joost van der Zwan

London School of Economics (LSE), Crisis States Research Centre; University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg School for Communication; Stanhope Centre for Communications Policy Research. July 2006

[http://www.pgcs.asc.upenn.edu/docs/conference\\_lse05\\_crisisstates\\_report.pdf](http://www.pgcs.asc.upenn.edu/docs/conference_lse05_crisisstates_report.pdf) [pdf format, 40 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

In commenting on the development of media outlets in post-conflict situations, the report stresses that "in countries emerging out of war, both the character of private media in the absence of the development of civil society and a professional ethos of journalistic integrity, and the very real disintegrative pressures that may arise with an 'excess' of free speech, need to be considered when passing judgment on political authorities that are wary of giving free reign to media organisations."

#### **ECONOMIC PROSPERITY**

##### **2005 CATALYST CENSUS OF WOMEN CORPORATE OFFICERS AND TOP EARNERS OF THE FORTUNE 500**

Catalyst. 2006

<http://catalyst.org/files/full/2005%20COTE.pdf> [pdf format, 100 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This 2005 survey shows that, in the last three years, growth in the percentage of corporate officer positions held by women slowed to a ten year low. In 2005, women held 16.4 percent of corporate officer positions, only 0.7 percentage points more than they did in 2002. Furthermore, the percentage of corporate officer positions held by women of color stagnated at 1.7 percent. In addition, only 6.4 percent of corporate officer top earners were women. A deeper look into corporate officer status shows that while women were almost two and one-half times as likely to hold staff positions as they were to hold line positions, men were only slightly more likely to hold staff positions than line positions. Women also held 9.4 percent of the highest executive titles, up from 7.9 percent in 2002. In 2005, eight companies in the Fortune 500 were led by a woman CEO, compared with six in 2002.

##### **AMERICAN TIME USE SURVEY SUMMARY 2006**

United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). July 27, 2006

<ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/news.release/atus.txt> [text format, 28 printed pages]

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has long produced statistics about the labor market, such as employment, hours of work, and earnings. To provide a more complete picture of the context of employment, BLS also conducts the American Time Use Survey (ATUS). The ATUS collects data on what activities people do during the day and how much time they spend doing them. This third annual release of ATUS data focuses on the time Americans worked, did household activities, cared for household children, and participated in leisure and sports activities in 2005.

##### **ANTICORRUPTION IN TRANSITION 3 -- WHO IS SUCCEEDING ... AND WHY? (ACT3)**

James Anderson and Cheryl Gray

World Bank. July 2006

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTECA/Resources/ACT3.pdf> [pdf format, 130 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Anticorruption in Transition 3 (ACT3) is the third in a series of World Bank reports tracking levels of corruption in enterprise-state interactions since 1999. The report draws on the Business Environment and Enterprise Performance Survey (BEEPS), a joint initiative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank. The BEEPS survey, conducted most recently in 2005, covers 26 former socialist countries and Turkey, as well as five western European comparator countries. The non-transition European comparators are Germany, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, and Spain. More than 20,000 firms have been interviewed since the inception of BEEPS in 1999. [Note: for more information on BEEPS, and to access BEEPS data, see: <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/beeps/>.

### **CAN DOHA STILL DELIVER ON THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA?**

Kimberly Ann Elliott

Institute for International Economics (IIE). June 2006

<http://www.iie.com/publications/pb/pb06-5.pdf> [pdf format, 8 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This brief presents the argument that poorer countries have the most to lose if the Doha Round of trade discussions is delayed or postponed. The author states: "A deal on agriculture is critical to the round's success...but many developing countries are more interested in access for labor-intensive manufactured goods, such as clothing." According to Elliott: "While the numbers are small, World Bank scenarios of possible outcomes from the Doha Round suggest that sub-Saharan Africa could gain more from meaningful agricultural liberalization, as a share of national income, than any developing region outside Latin America."

### **CHARTING THE U.S. LABOR MARKET IN 2005**

United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). June 2006; Web-posted August 15, 2006

<http://www.bls.gov/cps/labor2005/chartbook.pdf> [pdf format, 71 pages]

This report includes graphs and text describing the U.S. labor market in 2005. Highlights include information about educational attainment, race and Hispanic ethnicity, women, and families. These data were compiled from several statistical programs of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and are presented together to give an overview of the employment and unemployment situation for the nation -- both recently and historically. The chartbook is divided into sections by topic: Major Indicators, Education, Employment Relationships, Race and Hispanic Ethnicity, Women, and Families. Each chart can be downloaded individually.

### **FROM POVERTY, OPPORTUNITY: PUTTING THE MARKET TO WORK FOR LOWER INCOME FAMILIES**

Matt Fellowes

Brookings Institution. Metropolitan Policy Program. July 18, 2006

[http://www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/20060718\\_PovOp.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/20060718_PovOp.pdf) [pdf format, 80 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

In general, says the author of this report, lower income families tend to pay more for the same products than families with higher incomes pay. He cites data in a number of categories to illustrate this point. For example:

\* Grocery stores in lower income neighborhoods tend to be smaller and more expensive than in higher income neighborhoods.

\* Nationwide, 4.5 million lower income consumers pay, on average, two percentage points more in interest for an auto loan than the average higher income consumer.

### **GROWTH IN THE FOREIGN-BORN WORKFORCE AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE NATIVE BORN**

Rakesh Kochhar

Pew Hispanic Center. August 10, 2006

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/69.pdf> [pdf format, 56 pages]

This report suggests that failure to find work at home does not seem to be the primary reason that the estimated 6.3 million undocumented migrants from Mexico have come to the U.S. In fact, the vast majority of these migrants were gainfully employed before they left for the United States. Newly arrived migrants pass through a relatively brief period of transition and adjustment, and have little trouble finding work, according to the report. Family and social networks play a significant role in this process; large numbers of migrants report talking to people they know in the U.S. about job opportunities and living with relatives after arrival. They easily make transitions into new jobs, even though most find themselves working in industries that are new to them. Many are paid at minimum-wage levels or below, and it is common for these workers to experience relatively long periods of unemployment.

### **ICT USE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD: ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENCES IN COMPUTER AND INTERNET PENETRATION**

Menzie D. Chinn and Robert W. Fairlie

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for World Affairs and the Global Economy (WAGE). June 19, 2006

<http://wage.wisc.edu/uploads/Working%20Papers/developing6.pdf> [pdf format, 41 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The authors of this study employ regression analysis to examine the global digital divide. They discuss various factors and reach conclusions about the most important determinants that explain the differences of computer and Internet use in developed versus developing countries.

## **INTERNET PROTOCOL VERSION 6: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EARLY STAGES OF TRANSITION AND KEY CHALLENGES REMAIN**

United States Government Accountability Office. (GAO-06-675) June 30, 2006. Web-posted July 31, 2006

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06675.pdf> [pdf format, 30 pages]

The Internet protocol (IP) defines how and where information such as text, voice, music, and video moves across networks. Internet protocol version 4 (IPv4), which is widely used today, may not be able to accommodate the increasing number of devices that are using the Internet. As a result, IP version 6 (IPv6) was developed to allow millions more users by increasing the amount of available IP address space. Transitioning to IPv6 presents several challenges. Significant ones include managing information security in an environment that is more vulnerable to threats; incorporating IPv6 features into applications' business cases to identify new and better ways of meeting mission goals; and interfacing with partners that may be in various stages of the transition.

## **LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. PROJECTIONS 2006-2007**

United Nations, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC / CEPAL). April 2006

<http://www.cepal.org/publicaciones/Estadisticas/8/LCL2528PI/lcl2528i.pdf> [English-language, pdf format, 59 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report highlights the following economic projections for this year and 2007:

\*The gross domestic product (GDP) of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean will grow by 4.6% in 2006, up slightly from 2005. The region's average growth rate is expected to fall slightly in 2007 by approximately half a percentage point, chiefly because Argentina and Venezuela will have completed their recovery.

\* The Latin American economies will grow at fairly similar rates in 2006, by between 3% and 6%, with the exception of Argentina and Venezuela, which will grow by more than 6%. As in previous years, the Southern Cone (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the Andean Community are projected to be the regions with the highest growth rates, with 6.9% and 5.7% respectively.

\* Mexico and Central America are expected to experience lower growth than Latin America in 2006, following the trend of recent years. However, the gap is closing and the subregion is expected to grow by around 3.6%.

\* The inflation rate for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2006 is forecast to be much the same as in 2005, in the order of 5% to 7%, owing to cost pressures associated with energy prices, that will feed into prices somewhat belatedly.

## **THE BANKING SYSTEM IN EMERGING ECONOMIES: HOW MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE?**

Bank for International Settlements (BIS). August 2006

<http://www.bis.org/publ/bppdf/bispap28.pdf> [pdf format, 382 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Incorporating contributions by senior central bank officials from emerging market economies, and staff of the Bank for International Settlements, this document describes recent developments in banking by addressing five broad topics:

- \* Recent trends in bank credit
- \* The pace of structural change
- \* Evolution in and management of risks facing banks
- \* Preventing systemic banking crises
- \* Changing financial intermediation: implications for monetary policy

## **THE BUDGET AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: AN UPDATE**

United States Congress, Congressional Budget Office (CBO). August 2006

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/74xx/doc7492/08-17-BudgetUpdate.pdf> [88 pages]

The 2006 deficit will be notably lower than the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated in March, when it issued its previous projections of the federal budget. CBO now expects the 2006 deficit to total \$260 billion—a \$58 billion decline from the deficit recorded for 2005. Relative to the size of the economy, the deficit this year is expected to equal 2.0 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), down from 2.6 percent in 2005.

## **THE CHANGING NATURE OF WORK: A GLOBAL SURVEY AND CASE STUDY OF ATYPICAL WORK IN THE MEDIA INDUSTRY**

Emma Walters, Christopher Warren, and Mike Dobbie

International Federation of Journalists; International Labor Office. April 2006; Web-posted June 7, 2006

<http://www.ifj.org/pdfs/ILOReport070606.pdf> [pdf format, 42 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The report documents the trend toward the privatization of state media, and the replacement of experienced senior journalists by younger graduates in non-permanent employment relationships. Younger journalists are also being hired in new areas of employment, including new media and some areas of the developing world where media ownership is expanding. As a result, journalists' average rate of pay appears to have declined in real terms over the past five years. The rate of pay for atypical workers is overwhelmingly set by the employer and is usually a per-story fee.

#### **THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF RECENT INCREASES IN ENERGY PRICES**

Congressional Budget Office (CBO). July 2006

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/74xx/doc7420/07-21-Energy%20DIST.pdf> [pdf format, 36 pages]

In the past, large increases in oil prices coincided with major macroeconomic problems: recessions and higher inflation. The jump in oil prices that began in late 1973 occurred at the same time as an increase in consumer price inflation and just before the 1973-1975 recession. Likewise, the oil price increases of the 1979-1980 period coincided with higher inflation and the 1980 recession. The price hikes of 1990 and 1999 also appear to have been related to recessions and some increases in inflation. Given that history, this Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report examines why the economic impacts of this latest period of steep increases in oil prices have been relatively mild.

#### **THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY ANNUAL 2004**

United States Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration (EIA). Web-posted August 1, 2006

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/iea/> [Table of Contents, sections in html format, various pagings]

[Note: "[The Energy Information Administration] EIA attempts to identify and collect the best data available for foreign countries. The most authoritative sources are usually the official national statistical reports of a country. However, data from official sources are not always available. Therefore, EIA also uses data from reputable secondary sources such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, the International Energy Agency, the International Monetary Fund, the Latin American Energy Organization, the United Nations, the World Bank, and others. In addition, EIA uses industry reports, academic studies, trade publications, and other sources. Typically these sources are less timely and complete than mandatory survey data for the United States collected by EIA. As a result, it usually takes EIA about two years to prepare complete energy information for all foreign countries."]  
The International Energy Annual is the Energy Information Administration's primary report of international energy statistics. Included are data on energy consumption and production; overviews of petroleum, natural gas, coal, and electricity, as well as carbon dioxide emissions from the use of fossil fuels, petroleum prices, energy reserves, and population; and data unit conversion tables. For many series, data cover the years 1980-2004. Also included is a World Energy Overview comparing 1994 and 2004.

#### **THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REPORT, 2006: DEVELOPING PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES**

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). July 20, 2006

[http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ldc2006\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ldc2006_en.pdf) [pdf format, 387 pages]

[Note: Material in this publication may be freely quoted or reprinted, but acknowledgement is requested, together with a reference to the document symbol -- UNCTAD/LDC/2006]

This report reveals that the economies of the 50 poorest countries grew by an average of 5.9% in 2004, the highest rate in two decades. This was associated with a doubling of aid from rich countries between 1999 and 2004, with high demand for oil and other natural resources, with record merchandise exports in 2004 of US\$57.8 billion, and with a record \$10.7 billion in private foreign investment. However, in this report, UNCTAD warns that sustaining this progress will depend on channeling a higher proportion of aid into increased investment in productive sectors and into infrastructure improvements such as upgrading roads, ports and electricity supplies, as well as enhancing support to improve domestic financial systems, upgrade technological capabilities and support the development of local firms.

#### **THE LIFE AND DEBT CYCLE. PART ONE: THE IMPLICATIONS OF RISING CREDIT CARD DEBT AMONG OLDER CONSUMERS**

Deanne Loonin

National Consumer Law Center (NCLC). July 2006

[http://www.consumerlaw.org/news/content/rising\\_debt.pdf](http://www.consumerlaw.org/news/content/rising_debt.pdf) [pdf format, 43 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report documents the recent, rising level of credit card debt and its causes. The report also reviews credit card company practices and credit card terms that cause particular problems for consumers generally, and for older consumers specifically. Credit cards provide a great convenience for many consumers, including elders who increasingly use credit cards to pay for a range of products and services. The danger comes from the borrowing features of credit cards, the exorbitant costs of borrowing, and the downward spiral that hits consumers once they get into debt trouble. The author provides detailed policy recommendations that are aimed at stemming credit card debt, not necessarily credit card use, among older consumers. She calls for reinstating substantive limits on the terms of credit and the cost of credit, including interest rates and all fees and charges.

#### **TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT (TDR) 2006**

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretariat. Web-posted August 31, 2006

[http://www.unctad.org/en/docs//tdr2006\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs//tdr2006_en.pdf) [pdf format, 280 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This most recent annual Trade and Development Report (TDR) warns that without quick international action to reduce global trade imbalances, financial crises in the wake of a tumbling dollar will threaten the benign growth performance of the world economy. UNCTAD cautions: "Up to now, turbulence has been limited to some peripheral economies with rather high current account deficits. There is no evidence that a major financial crisis -- comparable to the Asian or Latin American crises of some ten years ago -- is looming. However, the flexibility and pragmatism of US macroeconomic policy that so far has prevented deficiencies in the global trading system from leading to outright deflation and recession -- that has limited the damage 'only' to huge trade imbalances -- cannot and will not go on forever."

#### **TRADE-BASED MONEY LAUNDERING**

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)/OECD. June 23, 2006

<http://www.fatf-gafi.org/dataoecd/60/25/37038272.pdf> [pdf format, 44 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The primary focus of this study is trade-based money laundering involving the international exchange of goods, and the false documentation and declaration of traded goods and services. This study notes that customs and law-enforcement agencies, financial intelligence units, tax authorities, and banking supervisors currently face similar challenges with respect to understanding the techniques of trade-based money laundering and detecting such activities. There appears to be a number of practical steps that could initially be taken to improve the capacity of national authorities to cope with trade-based money laundering. These steps can be summarized as building better awareness, strengthening measures to identify trade-based illicit activity, and improving international cooperation.

#### **U.S. TRADE DEFICIT AND THE IMPACT OF RISING OIL PRICES**

James K. Jackson

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated June 9, 2006

<http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/06may/RS22204.pdf> [pdf format, 6 pages]

Petroleum prices have risen sharply since early 2004. At the same time the average amount of imports of energy-related petroleum products has fallen slightly. The combination of sharply rising prices and a slightly lower level of imports of energy-related petroleum products translates into an escalating cost for those imports. This rising cost added an estimated \$70 billion to the nation's trade deficit in 2005 and could add \$80-\$100 billion in 2006, depending on how sustainable is the rate of recent price increases. This report provides an estimate of the initial impact of the rising oil prices on the nation's merchandise trade deficit, and will be updated as warranted by events.

#### **WOMEN IN MEDIA 2006: FINDING THE LEADER IN YOU**

Mary Arnold and Mary Nesbitt.

Northwestern University, Media Management Center; McCormick Tribune Foundation. July 2006.

<http://www.mediamanagementcenter.org/publications/data/wim2006.pdf> [pdf format, 56 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Since 2003 the media world has seen the share of executive positions held by women increase only slightly, by two percentage points, to 29 percent. And the number of women publishers has remained the same, at 18 percent in the 137 newspapers surveyed. Women have some qualities that fit well with a constructive culture, say the authors of this report. Overall, women's leadership style tends to be inclusive and collaborative, rather than hierarchical, and they are often more attuned to the changing needs of the marketplace.

## **WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION NEGOTIATIONS: THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service

Ian F. Fergusson. Updated May 15, 2006

<http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/assets/crs/RL32060.pdf> [pdf format, 20 pages]

With the backdrop of a sagging world economy, terrorist action, and a growing number of regional trade arrangements, trade ministers met in Doha in November 2001. At that meeting, they adopted three documents that provided guidance for future actions. The Ministerial Declaration includes a preamble and a work program for the new round and for other future action. This Declaration folded the on-going negotiations in agriculture and services into a broader agenda. That agenda includes industrial tariffs, topics of interest to developing countries, changes to WTO rules, and other provisions. The Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health presents a political interpretation of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). A document on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns includes numerous decisions of interest to developing countries.

## **EDUCATION**

### **FROM SCHOOLING ACCESS TO LEARNING OUTCOMES: AN UNFINISHED AGENDA. An Evaluation of World Bank Support to Primary Education**

World Bank, Independent Evaluation Group. July 2006

[http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/education/documents/primary\\_education\\_evaluation.pdf](http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/education/documents/primary_education_evaluation.pdf) [pdf format, 164 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report by the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) finds that in developing countries over the past 15 years, high priority was accorded to increasing enrollments in primary schools, but much less attention was directed to the crucial issue of whether children are learning adequately. According to this report, only 20 percent of primary education projects funded by the World Bank have an explicit objective to help children improve learning outcomes including such basic skills as reading and writing. Some 90 percent of the projects support quality improvements, usually in terms of better educational inputs such as books and teacher training, but only about 35 percent target and track improved student learning as made evident by, for example, better reading, writing and mathematical skills.

### **LONG OVERDUE: A FRESH LOOK AT PUBLIC AND LEADERSHIP ATTITUDES ABOUT LIBRARIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

Public Agenda. June 2006

[http://www.publicagenda.org/research/pdfs/long\\_overdue.pdf](http://www.publicagenda.org/research/pdfs/long_overdue.pdf) [pdf format, 84 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted materials]

This survey finds that Americans prize public library service and see libraries as potential solutions to many communities' most pressing problems -- from universal access to computers to the need for better options for keeping teens safe and productive. Four areas of opportunity resonated most with the public and leaders alike: (1) providing stronger services for teens, (2) helping address illiteracy and poor reading skills among adults, (3) providing ready access to information about government services, including making public documents and forms readily available, and (4) providing even greater access to computers for all. Forty-five percent give an "A" to their local community for maintaining well-run libraries, far ahead of any other community institutions, including schools, parks and police. Higher-income families are even more likely to use public libraries than low-income families.

### **THE ECONOMIC PROMISE OF INVESTING IN HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL: USING EARLY EDUCATION TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY OF STATES AND THE NATION**

Committee for Economic Development (CED). June 28, 2006

[http://www.ced.org/docs/report/report\\_prek\\_econpromise.pdf](http://www.ced.org/docs/report/report_prek_econpromise.pdf) [pdf format, 74 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

While American children are the prime beneficiaries of early childhood education, the United States' economy and society can greatly profit from expanded child education programs, according to this report. Preschool programs not only prepare students for early educational success, but investing in high-quality early education also has long-lasting effects, improving students' outcomes well into their adolescent and adult years. Economically, the long-term impacts of preschool programs translate into significant public and private benefits, with returns far exceeding the costs. Generating the expected returns requires investments in high-quality programs employing well-trained teachers that help children develop their academic, social, emotional, and physical skills.



## ENVIRONMENT

### **PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - AN EQUITABLE APPROACH FOR REDUCING POVERTY AND CONSERVING NATURE**

WWF. June 2006

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

[http://assets.panda.org/downloads/pes\\_report\\_2006.pdf](http://assets.panda.org/downloads/pes_report_2006.pdf) [pdf format, 20 pages]

Payments for Environmental Services (PES) is a new market-based approach to conservation, that aims to change incentives for land use in order to maintain or restore natural ecosystems so that they continue to provide the desired environmental service(s). The basic principle is that those who "provide" environmental services should be rewarded for doing so. There is a variety of arrangements that transfer rewards from those who benefit from an environmental service to those who conserve, restore, and manage the natural ecosystem which provides it. Rewards may be monetary or in kind, may involve private sector or government financing, and can be made at local, national, and global levels. To be effective, the reward to the land manager must make the net benefits derived from maintaining environmental services greater than those derived from alternative land uses. The report provides capsules of PES projects underway in Guatemala, Peru, Philippines, Tanzania, Indonesia and Eastern Europe.

### **RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS: AN OVERVIEW OF E-WASTE POLICY ISSUES**

U.S. Department of Commerce, Technology Administration. Office of Technology Policy. July 2006

<http://www.technology.gov/reports/2006/Recycling/Beg-Apendix7.pdf> [pdf format, 152 pages]

Electronic-products recycling has become an issue for communities worldwide, as concerns over waste management have grown. Over 10 countries have laws on recycling discarded electronics, and more are developing legislation. In the United States, five states have banned the disposal of cathode ray tubes from television and computer monitors in landfills. Four states have passed statewide electronics recycling laws, but each with different requirements for manufacturers, retailers, local governments and consumers. This report highlights diverse issues facing manufacturers, retailers, recyclers, environmental organizations, and others as they adopt policies and practices to manage discarded electronics. The report also identifies possible areas of consensus among industry and other stakeholders on managing discarded electronics.

### **U.S. NATIONAL REPORT ON POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Victoria D. Markham

Center for Environment and Population (CEP). Web-posted August 30, 2006

<http://www.cepnet.org/documents/USNatIReptFinal.pdf> [pdf format, 69 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report documents existing scientific evidence of how the nation's dramatic population changes (such as rapid growth, suburbanization, and coastal concentrations) are linked to equally remarkable environmental changes (such as rapid land development, habitat and species loss, water pollution, and climate change).

The report highlights a number of developments, including the following:

\* The U.S. is the only industrialized nation in the world experiencing significant population growth. This fact, combined in a new way in this report with data on America's high rates of resource consumption, shows how the nation has the largest per-capita environmental impact in the world.

\* The U.S. has become a "metropolitan nation," shifting from being primarily rural to a primarily urban and suburban nation. Today, 4 out of 5 Americans live in metro areas, resulting in "sprawl" being the most predominant form of land-use change in the country. Overall, land is developed twice as fast as population growth.

\* The South and West, the nation's fastest growing and most populous regions (home to over half of all Americans today), are the nation's first "Population & Environment Hot Spots." Half of the nation's fastest growing states are in vulnerable coastal ecosystems in the South, and another four are in the driest Western areas.

## GLOBAL ISSUES

### **2006 WORLD POPULATION DATA SHEET**

Population Reference Bureau (PRB). August 2006

<http://www.prb.org/pdf06/06WorldDataSheet.pdf> [pdf format, 13 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This most recent World Population Data Sheet provides current demographic, health and environmental data for all the countries and major regions of the world. Among the highlights in this year's document are these:

\* World population growth will continue. World population has reached 6.6 billion in 2006, up from 6 billion in 1999, and is heading toward 8 billion by 2025. Ninety-nine percent of that growth will be in developing countries.

\* Globally, HIV/AIDS prevalence is lower than previously estimated. But prevalence remains catastrophically high in many countries, such as a 24 percent rate in Botswana, and 20 percent in Zimbabwe.

\* Too many people still lack access to improved sanitation. Around 2.5 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation. Countries are behind in meeting the targets of the Millennium Development Goal to reduce by one-half, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to sanitation and to safe drinking water.

\* Fertility declines have stalled in some countries. In countries such as Kenya and Ghana, fertility rates have hit plateaus after earlier substantial declines.

\* U.S. population continues to diversify. The number of foreign-born in the United States has reached an all-time high, even though the percent foreign-born is lower than it was in 1910.

## HEALTH

### **AIDS IN AFRICA**

Nicolas Cook

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service. Updated May 5, 2006

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/crs/ib10050.pdf> [pdf format, 19 pages]

Sub-Saharan Africa has been far more severely affected by AIDS than any other world region. In December 2005, UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS) reported that in 2005, there were about 25.8 million HIV-positive persons in Africa, including 3.2 million newly infected during that year. Africa has about 11.3% of the world's population but more than 64% of the global HIV-positive population. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, created in January 2002, commits about 60% of its grant funds to Africa. At a September 2005 London conference, the United States pledged \$600 million of \$3.7 billion in total pledges by governments to the Global Fund in 2006 and 2007. This amount would fund renewals of existing Global Fund grants but not new ones.

### **AIDS IN SOUTH ASIA: UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO A HETEROGENEOUS EPIDEMIC**

Stephen Moses, James F. Blanchard, Han Kang, Faran Emmanuel, Sushena Reza Paul, Marissa L. Becker, David Wilson, and Mariam Claeson

World Bank. August 2006

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOUTHASIAEXT/Resources/Publications/448813-1155152122224/southasia\\_aids.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOUTHASIAEXT/Resources/Publications/448813-1155152122224/southasia_aids.pdf) [pdf format, 131 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

According to the new report, more than 5.5 million people are infected with HIV in South Asia, with the epidemic increasingly driven by the region's flourishing sex industry and injection drug use. South Asia's HIV and AIDS epidemic can be expected to grow rapidly unless the eight countries in the region, especially India, can saturate high-risk groups such as sex workers and their clients, injecting drug users, and men having sex with men, with better HIV prevention measures. Contributing regional risk factors include widespread stigma and discrimination, poverty and inequality, illiteracy, the low social status of women, trafficking of women into commercial sex, porous borders, widespread migration, high levels of mobility, cultural restrictions on discussing sex-related issues, high rates of sexually transmitted infections, and limited condom use.

### **BUSINESS AND MALARIA: A NEGLECTED THREAT?**

David Bloom, Lakshmi Bloom, Mark Weston

World Economic Forum, Global Health Initiative; Harvard School of Public Health. June 2006

<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/MalariaReport.pdf> [pdf format, 54 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Combating malaria is good for business, governments and the community, say the authors of this report. The report states that Sub-Saharan African businesses are highly likely to be affected by malaria, with 72 percent of them reporting a current effect from malaria, and 39 percent reporting serious impacts to their business. According to the report, which surveyed over 8,000 business leaders worldwide across 100 countries, the global business community is becoming increasingly concerned over the threat of malaria, which costs Sub-Saharan Africa 0.6% of its GDP, with one malaria episode costing up to ten working days in terms of lost labor. Currently,

governments undertake a large portion of malaria control efforts. However, many governments lack the resources for effective prevention and treatment, creating a need for greater private sector involvement. This report states that recognition of malaria as a serious workplace issue is vital to the long-term productivity and efficiency of African businesses, which ultimately impacts the health and prosperity of the wider continent.

#### **CONTROLLING INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Mary M. Kent and Sandra Yin

Population Reference Bureau (PRB). June 2006

<http://www.prb.org/pdf06/61.2InfectiousDiseases.pdf> [pdf format, 24 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This report offers an overview of infectious and parasitic diseases. It identifies high-risk groups, geographic disparities, and the impact of infectious diseases on global health. Special sections on diarrheal diseases, malaria, and tuberculosis examine the scope of the problem, populations most at risk, proven preventions, and recommended treatments.

#### **IFJ [INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS] RESEARCH FINDINGS ON REPORTING HIV/AIDS IN SIX COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND ASIA**

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). July 2006

<http://www.ifj.org/pdfs/IFJ%20HIV%20RESEARCH%20REPORT.pdf> [pdf format, 81 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The research for this report, which focused on six countries in Africa and Asia, indicates that HIV/AIDS reporting in affected regions is improving, but that there is still significant work to be done. The research, including media monitoring which examined 356 articles that mentioned HIV/AIDS over the two-week monitoring periods in Africa and Asia, uncovered sensational reportage and terminology such as "deadly disease," "HIV holocaust," "scourge," and "deepest wound in society". Images were more likely to be seen as sensational. The researchers also noted that the complicated issue of confidentiality when identifying people living with HIV/AIDS, was a problem for media.

#### **INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND NATIONAL SECURITY: STRATEGIC INFORMATION NEEDS**

Gary Cecchine and Melinda Moore

RAND. Web-posted August 16, 2006

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2006/RAND\\_TR405.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2006/RAND_TR405.pdf) [pdf format, 127 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

In recent years the global community has suffered from newly emerged infectious diseases and from diseases once thought to be in decline. It now faces the threat of a human influenza pandemic arising from the recently emerged avian influenza H5N1 virus. The pace of global travel, migration, and commerce has increased dramatically in recent decades, elevating the risk of a global infectious disease outbreak. The spread of infectious disease can have significant effects on U.S. and world security, destabilizing nations and regions through direct mortality and morbidity, resulting in staggering economic and social loss.

#### **INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR HIV/AIDS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD: TAKING STOCK OF THE G8, OTHER DONOR GOVERNMENTS AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Jennifer Kates and Eric Lief

Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). July 2006

<http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/7344-02.pdf> [pdf format, 21 pages]

This report analyzes funding by the G8 and other major donor governments for the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, and the gap that still exists between needs and actual funding. The authors summarize: "Within the international community, donor governments, through bilateral and multilateral assistance, have an especially important role to play in filling this gap. This is particularly true of the G8 which, in addition to providing significant resources, has shown a unique, collective ability to lead international action on HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases."

#### **PREVENTING HIV/AIDS IN YOUNG PEOPLE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

David A. Ross, Bruce Dick and Jane Ferguson, Editors

World Health Organization (WHO). Web-posted August 16, 2006

[http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/New\\_Publications/ADH/TRS/ISBN\\_92\\_4\\_120938\\_0.pdf](http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/New_Publications/ADH/TRS/ISBN_92_4_120938_0.pdf) [pdf format, 357 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The increasing rate of HIV/AIDS infections in young people is alarming: 15-24 year olds account for 50% of new cases. Every day five to six thousand youths become infected, most of them in developing countries. This report provides evidence-based recommendations for policy-makers, program managers and researchers to guide efforts towards meeting the UN goals on HIV/AIDS and young people. These goals aim to decrease prevalence and vulnerability, and to increase access to information, skills and services.

#### **TARIFFS, CORRUPTION AND OTHER IMPEDIMENTS TO MEDICINAL ACCESS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: FIELD EVIDENCE**

Roger Bate, Kathryn Boateng, Lorraine Mooney, Richard Tren

American Enterprise Institute; Africa Fighting Malaria. August 2006

[http://www.fightingmalaria.org/pdfs/20060804\\_TariffsCorruption.pdf](http://www.fightingmalaria.org/pdfs/20060804_TariffsCorruption.pdf) [pdf format, 36 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and Africa Fighting Malaria (AFM) collaborated on this report that investigates what impact corruption and import tariffs have on access to medicines in poor countries. According to the World Health Organization, approximately one-third of the world's population lacks access to essential medicine and proper medical treatment. Drawing upon extensive evidence from surveys and accounts from the field, the report examines the impact of tariffs, taxes and other markups on imported medicines and medical products provided to lesser-developed countries by pharmaceutical companies, not-for-profit groups, for-profit corporations, multilateral and bilateral aid, and health agencies.

#### **THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF INVOLUNTARY EXPOSURE TO TOBACCO SMOKE: A REPORT OF THE SURGEON GENERAL**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General. June 27, 2006

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/report/fullreport.pdf> [pdf format, 727 pages]

This comprehensive scientific report concludes that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke at home or work increase their risk of developing heart disease by 25 to 30 percent, and lung cancer by 20 to 30 percent. The finding is of major public health concern due to the fact that nearly half of all nonsmoking Americans are still regularly exposed to secondhand smoke. The report finds that even the most sophisticated ventilation systems cannot completely eliminate secondhand smoke exposure and that only smoke-free environments afford full protection. The only way to protect nonsmokers from the dangerous chemicals in secondhand smoke is to eliminate smoking indoors.

#### **ZERO TOLERANCE: STOP THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN, STOP HIV/AIDS**

Lisa Schechtman

Global AIDS Alliance (GAA). August 1, 2006

[http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/docs/Zero\\_Tolerance\\_Advocacy\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/docs/Zero_Tolerance_Advocacy_Brief.pdf) [pdf format, 48 pages]

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Worldwide, violence against women and children is playing a critical role in driving the spread of HIV/AIDS. In this report, the Global AIDS Alliance (GAA) outlines a Zero Tolerance framework for addressing the epidemic of violence, including increased funding commitments from donor and affected country governments and multilateral institutions. This advocacy brief states that establishing zero tolerance for violence is a matter of basic respect for human rights, particularly those of women, including sexual and reproductive rights. Violence is linked to HIV. Women who have experienced violence may be up to three times more likely to acquire HIV. In addition to behavioral risk factors, there are direct consequences of unprotected forced or coerced sex, and this is compounded by global HIV/AIDS policies that fail to take seriously the realities facing women and girls. Fear of violence can prevent women from seeking counseling and testing, disclosing their HIV status, and receiving treatment when it is needed.

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT / SECURITY / ILLEGAL DRUGS**

##### **[AIR TRAVEL] PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED ITEMS**

United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Web-posted August 13, 2006

<http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm> [html format, 9 printed pages]

Produced by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), this is a revised guide that enumerates: 1) items that a traveler may check and/or carry on to an airplane in the United States; 2) items that can be checked but not carried on in any quantity and; 3) items that may be carried on in specified quantities. Air travelers in, and to, the U.S. need to consult this list before packing, since it includes items in the "no carry-on" category that may surprise some travelers and result in confiscation by TSA authorities. Nail files, for instance, are permitted in carry-ons, but toothpaste and mouthwash are not; passengers may carry on up to 4 ounces of saline solution for contact lenses, but any amount over 4 ounces must be checked; gel-filled wheelchair pads are allowed in the passenger cabin, but gel-filled shoe insoles are not allowed in the cabin; brass knuckles are allowed in checked baggage, but not in carry-ons. [Note: there are more specific instructions for "Travelers with Disabilities and Medical Conditions" at: <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/index.shtm>].

#### **ETHICS ESSENTIALS: A PRIMER FOR NEW JUDGES ON CONFLICTS, OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES, AND OTHER POTENTIAL PITFALLS**

Judicial Conference of the United States, Committee on Codes of Conduct. April 2006; Web-posted July 2006  
<http://www.uscourts.gov/library/ethicseentials.pdf> [pdf format, 26 pages]

This overview, written for new federal judges, emphasizes the importance of understanding and observing standards of ethics. The document highlights essential standards of conduct, answers recurring questions, and provides examples of common situations new judges may encounter. The appendix includes simple but useful checklists that help judges decide what particular circumstances constitute a conflict of interest.

#### **EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION OF AMERICAN CRIMINAL LAW**

Charles Doyle

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service. Updated August 11, 2006  
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/94-166.pdf> [pdf format, 77 pages]

Crime is ordinarily proscribed, tried and punished according to the laws of the place where it occurs. American criminal law applies beyond the geographical confines of the United States, however, under certain limited circumstances. State prosecution for overseas misconduct is limited almost exclusively to multi-jurisdictional crimes, i.e., crimes where some elements of the offense are committed within the state and others are committed beyond its boundaries. A surprising number of federal criminal statutes have extraterritorial application, but prosecutions have been few. This may be because when extraterritorial criminal jurisdiction does exist, practical and legal complications, and sometimes diplomatic considerations, may counsel against its exercise.

#### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING: BETTER DATA, STRATEGY, AND REPORTING NEEDED TO ENHANCE U.S. ANTITRAFFICKING EFFORTS ABROAD**

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). July 18, 2006; Web-posted August 14, 2006  
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06825.pdf> [pdf format, 69 pages]

In 2000, Congress enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) to combat trafficking and reauthorized this act twice. This report reviews U.S. international antitrafficking efforts by examining (1) estimates of the extent of global trafficking, (2) the U.S. government's strategy for combating the problem abroad, and (3) the Department of State's process for evaluating foreign governments' antitrafficking efforts.

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: INITIAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE STOP INITIATIVE AND U.S. BORDER EFFORTS TO REDUCE PIRACY.**

Statement of Loren Yager, Director International Affairs and Trade. [GAO-06-1004T]  
United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). July 26, 2006

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d061004t.pdf> [pdf format, 22 pages]

Because protection of intellectual property in many parts of the world is inadequate, U.S. goods are subject to substantial counterfeiting and piracy, creating health and safety hazards for consumers, damaging victimized companies, and threatening the U.S. economy. Industry groups suggest that counterfeiting and piracy are on the rise and that a broader range of products, from auto parts to razor blades, and from vital medicines to infant formula, are subject to counterfeit production. In 2004, the Bush administration launched the Strategy for Targeting Organized Piracy (STOP) - a multi-agency effort to better protect intellectual property (IP) by combating piracy and counterfeiting. STOP is the most recent in a number of efforts to coordinate interagency activity targeted at intellectual property (IP) protection.

## **INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRADE AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY**

Raphael F. Perl

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service (CRS). July 21, 2006

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/crs/rl33582.pdf> [pdf format, 20 pages]

Some 19 million Americans use illicit drugs at least once per month, spending an estimated \$60 billion annually in a diverse and fragmented criminal market. Calculated in dollar value terms, at least four-fifths of all the illicit drugs consumed in the United States are of foreign origin, including virtually all the cocaine and heroin and most of the marijuana. The U.S. federal anti-drug initiative has two major elements: (1) reduction of demand and (2) reduction of supply. Reduction of demand is sought through education to prevent dependence, treatment to cure addiction, and measures to increase prices and the risk of apprehension at the consumer level. Reduction of supply, which currently accounts for about 64.5 percent of the federal anti-drug control budget, is sought by programs aimed at destabilizing the operations of illicit drug cartels, severing their links to political power, and by seizing their products, businesses, and financial assets.

## **INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: THREAT, POLICY, AND RESPONSE**

Raphael F. Perl

Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service. August 9, 2006

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/70296.pdf> [pdf format, 33 pages]

Increasingly, international terrorism is recognized as a threat to U.S. foreign, as well as domestic, security. Both timing and target selection by terrorists can affect U.S. interests in areas ranging from preservation of commerce to nuclear nonproliferation to the Middle East peace process. A growing number of analysts express concern that radical Islamist groups seek to exploit economic and political tensions in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Indonesia, Russia, Jordan, Pakistan, and other countries. Because of their avowed goal of overthrowing secular or Western-allied regimes in certain countries with large Moslem populations, such groups are seen as a particular threat to U.S. foreign policy objectives.

## **OTHER**

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT MANUAL, 2006-2007**

National Archives and Records Administration, Office of the Federal Register. Web-posted August 16, 2006.

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/browse-gm-06.html> [sections in text and pdf format, various pagings]

This is the latest edition of the U.S. Government publication that offers information -- including names of officers, responsibilities and enabling legislation -- for agencies and entities of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the U.S. government. Included are quasi-official organizations, international organizations in which the U.S. participates, and official boards, commissions and committees.