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January 21, 2011

REPORTS

Advanced Economics Pose Three Financial Risks to Developing Countries in 2011. Center for Global Development. Liliana Rojas-Suarez. January 18, 2011.

As in recent years, the major risks for emerging market economies in 2011 will come not from the policies and actions of the countries themselves, but from developments in advanced economies. There are three major risks: the debt crisis in Europe and the ramifications of potential sovereign defaults, continued sluggish growth in the U.S., and China's role in the so-called "currency wars" that are adversely affecting many developing countries. Many developing countries have recently become notably resilient to adverse external shocks; with good macroeconomic policies and some good luck, they may be able to weather the storm, but the United States, Europe, and China have large roles to play in their success or failure to do so

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424748/> [HTML format with links].

Item#11AD574
Global

MSRP Theme: 03

Geo:

Freedom in the World 2011: The Authoritarian Challenge to Democracy. Freedom House. January 2011.

According to the survey's findings, 2010 was the fifth consecutive year in which global freedom suffered a decline, the longest period of setbacks for freedom in the nearly 40-year history of the report. These declines threaten gains dating to the post-Cold War era in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the former Soviet bloc. The latest survey highlights the increasing truculence of the world's most powerful authoritarian regimes, which has coincided with a

growing inability or unwillingness on the part of the world's democracies to meet the authoritarian challenge.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.freedomhouse.org/images/File/fiw/FIW_2011_Booklet.pdf [PDF format, 34 pages].

Item#11AD575
Global

MSRP Theme: 12DE

Geo:

How to Keep the Nuclear Genie in the Bottle. YaleGlobal. Richard Weitz. January 19, 2011

Following a series of agreements with the U.S., Russia and former Soviet states, the global stockpile of nuclear warheads has dropped from 70,000 to 22,000 since 1987, reports the World Nuclear Association. The Association says, "Highly-enriched uranium in US and Russian weapons and other military stockpiles amounts to about 2000 tonnes, equivalent to about twelve times annual world mine production," adding that governments direct the weapons-grade material for civilian fuel. Unsecured stockpiles remain a target for smugglers and terrorists, notes the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/how-keep-nuclear-genie-bottle> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11AD576
Global

MSRP Theme: 2G

Geo:

Poverty in Numbers: The Changing State of Global Poverty from 2005 to 2015. Brookings Institution. Laurence Chandy and Geoffrey Gertz. January 2011.

Poverty reduction lies at the core of the global development challenge. For the international development community, this objective serves not only as a source of motivation, but as a defining theme across its work. Many of the world's most prominent aid organizations cite poverty reduction as their overarching goal. But while the common goal of poverty reduction is never disputed, we find it remarkably difficult to measure whether it is happening, and if so how fast, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/01_global_poverty_chandy/01_global_poverty_chandy.pdf [PDF format, 23 pages].

Item#11AD577
Global

MSRP Theme: 12SIE

Geo:

Sustainable Cities: Oxymoron or the Shape of the Future? Harvard Business School. Annissa Alussi et al. January 2011.

According to the authors, two trends are likely to define the 21st century: threats to the sustainability of the natural environment and dramatic increases in urbanization. This paper reviews the goals, business models, and partnerships involved in eight early "ecocity" projects to begin to identify success factors in this emerging industry. Ecocities, for the most part, are viewed as a means of mitigating threats to the natural environment while creating urban living capacity by combining principles of green building with the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to better manage complex urban systems

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/11-062.pdf> [PDF format, 26 pages].

Item#11AD578
Global

MSRP Theme: 14J, 12PAD

Geo:

Australia's Flood Pain. Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. January 19, 2011

Australia's continued flooding is expected to cost billions in losses and clean-up, and some scientists believe the devastating floods are a harbinger of increasing extreme weather events to come.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/23825/australias_flood_pain.html [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11AD579

MSRP Theme: 14

Geo: EAP

Toxic Legacy: Hunger, Oppression, Migration, and Health in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. U.S. Institute of Peace. Leonard S. Rubenstein. January 19, 2011.

The brief explores the current health status of North Korea, initiatives to strengthen the health system, the potential impact of migration and informal markets on health, and prospects for the future health of the population.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.usip.org/files/resources/PB-77_Toxic_Legacy.pdf [PDF format, 5 pages].

Item#11AD580

MSRP Theme: 12DE

Geo: EAP

Britain's Coalition Government: A Preliminary Verdict. The Heritage Foundation. Robin Harris. January 10, 2011.

Britain and the United States face similar budgetary problems. Deficits in both countries are unsustainably high. So is public spending. Action is being taken in Britain, but in the U.S., there is continuing pressure either to take no serious action at all or to take the wrong action, most notably by repairing the deficit with tax increases or by increasing spending even further. The U.K. coalition government has proved unexpectedly bold in the decisions taken on the deficit but less bold on spending and, in some respects, bold in the wrong sense on taxes. The U.K. has also faced, and in some respects has yielded to, the temptation to adopt wrong priorities in its departmental budget reductions, says the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/sr0087.pdf [PDF format, 29 pages].

Item#11AD581

MSRP Theme: 12DEL

Geo: EUR

Can Tunisia Spark a Revolutionary Wave? Council on Foreign Relations. Deborah Jerome. January 18, 2011.

The overthrow of Tunisia's government last week in what has been dubbed a Jasmine Revolution has reverberated throughout the region and has left Tunisia itself in a state of political turbulence. In the wake of the ouster of Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali are two questions: Is Tunisia's example likely to spark comparable uprisings across the Arab world? And will democracy take root in Tunisia?

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/23810/can_tunisia_spark_a_revolutionary_wave.html [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11AD582

MSRP Theme: 12CS

Geo: NEA

Christian Minorities Under Attack: Egypt. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Michele Dunne. January 20, 2011.

The bombing of a Coptic Christian church on New Year's Day reflected a sharp rise in religious friction that has been slowly brewing in Egypt for years. This is the transcript of Congressional testimony by Michele Dunne.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://carnegieendowment.org/files/0120_testimony_dunne.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

Item#11AD583

MSRP Theme: 12REB

Geo: NEA

Country Analysis Briefs: United Arab Emirates. Energy Information Administration. January 2011.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federation of seven different emirates which together comprise the third largest economy in the Middle East behind Saudi Arabia and Iran. Its per capita GDP is second only to Qatar. The UAE is an important producer of natural gas and oil, ranking seventh globally in total proven reserves of both. Abu Dhabi possesses the majority of oil and natural gas reserves followed by Dubai, with small amounts in Sharjah and Ras al-Khaimah. The country is also a member of the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Full Text:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/UAE/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

Item#11AD584

MSRP Theme: 4E

Geo: NEA

What's Next for Tunisia? Center for Strategic & International Studies. Haim Malka. January 20, 2011.

Tunisia remains in a state of emergency. The 23-year rule of Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, one of the Arab world's most ruthless and efficient autocrats, has crumbled. Few are sorry to see him and his cronies go, but it remains unclear what kind of governing system will take his place. Tunisia's new government, when it emerges, may be more representative and less repressive, but that will take time. Tunisia's interim rulers are faced with the immediate tasks not only of restoring order after a month of street protests, but also of shaping a new governing system. Doing so will require balancing between popular demands on the one hand and retaining the support of at least some of Tunisia's elites on the other. How the interim government navigates this delicate balance and sets the new rules of the game will have a major impact on the future direction of Tunisia.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://csis.org/publication/whats-next-tunisia> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11AD585

MSRP Theme: 1G

Geo: NEA

Cuba: U.S. Restriction on Travel and Remittances. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Mark P. Sullivan. January 7, 2011.

Restrictions on travel to Cuba have been a key and often contentious component in U.S. efforts to isolate Cuba's communist government since the early 1960s. Under the George W. Bush

Administration, restrictions on travel and on private remittances to Cuba were tightened. In

March 2003, the Administration eliminated travel for people-to-people educational exchanges

unrelated to academic coursework. Under the Obama Administration, Congress took action in 2009 to ease some restrictions on travel to Cuba by including two provisions in the FY2009 omnibus appropriations measure (P.L. 111-8), which President Obama signed into law on March 11, 2009.

Full Text:

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/155003.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages].

Item#11AD586

MSRP Theme: 1E

Geo: WHA

Americans Living with Disability and Their Technology Profile. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Susannah Fox. January 21, 2011.

One in four American adults live with a disability that interferes with activities of daily living. Fifty-four percent of adults living with a disability use the internet, compared with 81% of adults who report none of the disabilities listed in the survey. Two percent of American adults say they have a disability or illness that makes it harder or impossible for them to use the internet.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2011/PIP_Disability.pdf [PDF format, 5 pages].

Item#11AD587

MSRP Theme: 14H, 12ICE

Geo: USA

Attitudes About Abortion. American Enterprise Institute. Karlyn Bowman. January 20, 2011.

In the thirty-eight years since the Supreme Court decided Roe v. Wade, pollsters have asked hundreds of questions about abortion. The study brings many of those questions together in one place. It shows how different pollsters have approached the subject.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/Abortion2011.pdf> [PDF format, 33 pages].

Item#11AD588

MSRP Theme: 12SI, 12ELG

Geo: USA

CLEAN Contracts: Making Clean Local Energy Accessible Now. Center for American Progress. Richard W. Caperton et al. January 2011.

For many reasons, it's time to change direction in America's energy use to rely on clean renewable energy, according to the paper. Renewable power reverses harmful environmental trends from global warming to local air pollution that hurts human health. But clean energy has many purely economic benefits as well. The paper looks at the one policy that has helped to bring more renewable electricity into the marketplace than any other: the Clean Local Energy Accessible Now, or CLEAN, contract, also known as a "feed-in tariff."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/01/pdf/clean_contracts.pdf [PDF format, 26 pages].

Item#11AD589

MSRP Theme: 4E, 14

Geo: USA

Cracking the Student Aid Code: Parent and Student Perspectives on Paying for College. College Board. January 18, 2011.

The study finds that early awareness and a simplified student aid process are key to navigating the federal financial aid system, especially at a time when U.S. students and their families face rising college prices and stagnant incomes. Based on extensive focus-group and survey research with parents and students, the study also finds that nearly half of the parent respondents did not know the cost of attending a public college in their home state, and only 44 percent of Latino parent respondents were aware of the Pell Grant program.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://advocacy.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/11b_3172_Cracking_Code_Update_WEB_110112.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages].

Item#11AD590

MSRP Theme: 12EDF

Geo: USA

Early Observations on Possible Defenses by the Emerging Threat Agent Project. RAND Corporation. Bruce W. Bennett et al. January 2011.

Adversaries could acquire emerging chemical and biological (CB) agents years before U.S. defense planners recognize those agents, and many more years before the United States establishes a comprehensive defense against them. Gaps in defenses against chemical and biological weapon agents can pose a serious risk to U.S. military operations. This paper summarizes early expert observations about the threat and possible responses.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/occasional_papers/2011/RAND_OP290.pdf [PDF format, 25 pages].

Item#11AD591

MSRP Theme: 01, 1D

Geo: USA

Economy Dominates Public's Agenda, Dims Hopes for the Future. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Andrew Kohut et al. January 20, 2011.

The public's policy agenda is again dominated by the economy and jobs with other major issues viewed as less important. Fully 87% say that strengthening the economy should be a top priority for the president and Congress and 84% rate improving the job situation as a top priority, by far the highest percentages among 22 issues tested.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/696.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

Item#11AD592

MSRP Theme: 12MJ, 12ELG

Geo: USA

Health Care Brawl: All or Nothing Doesn't Work. Urban Institute. C. Eugene Steuerle. January 21, 2011.

The ongoing debate over health reform at times almost appears like a sporting event, with Democrats and Republicans trying to name winners and losers in passing or repealing legislation. But in my Fiscal Times op-ed this week, I explain why, when it comes to health reform, this winner-take-all mentality misses a major point: government programs, whether well designed or poorly designed, need to work within budget constraints. While such constraints inevitably identify losers relative to an open-ended budget (which, like deficits, can hide the losers), they do lead to far better budget and health policy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.urban.org/publications/901401.html> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11AD593

MSRP Theme: 15B

Geo: USA

Misunderstanding Regarding State Debt, Pensions, and Retiree Health Costs Create Unnecessary Alarm. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Iris J. Lav and Elizabeth McNichol. January 20, 2011.

Unlike the projected operating deficits for fiscal year 2012, which require near-term solutions to meet states' and localities' balanced-budget requirements, longer-term issues related to bond indebtedness, pension obligations, and retiree health insurance — discussed more fully below — can be addressed over the next several decades. It is not appropriate to add these longer-term costs to projected operating deficits. Nor should the size and implications of

these longer-term costs be exaggerated, as some recent discussions have done. Such mistakes can lead to inappropriate policy prescriptions, say the authors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/1-20-11sfp.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

Item#11AD594

MSRP Theme: 12DEK

Geo: USA

Taking the Government Out of Housing Finance: Principles for Reforming the Housing Finance Market. American Enterprise Institute. Peter J. Wallison et al. January 20, 2011

The Institute's latest housing finance plan eliminates the need for government guarantees and permits the gradual elimination of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, according to the study.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/HousingFinance.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages].

Item#11AD595

MSRP Theme: 4F

Geo: USA

Unions and Upward Mobility for Asian American and Pacific Islander Workers. Center for Economic and Policy Research. John Schmitt et al. January 2011.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are, with Latinos, the fastest growing ethnic group in the U.S. workforce. In 2009, Asian American and Pacific Islanders were one of every 20 U.S. workers, up from one in 40 only 20 years earlier. AAPIs, again with Latinos, are also the fastest growing ethnic group in organized labor, accounting for just under one-in-20 unionized workers in 2009. Even after controlling for workers' characteristics including age, education level, industry, and state, unionized AAPI workers earn about 14.3 percent more than non-unionized AAPI workers with similar characteristics.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/unions-aapi-2011-01.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages].

Item#11AD596

MSRP Theme: 5I, 12DI

Geo: USA
