

American Corner

İzmir, Turkey

E-DOCS ALERT FY11 04

October 13, 2010

REPORTS

MONITORING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS: METRICS AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE HUMAN AND EARTH SYSTEMS. National Research Council. October 8, 2010.

The stresses associated with climate change are expected to be felt keenly as human population grows to a projected 9 billion by the middle of this century, increasing the demand for resources and supporting infrastructure. Therefore, information to assess vulnerabilities to climate change is needed to support policies and investments designed to increase resilience in human and Earth systems.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12965 [HTML format with links].

Item#11AD058
Global

MSRP Theme: 14B

Geo:

CHINA'S CHOKEHOLD ON RARE-EARTH MINERALS RAISE CONCERNS.
YaleGlobal. Michael Richardson. October 8, 2010.

Following a boating mishap in the East China Sea, China swiftly banned exports to Japan of rare-earth materials, essential in high-tech manufacturing. China holds the largest reserves of the minerals required to manufacture cell phones, smart bombs, wind turbines and other high-tech products. In recent months, industries reliant on rare earths have encountered increasing delays, quotas and price hikes amid heightened demand. China's official explanation for the slowdown mirrors reasons behind the end to US rare-earth mining – environmental degradation. In 1990, the US was the industry's dominant force, but because of costs, ceded control to China. In the light of China's increasing assertiveness in the global scene, its dominance in rare-earth reserves and processing has raised concerns about the future availability of materials needed for a range of critical industries – alternative energy, communications, transportation and defense.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/chinas-rare-earth-minerals> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11AD059
EAP

MSRP Theme: 05

Geo:

CHINA'S STEEL INDUSTRY AND ITS IMPACT ON THE UNITED STATES: ISSUES FOR CONGRESS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Rachel Tang. September 21, 2010.

China's steel industry has grown significantly since the mid-1990s. China is now the world's largest steelmaker and steel consumer. In 2009, China produced over 567 million tons of crude steel, nearly half of the world's steel. That was 10 times the U.S. production. The majority of Chinese steel has been used to meet domestic demand in China. However, as its steel production continues to grow, overcapacity is becoming a major concern to Chinese industrial policy makers, as well as steelmakers outside China. Although industry statistics indicate that the Chinese steel industry is not export-oriented, its consistently high output keeps U.S. steelmakers concerned that excess Chinese steel might overwhelm the global market once domestic demand is adequately met. These concerns become increasingly acute as the United States and the rest of the world are in the middle of a slow recovery from the economic recession started in December 2007.

Full Text:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41421.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

Item#11AD060
EAP

MSRP Theme: 05

Geo:

ONCE A WINNER, CHINA SEES GLOBALIZATION'S DOWNSIDE – PART I. YaleGlobal. David Dapice. October 11, 2010.

Globalization is a two-way street. Countries cannot endlessly send products out into the world and build up reserves without a push back, benefiting from the world without giving back something, the series. China's thriving economy depends on exports. By holding down the value of its currency, Beijing attracted foreign investors, reduced prices for global consumers and encouraged excess capacity, explains economist David Dapice. China angered its trade partners: Other nations, distraught about unemployment and eroding export markets, can no longer tolerate China's rising trade surplus and urge the export giant to lift currency controls. China had hoped for gradual currency revaluation, but other nations already counter China, adopting its strategy by devaluing their currencies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-sees-globalizations-downside-part-i> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11AD061
EAP

MSRP Theme: 04

Geo:

2020 EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY: ENSURING REAL AMBITION, REAL INTEGRATION AND REAL FINANCING. World Wildlife Fund. October 12, 2010.

Natural systems based on healthy biodiversity provide all kinds of services and benefits to us called ecosystem services, such as cooling and filtering the air; providing food, fibers, fuel, clean water, medicines and healthy soil; protection from floods and soil erosion; storing carbon and many more. The report, therefore, contends that the forthcoming 2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy is therefore not only crucial for the future of Europe's natural capital it is also crucial for the future of our social and economic development especially in the context of changing climate.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_eu_biodiversity_strategy_real_ambition_integration_finance.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages].

Item#11AD062
EUR

MSRP Theme: 14A

Geo:

THE DANGER OF DIVERGENCE: TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION ON FINANCIAL REFORM. Atlantic Council. October 6, 2010.

The report focuses on defining the major issues in financial regulation that demand transatlantic cooperation, and putting them in their global context. It analyzes the effects of proposed rules on the US and European economies, including the impact on the real economy and especially the business sector, and outlines concrete recommendations for policymakers.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/403/ACUS_TR_Danger_Divergence_Report.pdf [PDF format, 65 pages].

Item#11AD063
USA

MSRP Theme: 4F

Geo: EUR,

NEXT STEPS ON U.S.-RUSSIAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION. Brookings Institution. October 12, 2010.

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov described steps that Washington and Moscow could take to build on the substantial progress the two countries made on arms control and nuclear non-proliferation in the first half of 2010. Their ideas stem from a June meeting, in which Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) Director Alexander Dynkin and Brookings President Strobe Talbott also participated. In exchanges over the summer, they developed a joint paper with recommendations in four areas: steps to prepare for future negotiations on nuclear arms reductions after New START; principles for cooperation on missile defense; ideas for following up on the April nuclear security summit to secure all fissile material globally; and actions to strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation regime.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/10_nonproliferation_albright_talbott/10_nonproliferation_albright_talbott.pdf [PDF format, 9 pages].

Item#11AD064

MSRP Theme: 2F

Geo: EUR

FINDING MEANING IN THE EGYPTIAN ELECTIONS. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Michele Dunne and Amr Hamzawy. October 6, 2010.

The Egyptian parliamentary elections in 2010 and the presidential succession question offer a valuable opportunity to understand the regime's preferences on striking a balance between stability and the urgent need for reform.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=41673> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11AD065
NEA

MSRP Theme: 12EL

Geo:

PAKISTAN'S NEW GENERATION OF TERRORISTS. Council on Foreign Relations. Jayshree Bajoria. October 7, 2010.

Pakistan has emerged as a terrorist sanctuary for some of the world's most violent groups, including al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and homegrown militants, that threaten the stability of Pakistan as well as the region.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/15422/pakistans_new_generation_of_terrorists.html [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11AD066
SCA

MSRP Theme: 11C

Geo:

THE 21st –CENTURY MILITIA: STATE DEFENSE FORCES AND HOMELAND SECURITY. The Heritage Foundation. James Jay Carafano and Jessica Zuckerman. October 8, 2010.

State militias have helped to defend the United States since the Revolutionary War. Today, 23 states and territories have organized militias, most commonly known as State Defense Forces (SDFs). SDFs provide governors with a cost-effective, vital force multiplier and resource,

especially if state National Guard units are deployed out of state. However, in general, SDFs are underfunded and under supported. Some states at high risk for a natural or man-made disaster have not even created SDFs. The U.S. and its states can no longer afford to sideline these national security assets.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2010/pdf/bg2474.pdf [PDF format, 21 pages].

Item#11AD067
USA

MSRP Theme: 1K

Geo:

AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Dennis A. Shields and Ralph M. Chite. September 16, 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers several permanently authorized programs to help farmers recover financially from a natural disaster, including federal crop insurance, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), and emergency disaster loans. The federal crop insurance program is designed to protect crop producers from unavoidable risks associated with adverse weather, and weather-related plant diseases and insect infestations. Producers who grow a crop that is currently ineligible for crop insurance may be eligible for a direct payment under NAP. Under the emergency disaster (EM) loan program, when a county

has been declared a disaster area by either the President or the Secretary of Agriculture, agricultural producers in that county may become eligible for low-interest loans.

Full Text:

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS21212_20100916.pdf [PDF format, 11 pages].

Item#11AD068
USA

MSRP Theme: 5A

Geo:

AMERICAN JIHADIST TERRORISM: COMBATING A COMPLEX THREAT.
Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jerome P. Bjelopera and Mark A. Randol. September 20, 2010.

Between May 2009 and August 2010, arrests were made for 19 “homegrown,” jihadist-inspired terrorist plots by American citizens or legal permanent residents of the United States. Two of these resulted in attacks and produced 14 deaths. By comparison, in more than seven years from the September 11, 2001, terrorist strikes (9/11) through May 2009, there were 21 such plots. Two resulted in attacks, and no more than six plots occurred in a single year (2006). The apparent spike in such activity after May 2009 suggests that at least some Americans, even if a tiny minority, continue to be susceptible to ideologies supporting a violent form of jihad. The report describes homegrown violent jihadists and the plots and attacks that have occurred since 9/11.

Full Text:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/R41416.pdf> [PDF format, 128 pages].

Item#11AD069
USA

MSRP Theme: 11

Geo:

AUTHORITY OF STATE AND LOCAL POLICE TO ENFORCE FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Michael John Garcia and Kate M. Manuel. September 17, 2010.

The power to prescribe rules as to which aliens may enter the United States and which aliens may be removed resides solely with the federal government, and in particular with Congress. Concomitant to its exclusive power to establish rules which determine which aliens may enter and which may stay in the country, the federal government also has the power to sanction activities that subvert this system. Congress has defined our nation’s immigration laws in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), a comprehensive set of rules for legal immigration, naturalization, work authorization, and the entry and removal of aliens. These requirements are bolstered by an enforcement regime containing both civil and criminal provisions. Deportation and associated administrative processes related to the removal of aliens are civil

in nature, while certain violations of federal immigration law, such as smuggling unauthorized aliens into the country, carry criminal penalties.

Full Text:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/R41423.pdf> [PDF format, 23 pages].

Item#11AD070
USA

MSRP Theme: 08, 12RL

Geo:

CUTTING TO THE BONE: HOW THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AFFECTS SCHOOLS. Center for Public Education. October 7, 2010.

The report notes that public K-12 education usually is one of the last areas to face the budget axe, but most districts today are suffering from declines in both state and local funding. At the same time, many also face dramatic cost increases in areas ranging from utilities to pension funds, forcing school leaders to make tough decisions between balanced budgets and student needs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=1vIXIiN0JwE&b=6302113&ct=8736229¬oc=1> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11AD071

MSRP Theme: 12EDE

Geo: USA

AN ECONOMIC STRATEGY TO RENEW AMERICAN COMMUNITIES. The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution. Michael Greenstone and Adam Looney. October 13, 2010.

When hit by recessions or other economic shocks, some communities have persistently low rates of economic growth that cause them to fall behind the rest of the country. Communities that were disproportionately hit by the 1980–82 recessions still have not recovered and to this day have lower incomes, lower employment rates, and lower income growth than other areas. In addition to these negative economic effects, concentrated poverty may increase social problems like crime. To address this situation, the authors propose a three-pronged approach: attract businesses to distressed areas, invest in displaced workers, and match workers to jobs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/10_renew_communities_greenstone_looney/10_renew_communities_greenstone_looney.pdf [PDF format, 25 pages].

Item#11AD072
USA

MSRP Theme: 40

Geo:

EXPANDING APPRENTICESHIP: A WAY TO ENHANCE SKILLS AND CAREERS.
Urban Institute. Robert I. Lerman. Web posted October 8, 2010.

Apprenticeship is a time-honored method for preparing workers to master occupational skills and achieve career success. Young people reap many developmental benefits from engaging in apprenticeships. It is important to expand the scale of apprenticeship training to increase skills and help more workers enter rewarding careers. Despite substantial benefits, federal support for apprenticeship training is meager. Promoting more apprenticeship training will not only expand the effectiveness of education and training and enhance productivity, but it will also integrate many workers who prefer learning-by-doing and the earning-when-learning aspects of apprenticeship training.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/901384-Expanding-Apprenticeship.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

Item#11AD073
USA

MSRP Theme: 5I

Geo:

FOREIGN POLICY AND THE 2010 MIDTERMS: ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICY.
Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. October 8, 2010.

A possible transfer of political power in the congressional midterm elections could doom short-term chances for a comprehensive climate bill. But experts say climate issues could still be addressed through bills focused on clean energy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/23112/foreign_policy_and_the_2010_midterms.html [HTML format, various paging].

Item#10AD074
USA

MSRP Theme: 1E, 4E, 14B

Geo:

HARD WORK IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Hye Jin Rho. October 2010.

Recent economic turmoil has led state and local governments to seek new paths to offset budget shortfalls. Among other things, one widely discussed policy option is state employee pension reforms. These proposals seek to cut pension benefits, and, moreover, to increase the retirement age. State and local government employees generally are able to access full retirement benefits at a lower age than most other American workers, for whom the current age for eligibility for full Social Security benefits is 66 (and which will rise to 67 by 2027). Policymakers, however, must not overlook the fact that a large share of public sector workers are in physically strenuous jobs, says the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/older-workers-public-2010-10.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

Item#11AD075
USA

MSRP Theme: 12DEL

Geo:

LAGGING YOUTH ENTHUSIASM COULD HURT DEMOCRATS IN 2010. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. October 7, 2010.

Millennials continue to be among the strongest backers of Democratic candidates this fall, though their support for the Democratic Party has slipped since 2008. But young voters have given far less thought to the upcoming elections than have older voters, and this gap is larger than in previous midterms.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1759/young-voters-obama-democrats-2010-midterm-elections-lagging-enthusiasm> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11AD076
USA

MSRP Theme: 12ELD, 12SI

Geo:

REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE GULF LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP STUDY: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2010 WORKSHOP: WORKSHOP REPORT. Institute of Medicine. Lynn Goldman et al. October 8, 2010.

The Gulf of Mexico oil spill is unprecedented not only in its size but also in the use of chemical dispersants and controlled burns to remove the oil. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is designing a study to investigate the health effects on clean-up workers. The IOM held a workshop to review and comment on NIEHS's study protocol.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13025 [HTML format with links].

Item#11AD077
USA

MSRP Theme: 14K, 15

Geo:

THE ROLE OF FAITH IN THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT. Center for American Progress.

Marta Cook and John Halpin. October 8, 2010.

There have historically been two primary strands of progressive thought concerning the proper relationship between faith and politics, one secular and the other emerging directly from religious social values. Secular progressive thought, associated with Enlightenment liberalism, is skeptical about particular religious claims in a pluralistic society, and insistent upon keeping religion out of politics and politics out of religion. Prominent American liberals such as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, among others, strongly advocated freedom of conscience, religious tolerance, and strict separation of church and state as represented in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This classical liberalism placed a premium on rationality, self-determination, and personal morality above faith, church authority, and public morality. It looked to establish a constitutional order in America that would prevent the merging of religion and government that was prevalent in Europe.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/10/pdf/progressive_traditions6.pdf [PDF format, 18 pages].

Item#11AD078
USA

MSRP Theme: 12CSF

Geo:

SMART MOBILITY FOR A 21st CENTURY AMERICA. Transportation for America. October 2010.

The report from four leading transportation organizations demonstrates how existing and emerging technologies can squeeze more capacity from over-burdened highways, help commuters avoid traffic delays and expand and improve transportation options, all while saving money and creating jobs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.itsa.org/itsa/files/pdf/ITS-White-Paper-100710-FINAL.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].

Item#11AD079
USA

MSRP Theme: 5C

Geo:

SUPPORT FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE EDGES UPWARD. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. October 6, 2010.

Polls this year have found that more Americans favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally than did so just last year. In two polls conducted over the past few months, based on interviews with more than 6,000 adults, 42% favor same-sex marriage while 48% are opposed. In polls conducted in 2009, 37% favored allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally and 54% were opposed. For the first time in 15 years of Pew Research Center polling, fewer than half oppose same-sex marriage

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/662.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages].

Item#11AD080

MSRP Theme: 12ELG

Geo: USA

SUSTAINING AMERICA'S URBAN TREES AND FORESTS. U.S. Department of Agriculture. David J. Nowalk et al. Web posted October 7, 2010.

Close to 80 percent of the U.S. population (220 million people) lives in urban areas and depends on the essential ecological, economic, and social benefits provided by urban trees and forests. However, the distribution of urban tree cover and the benefits of urban forests vary across the United States, as do the challenges of sustaining this important resource. As urban areas expand across the country, the importance of the benefits that urban forests provide, as well as the challenges to their conservation and maintenance, will increase. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the current status and benefits of America's urban forests, compare differences in urban forest canopy cover among regions, and discuss challenges facing urban forests and their implications for urban forest management.

Full Text:

http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/fote/reports/nrs-62_sustaining_americas_urban.pdf [PDF format, 28 pages].

Item#11AD081
USA

MSRP Theme: 14, 12PAD

Geo:
