

IN THIS ISSUE

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

* To reflect activities in the next issue of HECANET send information to heca@who.int

- (1) HECA Developments**
- (2) Children's Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI)**
- (3) World Health Assembly**
- (4) Sustainable Bioenergy: A Framework for Decision Makers UN-Energy Report**
- (5) IPCC and Climate Change report**
- (6) Workshop on Children's Environmental Health. Port-au Prince, Haiti. 3-6 June 2007**
- (7) 4th International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment and CEHI roundtable. Vienna, Austria. 10 - 12 June 2007**
- (8) CEHAPE Intergovernmental Midterm Review (IMR). Vienna, Austria. 13 - 15 June 2007**
- (9) World Day Against Child Labour: Child Labour in Agriculture. 12 June 2007**
- (10) Green week: Lessons from the past, challenges for the future. Brussels, Belgium. 12-15 June 2007**
- (11) 10th International Congress on Combustion By-Products and their Health Effects. Ischia, Italy. 17-20 June 2007**
- (12) Conference Regulating Chemical Risks: Science, Politics and the Media. Stockholm, Sweden. 15-17 August 2007 in Stockholm**
- (13) Tunza International Youth Conference 2007. Leverkusen, Germany. 8 - 12 September 2007**
- (14) Best Practice Use for Indoor Residual Spraying with DDT for Malaria Control. Baltimore, Maryland, USA. 14-15 September 2007**
- (15) 9th International HCH and Pesticides Forum for Central and Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia Countries. Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. 20-22 September 2007**
- (16) 14th International Symposium on Environmental Pollution and its Impact on Life in the Mediterranean Region with focus on Environment and Health. Seville, Spain. 10-14 October 2007**
- (17) 12th PBC International Conference. Beijing, China. 26-29 October 2007.**
- (18) The Interface of Chemistry and Biology in the "Omics" Era: Environment & Health and Drug Discovery. Bangkok, Thailand. 25-29 November 2007**
- (19) International Year of Sanitation. Preparatory Meeting. New York, U.S. 7 May 2007.**
- (20) First United Nations Global Road Safety Week. Geneva, Switzerland. 23-29 April 2007**
- (21) Stopping children's chemical contamination: a joint HEAL/WECF workshop. Bratislava, Slovakia. 16 April 2007**
- (22) Water and Youth. Buenos Aires, Argentina. 12-14 April 2007.**
- (23) International Environmental Nursing Meeting. Chicago, U.S. 5 April 2007.**

- (24) Activities of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) and Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente (AAMMA)**
- (25) Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety news**
- (26) EPA's 2007 Children's Environmental Health Awards and other EPA activities on children's environmental health**
- (27) Program on Children's Environmental Health. Buenos Aires, Argentina.**
- (28) CHE Toxicant and Disease Database**
- (29) Water Information System for Europe**
- (30) National Children's Study: News**
- (31) Pesticide Safety and Childbearing for Latina Farmworkers**
- (32) Coalition for Mercury-free Drugs**
- (33) Legacy of disasters: The impact of climate change on children**

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

Articles in this issue refer to indoor air pollution and deal with how promoting fuel-efficient and cleaner technologies can reduce impacts on health. Air pollution levels are alarming in Hong Kong, where radical measures are being considered. As smog is reduced, dangerous soot particles are rising in the Eastern U.S. Switching from gasoline to ethanol might create dirtier air. Health risks of urban air pollution combined with smoking appear to be very severe. The possible benefits of nicotine replacement treatment during pregnancy are revisited, as smoking during pregnancy may affect, among other developmental events, speech-processing ability in newborns. In the chemicals section, scientists tested the effects of artificial colouring on children's behaviour, EPA agrees to cut lead in kids' products. Regarding pesticides, articles cite DDT as not the most effective way to fight malaria. In the Mercury section, China is blamed for Korea's mercury pollution. Many articles address global change and its effects on human health, including allergies and asthma, specially on the most vulnerable populations. In reproductive health, an EHP article explores the fetal origins of obesity, specially the links with chemicals. There may be a relationship between fetal deaths and proximity to waste sites. Two very interesting articles from the Pediatric Clinics of North America: one deals with cancer incidence and its links with environment; the other one with medical laboratory investigation of children's environmental health.

In the Americas, Uruguay suffers the impact of severe floods, Canada raises pesticides' limits and dengue is spreading in the continent. In other regions, New Caledonia tribes live among asbestos and health hazards from polluted sites threaten Iraq. In Africa, the environment is threatened by urban growth and floods have serious consequences for Rwanda. Finally, in Europe, the UK is trying to turn secondary schools "green", while a new alert is raised over pesticides found in the fruits given to schoolchildren. Parts of Russia are accused of producing acid rain.

Summaries of articles grouped under the following themes appear below, with links to their full texts:

- (1) AIR POLLUTION: (a) Indoor air pollution (b) Outdoor air pollution (c) Environmental Tobacco Smoke/Smoking**
 - (2) CHEMICALS: (a) General, (b) Lead, (c) Pesticides, (d) Mercury**
 - (3) WATER AND SANITATION**
 - (4) GLOBAL CHANGE**
 - (5) REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**
 - (6) MISCELLANEOUS (a) General (b) Americas (c) Asia (d) Africa (e) Europe (f) Oceania**
-

Healthy Environments for Children Alliance (HECA) is a world-wide alliance to reduce environmental risks to children's health that arise from the settings where they live, learn, play, and sometimes work, by providing knowledge, increasing political will, mobilizing resources, and catalysing intense and urgent action.

HECANET is an international mailing list dedicated to promoting healthy environments for children. The list provides updates on the activities of the Healthy Environments for Children Alliance (HECA) and its members, as well as an overview of media coverage of children's environmental health issues and relevant meetings, research findings and information and advocacy resources.

** [Past Issues](#)*

** [Subscribe](#)*

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

(1) HECA Developments

For more information on HECA's latest developments, please visit the Healthy Environments for Children Alliance website: <http://www.who.int/heca/en/>
International Network to Promote Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage: http://www.who.int/household_water/en/

(2) Children's Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI) Newsletter

The CEHI Newsletter has been set up to engage partners with the Global Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI). It aims to provide up-to-date information on relevant global, regional and national indicator activities.

To sign up to the newsletter, to contribute information or to find out more, please visit the website [WHO | Children's environmental health indicators newsletter \(CEHI\)](#) or contact: cehindicators@who.int

(3) World Health Assembly

The [World Health Assembly](#) is the supreme decision-making body for WHO. It meets once a year and is attended by delegations from all of WHO's 192 Member States. Its main function is to determine the policies of the Organization. It also appoints the Director-General and supervises the financial policies of the Organization. This year, the Assembly will review the Proposed Programme Budget for 2006-2007. Other issues to be discussed include the revision of the International Health Regulations and a draft global immunization strategy.

WHO's [Department of Public Health and Environment](#) (PHE) and the [Tobacco Free Initiative](#) (TFI) organized a joint briefing session "Tobacco in the Workplace", on 15 May, from 18h:00 to 19h:30, in Room XII at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Another technical briefing on "Global Health Security" took place at the Palais on 16 May, from 13:00 to 14:30. On 21 May, from 13:00 to 14:30 there will be another technical briefing session entitled: "WHO Global Plan of Action against Cancer". On the same day, from 18h:00 to 19h:30, also at the Palais, PHE organizes a technical briefing session on "Health Protection from Climate Change".

Attendants at the WHA are invited to visit the "Health and Environment" photo exhibition from 14 to 23 May, in the Passerelle area on the 3rd floor at the Palais, to pick up a free postcard at the PHE stand, and to view the screening of the videos of the 2007 Photo and Video Contest "Images of Health and Disability" contest, at either the PHE stand, in the Serpentine area, or the ICF stand, Salle des Pas Perdus . To see the list of winners, and special mentions of this year's photo and video contest; the photographs and videos in ranking order; and to have background information on the overall contest please go to www.who.int/phe and <http://www.who.int/classifications/apps/icf/photocontest/>.

(4) Sustainable Bioenergy: A Framework for Decision Makers UN-Energy Report

This [paper](#) on sustainable bioenergy was drafted collectively by UN-Energy members, which include all of the UN agencies, programmes, and organizations working in the area of energy, reflecting their insights and expertise. It is intended to contribute to international discussions on the strategies and policies needed to ensure economic, sustainable, and equitable development of bioenergy in the years ahead.

It points to key social, economic, and ecological sustainability issues raised by the rapid development of bioenergy in both small- and large-scale applications. It encompasses the entire bioenergy food chain, from production to use, with the goal of providing a framework for decision-makers who are considering adopting new policies or launching new investments in the bioenergy sector. It is not designed to provide prescriptive measures, but rather to identify areas that require priority attention at the national and international levels.

This publication encompasses all bioenergy systems but focuses in particular on modern bioenergy, which includes liquid biofuels, biogas, and solid biomass for heat and power generation. Traditional use of bioenergy, in the form of inefficient direct combustion, is prevalent in many poor rural regions but is not the primary focus of this document. Because of rapidly increasing attention to liquid biofuels, this paper discusses these in more detail than other forms of bioenergy.

(5) IPCC and Climate Change report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been established by WMO and UNEP to assess scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant for the understanding of climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. It is currently finalizing its Fourth Assessment Report "Climate Change 2007", also referred to as AR4. The reports by the three Working Groups provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the current state of knowledge on climate change. The Synthesis Report integrates the information around six topic areas

The Working Group I contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report describes progress in understanding of the human and natural drivers of climate change, observed climate change, climate processes and attribution, and estimates of projected future climate change. It builds upon past IPCC assessments and incorporates new findings from the past six years of research. The Summary for Policymakers for IPCC Working Group II has now been posted in English at www.ipcc.ch The chapters in the full underlying report, "Climate Change 2007: Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability", will be posted as PDFs in the next several days and will then be published by Cambridge University Press.

(6) Workshop on Children's Environmental Health. Port-au Prince, Haïti. 3-6 June 2007

A Workshop on children's Environmental Health will be held at the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on 3-6 June. It is organized by the Haitian Pediatric Association, the International Pediatric Association and WHO. Selected modules from the WHO Training Package for the Health Sector on children's environmental health will be presented. Modules presented will include: "Lead", "Why children?", "Children are not little adults", "Fetal Origins of disease", "Pesticides", "Water", "POPs", "Pediatric Environmental History", "Indoor Air Pollution", among others. Over 70 regional pediatricians are expected to participate.

(7) 4th International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment and CEHI roundtable. Vienna, Austria. 10 - 12 June 2007

4th International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment. Vienna, Austria. 10 to 12 June 2007. For more information, please go to <http://www.inchesnetwork.net> or send an email to inches@umit.at

CEHI Roundtable Session at the International Conference of Children's Health and the Environment INCHEs. Roundtable theme "Children's Environmental Health Indicators - Shaping Priorities for Action"

Background: Following the launch of the Global Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Indicators (CEHI) at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 and spearheaded by the Office of Children's Health Protection (USEPA), WHO has been coordinating the development and implementation of this initiative. CEHI has welcomed

contributions from all over the world to help improve the assessment of children's health, monitor the effects of interventions and to report on the state of children's environmental health.

Aim: The aim of the CEHI roundtable is to share experience on the development and reporting on children's environmental health indicators, learn from partners' lessons and agree on future directions towards a harmonized approach to information support of relevant interventions.

Specific objectives of the roundtable include: To report on the status and progress on CEHI development and reporting in Europe, Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean Region, North America and South America; To review and take stock of different implementation mechanisms and experience across regions; To recommend future directions on CEHI and exchange mechanism among relevant regional and national initiatives. For further information, please contact: cehindicators@who.int

(8) CEHAPE Intergovernmental Midterm Review (IMR). Vienna, Austria. 13 - 15 June 2007

The CEHAPE [Intergovernmental Midterm Review](#) (IMR) will be held in Vienna on 13-15 June 2007.

(9) World Day Against Child Labour: Child Labour in Agriculture. 12 June 2007

This year on 12 June, [World Day Against Child Labour](#) focuses on the elimination of child labour in agriculture. Worldwide, agriculture is the sector where the largest percentage of working children is found - nearly 70 percent. Over 132 million girls and boys aged 5 to 14 years old often work from sun up to sun down on farms and plantations, planting and harvesting crops, spraying pesticides, and tending livestock.

Child labour, according to International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions, is work that harms children's well-being and hinders their education, development and future livelihoods. When children have to work long hours in the fields, their ability to attend school or skills training is limited, preventing them from gaining education that could help lift them out of poverty in the future. Girls are particularly disadvantaged as they often undertake household chores following work in the fields. Moreover, agriculture is one of the three most dangerous occupations to work in along with mining and construction, in terms of fatalities, accidents and ill health.

(10) Green week: Lessons from the past, challenges for the future. Brussels, Belgium. 12-15 June 2007

[Green Week 2007](#) will take place in Brussels, Belgium from 12 to 15 June 2007.

(11) 10th International Congress on Combustion By-Products and their Health Effects. Ischia, Italy. 17-20 June 2007

The [10th International Congress on Combustion By-Products and their Health Effects](#) will be held in Ischia, Italy from 17 to 20 June 2007.

(12) Conference Regulating Chemical Risks: Science, Politics and the Media. Stockholm, Sweden. 15-17 August 2007 in Stockholm

The [conference](#) addresses regulation of chemicals and particularly the risks associated with them. The growing number and global diffusion of both chemicals themselves and regulation of chemicals imply a tremendous challenge for both research and policy. In Europe the most recent development of this is the emergence of the REACH programme of the European Union. Global developments are also of considerable interest however, and regulation on the national level is still very diverse. The multidisciplinary nature of understanding and meeting this challenge is reflected in the conference, which welcomes contributions from both natural and social science. The conference is open for both academics and practitioners, including people representing the media, industry, government and NGOs. Although the geographical focus is on the development in Europe, observations from other parts of the world that are useful for comparative analysis are greatly appreciated. The conference is organized by the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEES) at Södertörn University College in collaboration with Karolinska Institutet and the Royal Institute of Technology.

(13) Tunza International Youth Conference 2007. Leverkusen, Germany. 8 - 12 September 2007

Tunza International Youth Conference in Leverkusen, Germany. 8 to 12 September 2007. For more information on the Conference and to submit a nomination from your organization please go to <http://www.unep.org/tunza/youthconference>

(14) Best Practice Use for Indoor Residual Spraying with DDT for Malaria Control. Baltimore, Maryland, USA. 14-15 September 2007

The Johns Hopkins Center for Global Health, The Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute, and the Bloomberg School of Public Health, in collaboration with the WHO, are currently planning a consensus meeting on Best Practice Use for Indoor Residual Spraying with DDT for Malaria Control. You are invited to participate in an international body to review current usage of DDT in malaria control programs and establish a set of Best Practice Methods for its safe and effective use. For more information, please contact Melissa Riedesel at mriedes1@jhmi.edu

(15) 9th International HCH and Pesticides Forum for Central and Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia Countries. Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. 20-22 September 2007

The Forum will have as its theme "Obsolete Pesticides in Central and Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asia Region: Start of clean up". Organizers include: International HCH & Pesticides Association (IHPA), The Netherlands; Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, The Republic of Moldova; Federal Environment Agency of Germany (UBA); Regional Environmental Centre for Moldova (REC Moldova); Milieukontakt International, The

Netherlands. Main topics include: Stockholm Convention state and implementation: barriers and opportunities; Monitoring and risk assessment of pesticides in environmental components and human bodies; Practical experience in waste management and destruction technologies; Sites remediation; How to prevent pesticides stockpiles today and tomorrow; Public participation in Moldova and EECCA countries related to pesticides stockpiles issue. For more information: www.hchforum.com and www.moldovapops.md

(16) 14th International Symposium on Environmental Pollution and its Impact on Life in the Mediterranean Region with focus on Environment and Health. Seville, Spain. 10 - 14 October 2007

14th International Symposium on Environmental Pollution and its Impact on Life in the Mediterranean Region with focus on Environment and Health. Seville, Spain. 10 to 14 October 2007. For more information, please go to <http://www.mesaep.net/symp2007/first.html>

(17) 12th PBC International Conference. Beijing, China. 26-29 October 2007.

The Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health Sciences (PBC) will hold its [12th International Conference](#) in Beijing, China 26-29 October, 2007. The primary objectives of the conference are to: Present research related to characterization and sources of environmental pollutants, human exposure to pollutants, and the health effects of exposure; Describe the latest advances in reducing the generation of hazardous chemical pollutants, methods for destroying or capturing them, and technology for the remediation of contaminated soils, hazardous wastes and contaminated groundwater; Promote an understanding of the role of greenhouse gas emissions in causing climate change and periodic catastrophic events, methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with consideration of the health effects of global warming; Increase interdisciplinary and international cooperation in understanding and addressing threats to human and environmental health in the region, with a special emphasis on ensuring that lessons learned in the development process by industrialized countries are passed on to countries currently in the midst of rapid industrialization; Situate discussion of reducing risks to human and environmental health within a larger context which addresses issues of equity, poverty, development and sustainability; Encourage student participation in interdisciplinary sciences that contribute to the protection of health and the environment; and offer training opportunities in areas related to protection of health and the environment to professionals in developing nations of the Pacific Basin.

(18) The Interface of Chemistry and Biology in the “Omics” Era: Environment & Health and Drug Discovery. Bangkok, Thailand. 25-29 November 2007

The Princess Chulabhorn International Science Congress Program was initiated by Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn to provide a forum for the exchange of the latest information and the most recent advances in research among the international scientific community. Under this program, international congresses on selected topics in science and technology are organized every 4 - 5 years.

The completion of the Human Genome Project at the turn of the century has revealed the blueprint of human beings at the molecular and cellular levels. This breakthrough has opened up the opportunity of improving quality of life in many aspects, such as human health and drug discovery, areas in which the interface between chemistry and biology has become increasingly important. In many fields of research, chemical strategies have been employed in the investigation of biological problems. Numerous research tools and cutting-edge technologies of the “Omics” era from various fields have been developed to tackle various chemical and biological problems in a comprehensive manner. The resulting knowledge from integrative chemical/biological investigations has enormous potential to provide essential information for the design of small molecules to interact with enzymes, hormone receptors, biological transporters, lipid membranes or nucleic acids, as well as to improve understanding of disease, from both a biological and etiological perspective. In addition, effects of drugs and environmental toxicants on biological systems can be evaluated through this essential interface of chemistry and biology.

The Sixth Princess Chulabhorn International Science Congress - “[The Interface of Chemistry and Biology in the ‘Omics’ Era](#)” is organized as a forum that will highlight how linkages between these areas of research contribute to the treatment and prevention of diseases in the global population. The significance of fast-growing interdisciplinary research, spanning work from the level of the molecule to the whole body system will be brought into focus on 2 main themes: Environment and Health, and Drug Discovery. Developments in both of these areas are catalyzed by “Innovative Technology”, a sub-theme that will cut across the two main themes. It is expected that the interface of chemistry and biology in the “Omics” era will result in an increased knowledge and understanding necessary for extending this exciting new frontier of science. The Congress will be held from 25-29 November 2007 at the Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, to commemorate the 80th birthday celebration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, an auspicious occasion for the people of Thailand to celebrate and pay tribute to His Majesty the King. This marks a time of national joy and jubilation, which all scientists are invited to share.

(19) International Year of Sanitation. Preparatory Meeting. New York, U.S. 7 May 2007.

A preparatory meeting for the International Year of Sanitation (IYS) 2008 was held on 7 May 2007 at the UNICEF House in New York, co-hosted by UNICEF, UNSGAB and UN-DESA. This meeting was chaired by His Royal Highness, Prince of Orange Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, the Chair of the UN Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. The all-day meeting brought together representatives from various sectors such as non-governmental organizations, donor agencies, academia, governments, and development banks. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon attended the closing session of the meeting, where he was presented with the outcomes of the discussions and the agreed draft objectives for IYS.

Panellists explored ways to highlight the importance of sanitation and of meeting the sanitation MDG. Discussions focused on what must be achieved in the International Year of Sanitation and beyond. Participants also agreed on unified objectives in order for all stakeholders and various sectors to take concerted actions to help solve this silent crisis. Representatives agreed on a set of ‘Objectives of the IYS’ to articulate a set of priority outcomes for 2008.

More information at http://www.unsgab.org/top_page.htm or www.unicef.org

(20) First United Nations Global Road Safety Week. Geneva, Switzerland. 23-29 April 2007

World Youth Assembly discusses road safety issues. Young people from more than 100 countries adopted the [Youth Declaration for Road Safety](#). It was adopted by 400 delegates to the first World Youth Assembly for Road Safety, being held in Geneva, Switzerland. They committed to take practical measures to improve road safety and called on adults to play their part as parents and leaders

(21) Stopping children's chemical contamination: a joint HEAL/WECF workshop. Bratislava, Slovakia. 16 April 2007

The Health and Environment Alliance and Women in Europe for a Common Future jointly held a workshop on the effects of chemicals on children's health on 16 April in Bratislava. The event was organized in the context of the European Public Health Alliance international conference "Health in the Enlarged EU" which brought together around 150 participants from old and new EU Member States.

The HEAL/WECF workshop aimed at: raising awareness of the health effects of chemical contamination and latest scientific evidence, focusing on the special vulnerability of children; building knowledge on the EU and Pan-European political and legislative frameworks on chemicals and pesticides; getting feedback from participants on perceptions of chemical contamination in new Member States; sharing ideas, knowledge and experience; and providing policy recommendations on the EU Health Strategy. Finally, the group discussed and agreed on recommendations for the EU Health Strategy. The final report, presentations and recommendations can be found at <http://www.env-health.org/a/2505>

(22) Water and Youth. Buenos Aires, Argentina. 12-14 April 2007.

Every year, unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation contribute to the deaths of more than 1.5 million children under the age of five from diarrhoea. Hundreds of millions more are held back by water-borne illnesses that undermine their strength and ability to learn. Reaching MDG Target 10 – to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015 – depends on better access and support for the local actions of children and young people as partners in development.

The Water and Youth 1st International Meeting, 'Affirming the Right to Water', was held on 12-14 April 2007 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Nearly 400 young people from all over the world participated in this event. The aim of this meeting is to promote a new dialogue between youth and representatives of public authorities, both from local, national and international levels. This meeting enabled participants to exchange experiences and strategies to ensure better involvement and youth representation in the decision-making process. A second meeting is planned during the International Expo in Zaragoza, Spain, in 2008. More information at www.waterandyouth.org

(23) International Environmental Nursing Meeting. Chicago, U.S. 5 April 2007.

On 5 April 2007 in Chicago, USA, a group of environmental health nursing experts met together with international nursing organizations and representatives of international public health and children's environmental health networks at the regional office of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Representatives from EPA included an environmental health nursing specialist, environmental health communications coordinator and the international coordinator for the region. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the creation of the global nursing network in environmental health, to identify available resources (human and material), and needs for nurses to develop capacity globally in environmental health nursing.

Presentations were heard from the WHO Department of Public Health and Environment, International Council of Nursing (organized for over 100 years with 129 national nursing association members worldwide), World Federation of Public Health Associations (with 60 chapters worldwide), director of the Chicago site of the network of North American Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs), the Director of the Environmental Health Education Center at the University of Maryland School of Nursing (a graduate programme in environmental health nursing), and Health Care Without Harm (over 400 member organizations in 52 countries).

Follow-up plans include a panel presentation at the INCHEM conference in Vienna in June 2007 about the role of nurses in PEHSUs and an expanded global planning meeting with nursing leaders at the WHO in spring 2008.

(24) Activities of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) and Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente (AAMMA)

ISDE Resolution on Nuclear Energy

http://201.216.215.170/isde.org/images/pdf/isde_resolution_onnuclearenergyv17march2007.pdf

Award: ISDE Austria together with the Health and Environment Alliance are organizing a "best practice award" to select the best projects in the European Region that support the Children Health and Environment Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE). The 5 best projects will be awarded EUR 1000 each during the inter-ministerial midterm review (IMR) in Vienna (June 13-15 this year). The award is financially supported by the Austrian government. The CEHAPE Best Practice Award will be officially announced in Vienna on 13 June during the Intergovernmental Mid Term Review of the Environment and Health Process for Europe. For more information, please contact Marta Koltay at marta@env-health.org

III Workshop of International Academy of Environmental Sciences (IAES) "Climate Change in the 21st Century – Future Prospects on Our Planet's Health: Scientific and Political Programmes and Initiatives". Venice, Italy. 19 May 2007. This workshop will be achieved with the collaboration of ISDE. Questions raised will include: "what is the current situation?"; "what is the "danger level" of the sea?"; "what are the causes of the problem?"; "what are the future directions?"; "what scientific and political initiatives can be undertaken to prevent a major disaster?". Argentinean participants include Dr. Osvaldo Canziani (IPCC Coordinator), Eng.

Diana Carrero (AAMMA expert on environmental technologies), Lilian Corra (AAMMA expert on environmental health effects). Program available at: www.isde.org (Italian and English).

Postgraduate degree 2007 " Health and Environment" - Health Impact of Environmental Changes. Coordinated by AAMMA and organized by: Institute for Human Health and Development, Asociación de Médicos Municipales de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires. Main topics: state of the world; effects of environmental changes on health and ecosystems; global change: climate change, vector-borne diseases; chemical safety: chemicals in the environment: lead, mercury, POPs, endocrine disruptors; intellectual robbers; waste management and health implications; environmental health justice. Field trips are planned. Full program available at www.aamma.org (Spanish only)

Project SANA Profile: "Measuring the Environmental Impact on Children's Health in the Southern Cone" Buenos Aires, Argentina. 23-27 April 2007. Several participants attended this series of meetings, including: AAMMA, Argentine Ministry of Health, Secretary of Environment, Argentine Society of Pediatrics (SAP), National University of Misiones, Canadian Institute of Child Health (CICH); Health Canada, University of Ottawa. This project is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The project outcomes include: A better understanding by all the stakeholders, general public and academia of the links between environment and children's health in Argentina; Demonstrations of successful programs through case studies in the field and interventions implemented; Experience in multi-sectoral participation, building cooperation between different stakeholders (governments, academia, scientific societies, NGOs and civil society working together on CEH); A transfer of the Canadian experience to Argentinean partners, related to building a National CEH profile, resulting in an increased capacity to protect children from environmental hazards; The development of an ongoing system(s) of data collection and communication; The cooperation and development of a profile in children's environmental health in Argentina. For more information: www.aamma.org

Training for Health Care Providers on Children's Health and Environment. Montevideo, Uruguay, 18 April 2007. Organized by AAMMA, ISDE Latin America (ISDE LA), the International Research and Information Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES), the Uruguayan Society of Pediatrics (SUP), and the Uruguayan School of Medicine (Toxicology Department). This workshop was part of the project: "Building Children's Environmental Health Capacity for Health Care Professionals in Canada and in the Southern Cone Countries of Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay" - Workshop for Master Trainers on CEH. The activity was developed under the project lead by CICH Canadian Institute for Child Health (CICH) and AAMMA - ISDE with EPA support. The project provides training to Master trainers (health care professionals) in Canada, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile aiming at capacity-building activities to prevent environmentally related diseases in children. The WHO Training Package for the Health Sector on CEH was used. Program available: www.aamma.org (Spanish).

Prevention of Environmental Diseases and Pediatric Environmental History. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 11 April 2007. Course under the National Network of Continued Education, Argentinean Pediatric Society. More than 40 pediatricians attended this course organized by the

Argentinean Society of Pediatrics where AAMMA and ISDE.LA. were invited to present the topic “Chemical Safety: Prevention of Environmental Diseases and Pediatric Environmental History”.

Sustainable Hospitals: Implementation of ISO 14.001 in the CEMIC (Centro de Educación Médica e Investigaciones Clínicas) University Hospital "Norberto Quirno". Buenos Aires, Argentina. 30 March 2007. This workshop aimed at spreading to institutions and nearby communities (neighbours, health professionals and decision makers) the implementation of the System of Environmental Management in the CEMIC University Hospital. The CEMIC Hospital developed a system of environmental management in order to control and to minimize the environmental impacts of the hospital. In 2005 the CEMIC University Hospital turned into the first hospital of Argentina that certified the norm ISO 14001:2004 that rules environmental management. AAMMA and ISDE Latin America (ISDE.LA) have collaborated for many years with CEMIC and were invited to make a presentation on “Environment and Health: The Hospital to the Community”. The program available at: www.aamma.org (Spanish).

Workshop “To understand the Stockholm Convention”. Mar del Plata, Argentina, 23 March 2007. AAMMA and ISDE.LA were invited by the Foundation BIO to present: “POPs and health effects”. Over 100 participants attended this workshop and a Cd is freely available by request. Representatives of the Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development also presented the National Implementation Plan on POPs Convention. For more information: <http://www.ambiente.gov.ar/?idseccion=21>

Workshop on " Chemical Safety and Public Health " and the National Plan of Implementation the Stockholm Convention on POPs. Reconquista, Santa Fé, Argentina. March 2007. Organized by AAMMA / ISDE.LA and INCHES, the Chemical Unit of the Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina and the National Tech. University (UTN, Reconquista). With 80 participants (decision makers, teachers, health professionals from environment and production sectors), the meeting included presentations and discussions on the local situation and possible actions to be taken to implement the Stockholm Convention at the local level with an interdisciplinary approach. More information and report available: www.aamma.org (Spanish).

(25) Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety news

The Forum Standing Committee (FSC) has initiated its work to guide the process of developing materials and documents for Forum VI. A survey was conducted to obtain input on possible topics for the agenda for [Forum VI](#) and proposals are being prepared by lead sponsors/working groups on nanoparticles/nanomaterials/nanotechnology, lead and cadmium, and substitution and alternatives. Poverty reduction, widening gap, the special vulnerability of children and illegal traffic will be taken into consideration as cross cutting issues. Ecologically sound and integrated pest and vector management, precaution (sharing experiences in implementation) and OHS are topics that are also under consideration. Proposal will be considered in detail at the FSC meeting in June 2007.

(26) EPA's 2007 Children's Environmental Health Awards and other EPA activities on children's environmental health

[EPA's 2007 Children's Environmental Health Awards](#). Applications for the 3rd annual Children's Environmental Health Excellence Awards are available, and applications are due June 15th. For more information, please contact Carolyn Hubbard at hubbard.carolyn@epa.gov

[Chemical Management Resource Guide for School Administrators](#). This practical guide can help your school reduce the use of dangerous chemicals and install safer chemical management practices. It is aimed especially at helping school administrators to set policies that protect against dangerous chemical exposures. It is also aimed at helping parents and concerned citizens to determine if their children's schools are minimizing potential exposure to dangerous chemicals. Included is the "HealthySEAT" tool developed for schools by EPA to address chemical management and other environmental, safety and health issues.

[The Next Decade of Children's Environmental Health Protection](#). On April 26, 2007, leaders in children's environmental health shared their ideas about how to protect children over the next 10 years. This 90-minute presentation and Webcast was sponsored by EPA, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Speakers included: Drs. Howard Frumkin, Director, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, CDC; Dr. William H. Sanders III Acting Director, U.S. EPA Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education; Carol M. Browner, Principal, The Albright Group LLC, former EPA Administrator and founder of children's environmental health at EPA; Dr. Edward B. Clark, Chair, Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah, Principal Investigator for the Salt Lake County Vanguard Center for the National Children's Study; Susan West Marmagas, Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee; and Peggy M. Shepard, Executive Director and Co-Founder, WE ACT for Environmental Justice. A video of the event will be posted on the website soon.

(27) Program on Children's Environmental Health. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Ministry of Health of the City of Buenos Aires is implementing the "Program on Children Environmental Health" which promotes the creation of CEH Centres in the Hospitals in or around the city of Buenos Aires. For more information, please go to http://www.buenosaires.gov.ar/areas/leg_tecnica/boletines/20070125.htm#28

(28) CHE Toxicant and Disease Database

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) [Toxicant and Disease Database](#) is a searchable database that summarizes links between chemical contaminants and approximately 180 human diseases or conditions. Diseases and or toxicants can be viewed by clicking on the diseases below or by utilizing the search engine in the column on the right.

(29) Water Information System for Europe

The Water Information System for Europe – or [WISE](#) – is "Your Gateway to water". It compiles a number of data and information collected at EU level by various institutions or bodies which

has either not been available or only been fragmented over many places. The WISE project started in 2002 and a concept paper was finalized a year later. The paper identifies the following core objective: "...the European Commission (DG ENV, Eurostat and JRC) and the EEA are committed to continue the development of a new, comprehensive and shared European data and information management system for water, including river basins, following a participatory approach towards the Member States, in order to have it operational as soon as possible and to implement it, including all the various elements set out in this document, by 2010. One of the first milestones is the presentation of this public web portal. However, this is only the beginning. More features, tools and services will be created over the coming years."

(30) National Children's Study: News

The National Children's Study is moving forward and broadening its reach to a number of new communities across the United States. By following 100,000 U.S. children from birth to the age of 21, the Study aims to better understand how the environment influences children's health, disease, and development. In September 2005, the Study opened seven initial [Vanguard Centers](#). With the 2007 expansion, the Study plans to establish up to 20 new Study Centers in up to 30 previously designated Study locations across the country. To carry out this expansion, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), of the National Institutes of Health, has issued a new Request for Proposals (RFP) to award contracts to interested organizations with the capability to serve as Study Centers. For more information on the National Children's Study, including a map and list of all Study sites nationwide, please visit: <http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov/about/locations/>

The increased pace of Study preparations is possible because of the recent Congressional appropriation of funds for fiscal year 2007. Congress appropriated these funds for the first phase of implementation for the Study. With these funds, the seven Vanguard Centers will begin recruitment of families into the Study, and new contracts will be awarded to additional Study Centers, as explained above. The National Children's Study is led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services--through the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention--and by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you have general questions about the National Children's Study, please email ncs@mail.nih.gov

(31) Pesticide Safety and Childbearing for Latin Farmworkers

Extensive pesticide safety educational materials, which include pesticide safety for Latin farmworkers who are or may become pregnant, are available in Spanish and English at www.wfubmc.edu/fam_med/Research/Educational/

New materials added to existing Promotora Pesticide Safety Educational are: Single page hand-out that can be given to women (8.5 x 11 inch format); Poster that can be displayed during an educational session or that can be displayed in a clinic, school or other public place (11 x 17 inch format); Lesson plan that is tied to the new materials, as well as to existing promotora pesticide safety educational materials. For more information on the CD you can go to http://www1.wfubmc.edu/fam_med/Research/Educational/Pesticide.htm or contact tarcury@wfubmc.edu

(32) Coalition for Mercury-free Drugs

The [Coalition for Mercury-free Drugs](#) (CoMeD) is a private not-for-profit group dedicated to reducing the mercury-exposure risks, for the unborn, infants, children, adolescents and adults, from all mercury-containing medical products to which they are, or may be, exposed. They support, and if possible, assist the efforts of all those who share the same vision or values.

[UPPA](#) is a highly accurate, inexpensive, non-invasive, and routinely available method for estimating body-burden and toxicity of mercury. Numerous peer-reviewed scientific/medical papers published over the past 40 years have proven the validity of using UPPA to identify mercury poisoning. UPPA profiling, unlike attempts to directly measure mercury in the blood, urine or faeces, or in tissues (e.g. hair and nail), is a proven method for assessing mercury toxicity.

(33) Legacy of disasters: The impact of climate change on children

The evidence is clear: global warming is a fact, and it will have a dramatic impact on humankind. The likely effects of this warming – increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters, temperature extremes, a global rise in the sea levels – will be unevenly felt and will hit children in developing countries hardest of all. Yet despite political rhetoric about children being our future, the scale of the threat faced by today’s children is barely acknowledged. When the danger to future generations of children is assessed, it becomes clear that the need for international action focused on children and climate change is vital. This [report](#) was produced by Save the Children, UK.

ARTICLES

(1) AIR POLLUTION:

(a) Indoor air pollution

[South Africa: Indoor Air Pollution Responsible for 5 Percent of Deaths](#) Over 3 billion people around the world depend on these fuels, and exposure to indoor air pollution has been linked to many diseases, particularly pneumonia among children and chronic respiratory diseases among adults. Promoting fuel-efficient and cleaner technologies could reduce indoor pollution. [AllAfrica.com](#). 2 May 2007.

[Unventilated Indoor Coal-Fired Stoves in Guizhou Province, China: Reduction of Arsenic Exposure through Behavior Changes Resulting from Mitigation and Health Education in Populations with Arsenicosis](#) Experience demonstrates that grass roots health education specific to addressing local needs and knowledge gaps is the key to the success of our mitigation effort. Dong An. [EHP](#). April 2007.

(b) Outdoor air pollution

[Radical measures considered to beat Hong Kong air pollution woes](#) Hong Kong- Schools could be closed, private cars barred from key city areas and drivers charged extra taxes in response to the territory's worsening air pollution. The plans will be included in a consultation paper due to be published in the next few weeks by the Council for Sustainable Development. DAP. The Raw Story. 10 May 2007.

[US Air Pollution: Less Smog, But More Soot in East](#) The United States is less smoggy than it used to be, but dangerous soot particles are rising in the densely populated eastern part of the country, the American Lung Association reported. Fine soot particles can get trapped deep in the lungs and can lead to heart attack, stroke, lung cancer and asthma attacks. D. Zabarenko. Planet Ark. 2 May 2007

[Young children more vulnerable to air pollution, study shows](#) A study of more than 4,000 Dutch infants concluded that young children who live close to busy roads are more at risk of developing respiratory diseases such as asthma. The study shows an average of 20% to 30% increased likelihood of asthma, wheezing, ear, nose and throat infections, colds and flu. Euractiv. 26 April 2007

[Ethanol may cause more smog, more deaths](#) Switching from gasoline to ethanol, touted as a green alternative, may create dirtier air, causing slightly more smog-related deaths, a new study says. Nearly 200 more people would die yearly from respiratory problems if all vehicles in the United States ran on a mostly ethanol fuel blend by 2020, the research concludes. S. Borenstein. MSNBC. 18 April 2007.

[Urban air pollution 'more dangerous than Chernobyl'](#) Study rates risks of city life as greater than radiation. Children living within 500 metres of motorways suffered more permanent lung damage and lower life expectancy. Passive smoking worse than living in blast zone. The health risks associated with air pollution and passive smoking appear more severe. I. Sample. The Guardian. 3 April 2007.

(c) Environmental Tobacco Smoke/Smoking

[Stanford and UC May Kick Big Tobacco Off Campus](#) Stanford and the University of California may institute a ban on researchers taking money from tobacco companies. If adopted, the measures will mark the first time an entire research institution has cut its ties to the tobacco industry. Medical schools at Harvard and Johns Hopkins have adopted similar bans. Integrity In Science Watch. 8 May 2007.

[NRT in Pregnancy](#) Smoking doubles the risk for low-birthweight babies and raises the risk for preterm delivery and SIDS; premature and low-birthweight infants face increased odds for behavioural and learning problems and chronic disabilities such as cerebral palsy. Physicians have not viewed NRT as a safe alternative for pregnant women who cannot quit smoking. C. Potera. EHP. May 2007.

[Parental Smoking Modifies the Relation between Genetic Variation in Tumor Necrosis Factor- \$\alpha\$ \(TNF\) and Childhood Asthma](#) Parental smoking is a consistent risk factor for childhood asthma. Secondhand smoke and ozone stimulate TNF production. Genetic variation in TNF may contribute to childhood asthma and associations may be modified by parental smoking. H. Wu. EHP. April 2007.

[Smoking during Pregnancy Affects Speech-Processing Ability in Newborn Infants](#) Behavioural data associate maternal smoking with lower verbal scores and poorer performance on language/auditory tests. Prenatal exposure to tobacco smoke in healthy babies is linked with changes in brain physiology and with perceptual skills that could give the infant developmental problems. A.Key. EHP. April 2007

(2) CHEMICALS: (a) General

[Common chemicals are linked to breast cancer](#) Of the 216 compounds, many in the air, food or everyday items. Ana Soto, a professor who specializes in cellular origins of cancer and effects of hormone-disrupting contaminants, said there probably was a link between breast cancer and exposures to chemicals in the environment, particularly early in life. M. Cone. LA Times Staff Writer. 14 May 2007.

[Artificial food colouring warning](#) Parents are being advised by experts not to give their children food containing certain additives until the results of a new study are published. UK researchers tested the effects of a range of artificial colourings on children's behaviour. It is understood the results back previous research linking additives to hyperactivity and poor concentration. BBC News. 8 May 2007.

[The SHEDS-Wood Model: Incorporation of Observational Data to Estimate Exposure to Arsenic for Children Playing on CCA-Treated Wood Structures](#) Lumber with CCA has been used in playgrounds. It is recommended that the SHEDS-Woods model use data from studies of children actively playing on playsets to more accurately estimate children's actual exposures to CCA. L. Barraj. EHP. May 2007.

[Apple goes bad on Greenpeace's computer list](#) Apple is rated worst among major electronics firms for its environmental policies by Greenpeace. This is because its products contain toxic chemicals. Instead, huge amounts are shipped, especially from the US, to China and India, where they are broken up for scrap, often by children in dumps. M. McCarthy. New Zealand Herald. 5 April 2007

(b) Lead

[Lead-level warning 'obscure'](#) Esperance street had twice as much lead dust than that recorded in a mass contamination in the 1990s that affected 85 per cent of Broken Hill's children. "We sit here before you with Magellan's lead in our blood," said Ben Curtis, whose baby daughter has a blood-lead level above the WHO guideline of 10 micrograms per decilitre. P. Taylor. Sunday Times. 4 May 2007.

[EPA Agrees to Cut Lead in Kids' Products](#) Lead, a highly toxic element, can cause severe nerve damage, especially in children. EPA says lead emissions have dropped more than 90% since it was first listed as an air pollutant, mainly by removing lead from gasoline. Other sources include food and soil, solid waste, coal, oil, iron and steel production, lead smelters. J. Heilprin. ABC News. 15 April 2007.

[Getting the Lead Out](#) The jury held three lead pigment manufacturers responsible for an environmental and public health tragedy that has caused over the last century lead poisoning among tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of children, who ingested lead dust and flakes of decaying lead paint from the walls of houses and public buildings before it was banned. D. Rosner. The Nation. 10 April 2007.

[Elevated Blood Lead Concentrations and Vitamin D Deficiency in Winter and Summer in Young Urban Children](#) The higher summertime serum 25-OH-D concentrations for the 4- to 8-year-old children are likely caused by increased sunlight-induced vitamin D synthesis and may contribute to the seasonal increase in blood lead. Age and race are key factors that affect blood lead. F. Kemp. EHP. April 2007.

(c) Pesticides

[Children Face Exposure to Pesticides](#) In the Strathmore incident grandparents said the spraying was being done less than 150 feet from the children. Tulare County authorities fined an unlicensed pest removal company \$1,100 for spraying a restricted weed killer that morning. But no action was taken over what witnesses said happened to the children. G. Burke. Guardian. 16 May 16 2007.

[California Safe Schools Sustains 8 Years of Healthier Students Celebrates Pioneering Pesticide Policy California Safe Schools](#) On April 30, CSS celebrated the 8th Year Anniversary of the LA Unified School District's groundbreaking IPM policy. IPM, the most stringent pesticide policy in the U.S. for schools, stresses least-toxic methods of pest control, and has become a model. ENN. 1 May 2007

[Organophosphate Pesticide Exposure and Neurodevelopment in Young Mexican-American Children](#) OP pesticides are widely used in agriculture and homes. Animal studies suggest that even moderate doses are neurodevelopmental toxicants. Adverse associations of prenatal DAPs with mental development and pervasive developmental problems at 24 months of age. B. Eskenazi. EHP. May 2007.

[Preventing Malaria, Promoting Health Solutions Beyond DDT](#) Malaria kills more than a million people each year, with over 80% of the deaths occurring among children in sub-Saharan Africa. U.S. and African organizations applaud international efforts to mobilize the political will and resources to tackle malaria worldwide. DDT is not the most effective way to fight malaria. PANNA. April 2007.

[Pesticide maker sees profit when others see risks](#) Amvac buys rights to older chemicals that have raised health concerns. The company says it puts safety first. In 1993, a National Academy of

Sciences report raised concerns that the organophosphates might affect children's neurological development. EPA launched a review that would impose bans and restrictions. C. Miller. LA Times. 8 April 2007.

(d) Mercury

Court Upholds New Jersey's Tough Mercury Rule App. Div. of Superior Court of New Jersey has affirmed regulations to protect people from impacts of mercury emissions from iron and steel smelters. Scientists estimate up to 600,000 U.S. children are born each year with neurological problems leading to poor school performance because of mercury exposure while in the womb. ENS. 23 April 2007.

China Blamed for Half of Korea's Mercury Pollution In January 2006, a photograph taken by satellite showed a mass of thick smog rushing from China to the Korean Peninsula. At the time, the concentration of mercury (Hg), was over 10 times higher than normal, threatening people's health, especially that of children, the old and infirm and pregnant women. Digital Chosunilbo. 23 April 2007.

Dose-Response Relationship of Prenatal Mercury Exposure and IQ: An Integrative Analysis of Epidemiologic Data IQ may not fully represent cognitive deficits associated with mercury exposure. The integrated IQ coefficient provides a more robust description of the dose-response relationship for prenatal mercury exposure and cognitive functioning than a single study. D. Axelrad. EHP. April 2007.

(3) WATER AND SANITATION

Islamabad being supplied water in accordance with WHO standards: NA told Minister of State for Interior Zafar Iqbal Warraich informed the National Assembly that the Federal Capital was being supplied clean drinking water in accordance with standard set by WHO from Khanpur and Simly dams. One plot was allotted for establishment of a school for under privileged children. APP. 4 May 2007.

Among Solomon Islands' debris, an open-air maternity ward continues to operate Health officials warn that without proper sanitation, the number of child deaths in the disaster zone could rise significantly. Unhygienic conditions and a lack of clean water have contributed to isolated cases of diarrhea and dysentery in some refugee camps. International Herald Tribune. 8 April 2007.

(4) GLOBAL CHANGE

Analysis: U.N. calls climate debate 'over' A former chief of WHO, who also is a former prime minister of Norway and a medical doctor, has declared an end to the climate-change debate. "The diagnosis is clear, the science is unequivocal - it's completely immoral even, to question whether we need to move forward at a much stronger pace as humankind to address the issues." W. Reilly. UPI. 10 May 2007.

[Global Warming May Be Spurring Allergy, Asthma](#) Dr. Ziska's Ragweed Loves Carbon Dioxide; Toxic Pollen in Cities? Childhood asthma is increasing at an even-faster rate. The percentage of children with asthma jumped to 9% in 2005 from 3.6% in 1980, according to the Center for Disease Control. Much research remains to be done. G. Naik, The Wall Street Journal. [Yale Global Online](#). 10 May 2007

[Climate change and development must be tackled together – Ban Ki-moon](#) Climate change, industrialization, air pollution and the need to boost clean energy supplies for developing countries are urgent global challenges that must be addressed in concert, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at a gathering of dozens of environmental ministers at UN HQ in New York. [UN News Centre](#). 9 May 2007

[People to blame for global warming: UN](#) Global warming is already happening and people are very likely to blame. Impacts will range from disruptions to catastrophes, but this has to be fixed without derailing world economy. Children, the ageing, the socially deprived will be most at risk. Governments have technologies available for braking global warming. A. Doyle. [Brisbane Times](#). 4 May 2007

[WHO: Green polices yield quick rewards](#) Big developing countries like China and India can play a huge role in improving health by expanding their use of cleaner energy sources, said D. Campbell-Lendrum, an expert on global change and health at WHO. The policy options you choose to try to cut carbon dioxide emissions also have important health effects. M. Mason. [Yahoo News](#). 3 May 2007.

(5) REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

[Fetal Deaths and Proximity to Hazardous Waste Sites in Washington State](#) The effects of prenatal exposure to environmental toxicants on various adverse pregnancy outcomes are not well understood. Fetal death may not be associated with residential proximity to hazardous waste sites; however, proximity to pesticide-containing sites may increase the risk of fetal death. B. Mueller. [EHP](#). May 2007.

[Exploring Developmental Origins of Obesity](#) In the past 20 years, obesity rates across the developed world have skyrocketed. Professor Frederick vom Saal described a link between bisphenol A and obesity. Bisphenol A is a major component of polycarbonate plastics found in the linings of cans and in baby bottles. It can leach from plastic when heated. G. Stemp-Morlock. [EHP](#). May 2007.

[Class of PCBs causes developmental abnormalities in rat pups](#) Scientists have determined that a class of PCB causes developmental abnormalities in rat pups whose mothers were exposed to the toxicant in their food during pregnancy and during the early weeks when the pups were nursing. This class of PCB traditionally has not been considered hazardous. M. Merzenich [UCSF News](#). 23 April 2007

[He's trying to make the world safer](#) Grandjean proposed that exposure to low levels of various environmental chemicals during pregnancy may be causing a "silent pandemic" of

neurodevelopmental disorders in the growing brains of children: autism, attention deficit disorder, mental retardation, and cerebral palsy. The bigger issue may be a subtle erosion of IQ. R. Moeller. Boston Globe. 2 April 2007

(6) MISCELLANEOUS (a) General

Warning over baby milk promotions Companies are violating international codes in order to promote baby milk to mothers despite the health risks to children of not being breastfed. The WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months where possible. Mothers must be able to make informed choices about what is right for their children. Channel 4 News. 15 May 2007

Mobile phones are not ringing my alarm The possibility that microwave radiation might harm the health of mobile phone users or those living near mobile phone base stations remains the spectre at mobile communications feast. While it may be some years before we can say definitively that mobile phone radiation is safe, there is no real evidence to the contrary as yet A.Cane. Financial Times. 9 May 2007.

Safeguarding kids from environmental hazards-CME Making the connection between a child's disease and the environment requires a high index of suspicion. Illnesses caused by environmental agents may present as common medical problems. Most clinicians will think about SHS exposure when a child has asthma or recurrent ear infections. S. Balk. Contemporary Pediatrics. 1 May 2007.

UN-backed partnership sets ambitious funding targets to combat malaria Just ahead of Africa Malaria Day, marked each year on 25 April, the UN-backed Roll Back Malaria Partnership announced that it has set ambitious new targets to attain funding to fight the disease in Africa. The group hopes that half of all malaria grant applications receive the necessary funding. UN News Centre. 23 April 2007

A Safer World for Kids A decade ago, President Clinton asked the government to identify environmental health and safety risks affecting children and tailor policies towards reducing them. President Clinton's federal focus on improving children's health spawned a worldwide effort that continues to pay rich dividends into President G.W. Bush's second term. D. Fischer. Inside Bay Area. 22 April 2007.

Trends in childhood cancer incidence: review of environmental linkages Cancer in children is rare and accounts for about 1% of all malignancies. In the developed world, however, it is the commonest cause of disease-related deaths in childhood, carrying with it a great economic and emotional cost. Cancers are assumed to be multivariate, multifactorial diseases. I.Buka. Pediatr Clin North Am. February 2007.

Medical Laboratory Investigation of Children's Environmental Health Medical laboratory testing is vital for investigating and managing children who have environmentally related disorders. An understanding of the exposure circumstances and toxicology of the agent is required for the ordering and interpretation of the tests. H. Hoffman. Pediatr Clin North Am. February 2007.

(b) Americas

[UN mobilizing emergency team for flood-hit Uruguay](#) The UN is mobilizing a UNDAC team for deployment to Uruguay in the wake of the worst floods to hit the country in half a century. Thousands of houses have been damaged, as has much of the public infrastructure. Many of those affected are poor and vulnerable persons such as women, children and the elderly. [UN News Centre](#). 11 May 2007.

[Canada raises pesticide limits](#) Think those grapes look suspiciously dusty? Canada is set to raise its limits on pesticide residues on fruit and vegetables for hundreds of products. The move is part of an effort to harmonize Canadian pesticide rules with those of the United States, which allows higher residue levels for 40 per cent of the pesticides it regulates. K. Patterson. [Calgary Herald](#). 8 May 2007.

[Skin Cancer Survivors Join Dermatologists to Educate Teens About Risks of Indoor Tanning](#) To help educate teenagers, the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) launched a public service advertisement (PSA) campaign that focuses on the facts about indoor tanning risks. The campaign speaks to teens in a language they understand -- instant messaging. [AAD](#). 7 May 2007.

[New York Mayor Unveils Multi-Billion Dollar Green City Plan](#) New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg Sunday presented a plan to cope with climate change and a fast-growing population in a sweeping policy speech containing 127 separate initiatives. In parts of the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Harlem, children are hospitalized for asthma at nearly four times the national average. [ENS](#). 23 April 2007

[Dengue fever A deadly scourge](#) Millions at risk as a new outbreak of dengue fever sweeps Latin America. Mexico: 27,000 cases of dengue fever last year, more than 4 times the number in 2001. El Salvador: its population is not more than 6% of Mexico's, the number soared to 22,000 last year, a 20-fold increase on 5 years earlier. Uruguay reported its first case in 90 years. [The Economist](#). 19 April 2007.

[Oil firm accused of causing cancer](#) San Carlos is a small town in Ecuador's Amazon basin where the oil industry has operated since the 1960s. It has the highest incidence of cancer in the country, while among children there are high rates of skin disease, throat pains and diarrhoea. A nurse working there is convinced that the cancer is caused by residues in water. M. Sanchez. [Al Jazeera](#). 11 April 2007.

(c) Asia

[Pesticides next frontier in China food safety](#) China's farmers overuse pesticides, skip protective clothing and have at their fingertips an array of banned and counterfeit products, raising another area of concern in the country's fragile food chain. China banned five high toxicity pesticides but old stock was still in the market, in the hands of traders, retailers and farmers. L. Beck. [Reuters](#). 13 May 2007.

[Toxins from tanneries endangering Kasur's residents](#) Children, women and tannery workers come to local hospitals and clinics on a daily basis with ailments stemming from tannery waste. And the situation could get worse. There are fears that chromium-laced waste turned into poultry feed is introducing carcinogenic toxins into the human food chain. Daily Times. Pakistan. 3 May 2007.

[Feel the pulse of poverty](#) With limited access to health services, 56.1 per cent of childbirths take place at home in poor urban families without trained attendants. This only pushes up the number of neonatal and maternal deaths. While India's population is growing at two per cent, the annual growth of the urban population is three per cent. Hindustan Times. S. Agarwal. 2 May 2007.

[Polluted Sites in Iraq Causing Serious Health Hazards](#) Iraq: Insecurity and lack of funds prevent cleansing of polluted sites. The worrying thing is that dozens of patients have been exposed to radiation. Some were living near polluted sites, others were children during the last wars who played near dangerous sites and now the effects are appearing in them or in their children. BBSNews. 19 April 2007

(d) Africa

[Simple bed nets key to preventing malaria](#) In the next minute two children somewhere in the world will die of malaria. By the end of the day, malaria will have claimed the lives of 3,000 children. Most of the victims live in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria kills more children under 5 years in Africa each year than any other disease. For thousands of people, the nets are far too expensive. CTV.ca. 26 April 2007.

[Africa: Health, Environment Threatened By Future Urban Growth](#) Half of the world's population will live in towns by 2008. Close to half of urban dwellers live in "slums", areas where people cannot secure key necessities such as clean water, toilets or durable sanitation. Around 1.6 million people die in such areas each year due to lack of clean water and sanitation. AllAfrica.com. 17 April 2007.

[Rwanda: Floods, Open Sewage Threaten Human Life](#) Nyagatare were recently hit by cholera, linked to lack of adequate and well developed sewage systems for proper deposit of human waste. In some areas, people still use open areas for waste deposits and water from rains wash away the waste which ends up in water reservoirs used for domestic use. J. Kamugisha. AllAfrica.com. 17 April 2007.

(e) Europe

[Climate change blamed for rise in asthma and hay fever](#) For some 70% of asthma sufferers, wheezing attacks are triggered by allergy, of which Britain has some of the highest rates in Europe. An estimated 38.8% of teenagers in southeast England, the warmest part of the country, get hay fever. Some 5.2m people suffer from asthma and about 1,400 a year die. J. Grimston. The Times. 13 May 2007

[New Alert Over Dangers In Fruit](#) Toxic chemicals have been found on fruit given to millions of schoolchildren every day under a UK Government healthy-eating scheme. Three quarters of the fresh produce provided free to youngsters is contaminated with potentially harmful pesticides, tests revealed. Apples, bananas and pears were among the most polluted. H. Hiscott. Daily Express. 20 April 2007.

[Ministers aim to turn every secondary school 'green'](#) Ministers are planning to refurbish or rebuild every secondary in the UK. The programme will start to ensure that 200 new schools that are to be built soon are designed to reduce carbon emissions. School designs include wind turbines, solar panels, insulated windows and low-emission light bulbs. R. Garner. The Independent. 16 April 2007.

[Toxic truth of secretive Siberian city](#) A BBC team has entered a remote region of Russia normally closed to foreigners that produces almost half the world's supply of palladium - a precious metal vital for making catalytic converters. But it is accused of being the world's largest producer of acid rain. The impact on the health of the population, particularly children is worrying. BBC News. 5 April 2007.

(f) Oceania

[New Caledonia tribes living among dangerous asbestos](#) Tribes are living in the middle of asbestos rock deposits, dangerous to their health, in the archipelago where the cancer rate is high. Photographs show children playing in rock dust, the most dangerous form of asbestos, close to bulldozers which were clearing the rock, releasing large numbers of fibres into the air. AFP. ENews. 4 May 2007.
