



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Environmental Programme predicts a shortage of specialty metals, which recycle slowly that they could become unavailable within 20 to 30 years - an argument for recycling existing stocks of metal rather than seeking to mine more. Prices for metals such as neodymium and indium - used for wind turbine magnets and liquid crystal displays, respectively - could rise dramatically if greater effort is not taken to improve recycling for these materials. The UN withdrawal from the Democratic Republic of Congo could hamper existing mining efforts in the African country, a leading exporter of minerals used in high-tech displays.

CLIMATE CHANGE - The head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Rajendra Pachauri, welcomed the work of an oversight body organized after errors produced by the panel came to light but cautioned the independent review body not to undermine scientists' contributions to science on climate change. Pachauri highlighted both the complexity of the science his panel is tasked with analyzing and the high stakes for presenting accurate data on climate science - an aspect of the work potentially obscured by errors the group made in calculating the rate of the disappearance of Himalayan glaciers.

■AFRICA

ANGOLA - After more than a decade of volunteer work in Angola's rural Matala district in the southern province of Huila, a Finnish doctor is seeing maternal mortality rates gradually come down in a country where about one in every 70 women dies in childbirth.

LIBERIA - Since the civil war ended in 2003, the combination of returning refugees, population growth, and ongoing land tenure tensions dating back 25 years has led to at least 250 land dispute deaths in Liberia, according to NGOs. Leading reformists are worried the right mechanisms to address land rights are still not in place.

SOUTH AFRICA - South Africa has achieved near universal access to health services for pregnant women and their children, but maternal and infant mortality rates have continued to rise making the chances of reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on maternal and child health increasingly remote.

■ASIA

BANGLADESH - Some Bangladeshi farmers are seeing their crops reduced by as much as 90% as the soil in their fields becomes too salty to be fertile. Factors including rising sea levels, stronger saltwater surges during storms, and the leaching of sea water into freshwater aquifers drained by excessive irrigation are all forcing farmers off their land in southern Bangladesh, that just a year or two ago was producing tons of rice

NEPAL - Specialists call for stronger measures to combat diarrhoea - Aid agencies are urging Nepal to implement stronger water and sanitation measures to prevent diarrhoea outbreaks, which claim hundreds of lives each year.

TAJIKISTAN - Immunization drive should stem polio outbreak - A sharp decrease in polio cases is expected as a result of an ongoing nationwide anti-polio immunization campaign in Tajikistan, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

■MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - Measles deaths on the rise in Saada - Six rounds of fighting between the army and Houthi-led rebels in northern Yemen since 2004 have prevented or limited immunization campaigns in the area and have subsequently led to a higher prevalence of measles, according to health officials.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - Jamaica and the Bahamas have renewed immigration policies that restrict immigration from Haiti, despite earlier gestures of compassion after the Haitian earthquake. Haiti's neighbors have begun reinstating repatriation policies, noting that they have seen some of the immigrants attempting to land on their shores before the earthquake. Some repatriated Haitians hail from Haiti's north, which was not affected terribly by the earthquake, while other migrants turned away include suspected smugglers.

WFWO's Communications Team