



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The year 2010 is on track to be one of the three hottest years on record - next to 1998 and 2005 - and the past decade has been the warmest since record-keeping began in 1850, the United Nations World Meteorological Organization said Thursday. Michel Jarraud said, "The trend is of very significant warming," and noted that human activity including emission of greenhouse gasses is contributing to the warming trend.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Global agriculture contributes in the region of 17 percent to the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, but according to the World Bank, climate smart agriculture techniques can both reduce emissions and meet the challenge of producing enough food for a growing world population.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Taking steps to control global temperatures is a key issue at the UN talks on climate change in Cancun. Within the next four decades maize prices could rise by up to 131 percent, there could be 17 million more undernourished children in the poorest countries, and some African farmers might have to give up agriculture if the planet keeps getting hotter, new studies show.

BURUNDI - Ten years after the signing of an accord designed to move Burundi from civil war to democratic stability, the country has yet to establish transitional justice mechanisms aimed at enhancing reconciliation and bringing to book those responsible for crimes committed during the country's turbulent years.

ZIMBABWE - At first glance Zimbabwe's public health system has undergone a renaissance since the dire days two years ago when shortages of drugs, staff and equipment were the norm.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIA - A proposal by India to get more countries to share the burden of cuts in carbon emissions is seen as the best chance for an agreement at UN climate talks in Mexico. The plan would require that all countries, irrespective of wealth, report to the UN every three years on steps to curb emissions as long as they contribute more than 1% toward global greenhouse gases.

MYANMAR - The recent release from house arrest of Myanmar democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi is an exception in a country where some 2,200 political prisoners continue to be subjected to torture, poor nutrition, poor medical care and prohibitions on talking. Many, too, lives for years in solitary confinement.

SRI LANKA - Heavy rains continue to wreak havoc on the lives of thousands of returnees to Sri Lanka's conflict-affected north, aid agencies say.

SOUTH ASIA - Microfinance programs operating in post-humanitarian crises areas in South Asia need stricter regulation to protect vulnerable communities from exploitation, aid agencies warn. International standards would prevent lenders from charging excessive interest rates that trap loan recipients into a long cycle of debt.

■MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and humanitarian partners are scrambling to help over 3,000 African migrants stranded at the Yemeni border with Saudi Arabia, where 30 migrants have died in recent weeks.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

ECUADOR - Ecuadorean officials are pushing a program to lure immigrants back home with incentives such as free airplane tickets and cash to start businesses in a bid to help recent economic and development advances continue.

WFWO's Communications Team