

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CLIMATE - Governments and activist groups are eyeing commercial shipping as a possible source of funding to help developing countries mitigate the effects of climate change. Shipping accounts for about 3% of global carbon gas emissions and a tax on those emissions could raise tens of billions every year.

HIV/AIDS - The money being spent in 98 countries to treat with antiretroviral drugs some 3.5 million people infected with HIV/AIDS would be more than offset by the worth recouped in human productivity, child rearing and end-of-life medical care, according to a study.

AFRICA

MDGs - Africa's overall progress towards achieving the internationally agreed targets to eradicate extreme poverty and accelerate social development has been slow and generally insufficient to meet the 2015 deadline, the United Nations says in a new report unveiled today, noting, however, that there have been small gains. The continent's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals have been mixed and characterized by substantial variations in access to basic social services across sub-regions and countries, as well as within countries, according to the report entitled 'Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals.'

KENYA - Coastal areas in Kenya provide a vivid illustration of the factors that thwart agricultural potential across much of Africa: small plot sizes, minimal irrigation and endemic poverty, which precludes investment, and in turn, greater productivity.

ASIA

THAILAND - A new paddy-pledging programme in Thailand that has already pushed up the cost of rice globally will go into effect on 7 October, amid uncertainty and scepticism. The move by the world's leading exporter has stirred humanitarian concerns far beyond Thailand's borders, particularly for rice-consuming countries that do not produce much at home. The government plans to offer its farmers an above-market rate for their rice.

MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - More parents are likely to put their children to work amid the upheaval caused by months of anti-government protests in Yemen, government and aid sources say.

WFWO's Communications Team