



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

DEVELOPMENT - Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan says the biggest 2010 World Cup winner is Africa, and that an African team will win the cup within a decade. South Africa's organization and welcoming atmosphere will help to break down stereotypes of the continent, Annan said, and Africans should work to hold on to the sense of unity that accompanied Ghana's performance and apply it to economic and social development issues.

CLIMATE CHANGE - The world's governments know what needs to be done by 2020 in the battle against climate change, and must produce the "architecture" for a final international climate agreement at the upcoming Mexico summit, Yvo de Boer, former head of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, says.

HEALTH - Antibody discovery could unlock HIV/AIDS vaccine - Researchers have discovered a pair of naturally occurring antibodies able to kill an overwhelming majority of AIDS viruses, according to a report. Researchers hope to use the findings to create gene-therapy treatments to help AIDS patients produce the antibodies and to develop a vaccine for the deadly virus.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - African countries should deepen their tax bases to collect more revenues to finance their development, build state institutions and to improve national dialogue and, more generally, their social contracts with citizens.

MALAWI - As government implements a new HIV/AIDS treatment regimen according to latest world standards, a major grouping of non-governmental organisations are concerned that the high cost of the new medication will mean government will no longer be able provide free treatment to as many people as before.

ZAMBIA - The Zambian National Constitution Conference concluded its business recently with the adoption of a clause for the creation of a Gender Equality Commission.

■ASIA

INDONESIA - A volcano in Indonesia that spews some 100,000 tons of mud each day has submerged factories, covered roads and killed 14 people since its eruption four years ago - and serves as a cautionary tale for the kind of damage that a prolonged catastrophe, like the Gulf oil spill, can create. The geologists say that the Lusi mud volcano is the result of a 2006 drilling accident at a nearby gas site, though Indonesian authorities insist that the phenomenon is the result of an earthquake that happened some 175 miles from the site of the volcano.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - Six months after a massive earthquake devastated Haiti relief and reconstruction efforts have stalled as overwhelmed Haitian authorities struggle to assert control and donors fail to deliver promised funding. More than 1.4 million peoples remain without adequate permanent housing. Children's advocates worry available services are inadequate and the reality many families face will lead to an explosion in the numbers of "restaveks" - children sent to work in slavlike conditions in exchange for food and housing.

URUGUAY - The incidence of cardiovascular, respiratory and water-borne diseases is rising in Uruguay in tandem with climate change, while dengue fever and malaria lurk at the country's borders. Higher temperatures are encouraging the presence of insect vectors carrying diseases that were eradicated decades ago, experts say.

WFWO's Communications Team