

LIDC NEWS AND VIEWS

August 2011



LIDC tackles international development challenges in pioneering ways by bringing together more than 1,500 social and natural scientists, postgraduate students and alumni from the University of London's six Bloomsbury Colleges. The Colleges involved in the interdisciplinary initiative are Birkbeck College, Institute of Education (IoE), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Royal Veterinary College (RVC), School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), and The School of Pharmacy.

LIDC NEWS



20 July - LIDC Seminar explores disconnect between agriculture and nutrition in India

The steady pace of economic growth in India has made it the second fastest-growing economy in the world. However, unlike other rapidly growing economies, India seems not to have made a connection between improved agriculture and falling rates of malnutrition. In this session, Dr. Suneetha Kadiyala from the International Food Policy Research Institute presented the findings of the Tackling the Agriculture-Nutrition Disconnect in India Initiative.

[Read more](#)



14 July - LIDC Seminar on transforming teacher training in Eritrea

Chris Joynes, LIDC's Projects Officer, worked in Eritrea from 2007 to 2011 on the implementation of a €50 million World Bank, Unicef and EU funded open and distance learning (ODL) programme for the training of teachers. In this session, Joynes presented the aims and outcomes of the programme, expressing his hope that it will form a precedent for other initiatives in this challenging country.

[Read more](#)



5 July - LIDC Seminar highlights the role of fruit and vegetables in addressing poverty and malnutrition

Dr. Dyno Keatinge, Director General of the World Vegetable Centre (AVRDC), spoke at the second event in the new Agriculture and Health Research in Action Seminar Series organised by the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research in Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) and LIDC.

He explained that the MDGs can be met through fruit and vegetables, with the help of knowledge and behaviour change programmes. Fruit and vegetables are easy and inexpensive to grow, they provide employment and livelihoods, especially to women, and they tackle malnutrition.

[Read more](#)



Participate in the LIDC Members Survey

LIDC would like to hear from you: how you use our services, what you find useful, what you would like us to do more of. It will take less than 5 minutes, so please give us your feedback now!

[Start the survey](#)

LIDC website undergoes a makeover

The LIDC website www.lidc.org.uk now has a new look and additional sections (e.g. development jobs at LIDC and Bloomsbury Colleges). We hope you enjoy the experience!

NEWS FROM BLOOMSBURY COLLEGES

3 August - SOAS granted degree awarding powers

The School of Oriental and African Studies has been granted the power to award degrees in its own name. Until now, it has only been able to award degrees on behalf of the University of London.

[Read more](#)

3 August - Pioneering Bluetongue research at LSHTM opens way for new generation of vaccines

Researchers at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine have developed the first totally man-made live and replicating Bluetongue virus (BTV), a disease that affects livestock and kills about 70% of infected animals.

The discovery, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), has the potential to lead to the development of more efficient vaccines for Bluetongue and to a better understanding of the way viruses assemble themselves, positively influencing the research into other vaccines.

[Read more](#)

2 August – LSHTM stars in new health show on BBC World News

The 26-part 'Health Show' series will cover a range of important global health issues. In the first episode, Dr Helen Weiss was interviewed about a plastic device for non-surgical circumcision, saying it was an 'exciting' development in helping to prevent the spread of HIV.

The next episode will feature Dr James Logan talking about his research into why some people are bitten by mosquitoes more than others (followed by a live Twitter discussion). The following weekend, tuberculosis will be on the agenda, including an interview with Dr Ruth McNerney.

'The Health Show' airs on BBC World News (which can be viewed outside the UK) on Saturdays at 10:10 and 20:10, and Sundays at 07:10 and 23:10 (all times GMT). In the

UK you can also [watch it online](#).

28 July - Birkbeck Professor Bill Bowring explores human and minority rights in Europe

Professor Bill Bowring of Birkbeck School of Law gave three lectures on human and minority rights in the post-Lisbon European Union at the annual Center for Constitutional Studies and Democratic Development Summer School (CCSDD) in Igalo, Montenegro.

[Read more](#)

22 July - LSHTM's Peter Piot highlights funding challenges for AIDS

While significant progress has been made in tackling HIV/AIDS with the discovery of new techniques to prevent the spread of disease, people should be under no illusion that the disease will be eliminated within a few decades, according to the Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

[Read more](#)

22 July - AfricaSan lifetime service award for SHARE's Professor Sandy Cairncross of LSHTM

Professor Sandy Cairncross has received a unique honour from the governments of Africa in recognition of his major contribution to improving the health and well-being of Africans through his three decades of work to improve sanitation and hygiene across the continent. He was awarded the Roll of Honour Award for lifetime service in Kigali, Rwanda, at a ceremony hosted by Rwanda's President Paul Kagame.

[Read more](#)

22 July - SOAS: Football Beyond Borders Launches International Tournament

Football Beyond Borders, an innovative student programme which uses football to promote international understanding, has launched its most ambitious project yet.

[Read more](#)

20 July - LSHTM experts respond to the UN declaration of famine in Somalia

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine experts speak out about the emergency response to the famine.

[Read more](#)

19 July - LSHTM and Wellcome Trust study finds Vitamin C link to cataracts in Indians

India accounts for around 20% of the global burden of blindness with cataracts being the principal cause. In a study recently published in Ophthalmology surveying some 5,600 persons aged 60 and over in two areas of India, low levels of vitamin C were identified as a potentially major contribution to the high cataract prevalence in India.

[Read more](#)

12 July - LSHTM: Targeting zero - sustaining success in the control of malaria

Professor David Schellenberg of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Director of the ACT Consortium has provided MPs with the most up-to-date information on efforts to tackle malaria by producing the seventh annual report for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases. The report focuses on gains in malaria control and prevention since 2000 as well as the need for continued investment in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals on malaria.

[Read more](#)

7 July - SOAS: 'Mao's Great Famine' Wins Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction

Professor of Modern Chinese History Frank Dikötter has been awarded the 2011 BBC Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction, one of the UK's most prestigious literary awards, for 'Mao's Great Famine: The History of China's Most Devastating Catastrophe, 1958-62'

(Bloomsbury, 2010), which argues that Mao's Great Leap Forward resulted in 45 million deaths and untold suffering.

[Read more](#)

SOAS publishes Development Viewpoint 64: Egypt's 'Orderly Economic Transition': Accelerated Structural Adjustment under a Democratic Veneer

The Centre for Development Policy and Research at SOAS is pleased to announce the publication of Development Viewpoint #64. The author, Adam Hanieh, Development Studies Department, SOAS, argues that the recent high-profile announcements from global and regional financial institutions on their plans to provide large new loans to Egypt suggest that they are intent on accelerating the neoliberal program of structural adjustment initiated under the Mubarak regime.

[Download](#)

New Global Health Podcasts from LSHTM

Low-cost Screening could halve Stillbirths due to Syphilis

The New Decade Of Vaccines: Avoiding Public Distrust

[Listen to podcasts](#)

UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT EVENTS AT BLOOMSBURY COLLEGES

Does a pregnancy malaria vaccine have a place in the anti-malaria campaign and in global health improvement?

Tuesday, 9 August 2011, 9.00-9.45 am, Geoffrey Rose Room (KS - LG6), LSHTM

Prof David Arnot, University of Edinburgh

A pregnancy malaria (PM) vaccine could prevent many of the maternal deaths associated with placental malaria infection and a large proportion of the 200,000+ annual infant deaths in Africa attributable to low birth weight. This would be likely to have knock-on health gains by reducing the burden of poor lifetime health outcomes in low birth weight survivors. Progress towards creating PM/HPV vaccines and the development of ideas for using new vaccine campaigns to promote adolescent girl's health in Africa will be described.

[Read more](#)

The Golden Temple of Amritsar: Reflections of the Past

14 July - 25 September 2011, Brunei Gallery, SOAS

Organised by a leading voluntary heritage organisation, the UK Punjab Heritage Association (UKPHA), this groundbreaking show will trace the history of this iconic temple, beginning with its origins as a place where the Buddha once meditated, to its role as the inspiration behind a guerrilla insurgency against foreign invasion that eventually led to the establishment of a Sikh empire in the 18th century.

[Read more](#)

World Mosquito Day Tea Dance

19 August 2011, 3.30 - 6.30 pm, Library, Keppel Street, LSHTM

The LSHTM Malaria Centre invites you to a 1930's tea dance and tiffin in celebration of Sir Ronald Ross' discovery of the link between mosquitoes and malaria.

[Read more and RSVP](#)

Mobile Africa: a technological revolution?

1 September 2011, 6pm, Room G2, SOAS

Africa's technological spirit is on a rise, particularly in the telecommunications market. The continent in recent times has proven to be a fertile ground for innovation, as we've recently noticed with the multifarious application of mobile phones (in political elections, health schemes, local farming projects and banking). Clearly, the claim that Africa is not yet ready for modern technology is somewhat unfounded. Join the panel of speakers to

discuss and debate about the political, social and economical opportunities that new technology presents to Africa.

Communicating Civilisations and World Order Conference 2011

5-6 September 2011, SOAS

This conference seeks to understand how and why visions and narratives of global order remain a crucial part of international communication, and whether a harmony among peoples can ever be detached from the power that defines those relationships.

Deadline for registration: 12 August 2011

Registration fee: £30

[Read more and register](#)

The Phenomenology of Global Order: Inquiries into the Materiality of International Law - workshop

7 September 2011, SOAS

Scholars from all disciplines are invited to attend this workshop on the material conditions of international law, as it seduces and produces human life.

[Read more](#)

COURSES, GRANTS AND VACANCIES AT BLOOMSBURY COLLEGES

Courses:

LSHTM - Continuing Professional Development by Distance Learning

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine offers a distance learning programme suitable for professionals who wish to refresh or modernise their skills in key areas without taking a full postgraduate course.

The three themes available are Epidemiology and Statistics for Health, Key Infectious Diseases and Health Economics. Modules can be studied individually or in themed groups. For list of available modules and taster sessions to try before you apply, see the [LSHTM website](#).

Fees vary from £1,050 to £1,575. The deadline for application is 31 August 2011.

SOAS - Governance and Leadership in Africa - short course

13-17 September 2011, SOAS

The Governance and Leadership in Africa programme at the School of Oriental and African Studies provides a unique opportunity for participants to discuss and develop their knowledge of topical issues affecting the African continent. The programme will bring together public sector officials, civil servants and managers from African institutions, as well as participants from other countries working on Africa, to discuss issues of leadership and governance.

[Read more](#)

LSHTM vacancies:

Research Assistant in Sanitation and Hygiene

Faculty of Infectious & Tropical Diseases

Salary: £30,915 per annum

Closing Date: Wednesday 10 August 2011

[More](#)

Overseas Research Fellow in Health Economics

Faculty of Public Health & Policy

Salary: £32,025 to £36,863 per annum

Closing Date: Wednesday 24 August 2011

[More](#)

Overseas Research Fellow in Health Systems and Policy Analysis

Faculty of Public Health & Policy

Salary: £32,025 to £36,863 per annum

Closing Date: Wednesday 24 August 2011

[More](#)

Senior Position in Food & Nutrition

Faculty of Epidemiology & Population Health

Closing Date: Friday 16 September 2011

[More](#)

Birkbeck vacancies:

Teaching Assistant(s): International Childhood Studies

Geography, Environment and Development Studies

Remuneration: £27.82 per hour inclusive of holiday pay

Closing Date: Friday 26 August 2011

[More](#)

School of Pharmacy vacancies:

Part-Time Research Assistant - Adherence in HIV

Practice & Policy

Salary: £22,971 to £33,734 pro rata

Closing Date: Wednesday 10 August 2011

[More](#)

Research Assistant - Adherence in HIV

Practice & Policy

Salary: £22,971 to £33,734 per annum

Closing Date: Wednesday 10 August 2011

[More](#)

Funding opportunities:

Medical Research Council funding to support Research Leaders in sub-Saharan Africa

The Medical Research Council has launched a second call to support African Research Leaders. This is a highly prestigious award, jointly funded by the MRC and the UK's Department for International Development (DfID), for non-clinical and clinical researchers of exceptional ability. The aim of the scheme is to strengthen research leadership across sub-Saharan Africa, by attracting and retaining researchers of high ability.

[Read more](#)

ESRC-DFID Joint Scheme for Research on International Development (Poverty Alleviation) Phase 2 Call 3

The Department for International Development (DFID) and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) have announced a third call for applications under Phase 2 of their strategic partnership to provide a joint funding scheme for development research. The second phase of funding retains the overall 'poverty alleviation' theme from the first phase, and applications under this broad heading will still be eligible. However, ESRC and DFID have identified three thematic areas for this call where work will be of particular interest:

- Resource Scarcity, Growth and Poverty Reduction;
- Information and Communication Technology and Development;

- Measuring Development.

The deadline for applications is 16.00 on 27 September 2011.

[Read more](#)

Mental Health Care in Developing Countries: Grand Challenges Canada funding

Grand Challenges Canada is looking for Integrated Innovations in Global Mental Health from social, scientific, and business researchers for significantly improved treatment and increased access to care for patients with mental disorders in low- and middle-income countries.

Applicants in low- and lower-middle-income countries and Canada are eligible to apply. In order to be considered eligible, Canadian principal investigators must apply with co-principal investigators in a low- or lower-middle-income country.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS AND INITIATIVES OUTSIDE BLOOMSBURY

Exhibition - Restorative Justice: Healing Wounds and Repairing Lives - Advancing the Human Rights of Survivors of Genocide in Rwanda

18 July - 26 August 2011, 10 am - 8 pm, Atrium Gallery, Old Building, London School of Economics (LSE)

This exhibition explores the role of restorative justice in promoting the human rights and welfare of survivors of genocide in Rwanda. It features photographic, written, and video testimony of survivors of genocide participating in and benefiting from restorative justice efforts. It illustrates a range of programs that NGOs offer in Rwanda and beyond to assist survivors of genocide.

[Read more](#)

'Art of Change' Commonwealth Art Exhibition for Women Artists

18 July - 5 August 2011, The Royal Commonwealth Society, Commonwealth Club Gallery, 25 Northumberland Avenue, WC2N 5AP

You are invited to this exciting visual arts exhibition by a rich diversity of women artists from all corners of the Commonwealth. The exhibition is in line with the 2011 theme of the Commonwealth of 'Women as Agents of Change'.

[Read more](#)

VSO information event for teachers

9 August 2011, 2-4 pm, London

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) urgently needs primary teachers and education managers to take up roles in countries like Ghana, Ethiopia and Cambodia.

[Read more and register](#)

EADI-DSA 2011 Conference (13th EADI General Conference) 'Rethinking Development in an Age of Scarcity and Uncertainty'

19 - 22 September 2011, York, UK

EADI's triennial general conferences are the Association's public forum for debate and research. The 13th General Conference will be held in co-operation with the Development Studies Association of the United Kingdom and Ireland (DSA). The EADI-DSA 2011 conference seeks to maximise the opportunity of working together and to revisit and rethink 'development', to generate new ideas, new narratives and new thinking whenever possible globally co-constructed with partners in global-South.

[Read more and register](#)

IFS Annual Lecture by Esther Duflo: Rethinking policy towards global poverty

26 September 2011, 6 pm - 7.30 pm (followed by a drinks reception), EBRD

Esther Duflo is the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development

Economics in the Department of Economics at MIT and a founder and director of the Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). The lecture will take place at the London headquarters of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and will be followed by a drinks reception.

[Read more](#)

THIS MONTH IN DEVELOPMENT NEWS HEADLINES

The month of July in the media was dominated by news of the **Horn of Africa drought**, the resulting **famine** and **aid** responses. The UN welcomed the world's newest country, **South Sudan**, as its 193rd member. The creation of the new state in this conflict-torn area has raised issues related to governance and nation-building. The **Arab Spring** has stretched on into summer, with unrest continuing. The international community, including the UN, has condemned government crackdown on protesters in Syria. Egypt's ex-President Mubarak has denied all charges during the newly commenced trial. Finally, a number of stories conveyed optimistic news about **HIV/AIDS**, with new drugs reducing the risk of transmission.

Selected articles:

Arab Spring

[Mubarak trial: Egypt's ex-president denies all charges](#)
[Syria unrest: UN condemns government crackdown](#)

Horn of Africa famine

[Somali famine spreads to three more areas, says UN](#)
[Somalia famine: The problems of delivering aid](#)
[Top Ten culprits of the Horn of Africa famine](#)
[I watched four of my children die of hunger](#)
[UN agencies seek £1bn for famine relief](#)

South Sudan

[UN welcomes South Sudan as 193rd member state](#)
[The world's biggest development challenge](#)

HIV/ AIDS

[Can quick and easy circumcisions reduce transmission of HIV?](#)
[Growing sense of hope at international Aids conference](#)
[Further proof that a daily antiretroviral dose reduces transmission risk](#)
['Patent pool' allows cheaper copies of AIDS drugs](#)

Have you recently published new research on development? Are you organising a development-related event? Did you know you could promote your work to LIDC members at Bloomsbury Colleges and external newsletter subscribers? Send your content to admin@lidc.bloomsbury.ac.uk before the end of each calendar month and we will include it (if it meets our editorial standards).

Disclaimer: LIDC does not take responsibility for the accuracy of information provided by third parties.

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