

TWAS NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly with the support of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) by The World Academy of Sciences - for the advancement of science in developing countries (TWAS)
ICTP Campus
Strada Costiera 11
34151 Trieste, Italy
tel: +39 040 2240327
fax: +39 040 224559
e-mail: info@twas.org
website: www.twas.org

TWAS COUNCIL**President**

Bai Chunli

Immediate Past President

Jacob Palis

Vice-Presidents

Fayzah M.A. Al-Kharafi

Francisco J. Barrantes

Rabia Hussain

Keto E. Mshigeni

Yongyuth Yuthavong

Secretary-General

A.K. Sood

Treasurer

Mohamed H.A. Hassan

Council Members

Robin Crewe

Adel E.T. El-Beltagy

Habib Firouzabadi

Harold Ramkissoon

Fernando Quevedo

TWAS Executive Director

Romain Murenzi

Editor

Edward W. Lempinen

Managing editor

Gisela Isten

Assistant editors

Cristina Serra

Sean Treacy

Design & Art Direction

Rado Jagodic,

Studio Link, Trieste, Italy

Printing

La Tipografica Srl,

Campofornido, Udine, Italy

Unless otherwise indicated, the text is written by the editors and may be reproduced freely with due credit to the source.



IN THE NEWS

Cities worldwide feeling more extreme heat

Cities around the world are likely to suffer more heatwaves in the future, a study has found, leading to greater need for planning regulation and urban cooling.

The study found a significant increase between 1973 and 2012 in the number of heat waves affecting the 217 urban areas around the world it examined. Also, almost two-thirds of cities saw significant rises in "extreme hot nights", which are dangerous because people have no respite from hot days.

SciDevNet:

<http://bit.ly/1Phopb3>

Mongolia holds rare text message vote on mining

Mongolians received a text message asking them to reply to vote for either budget cuts or the controversial expansion of copper and gold mines, bringing in billions in foreign investment. They chose the mines.

For a vast, sparsely populated country like Mongolia, a mobile vote may be the most efficient way to reach people. The result of the vote was non-binding, but was hailed by the prime minister as justification for pushing ahead with more mining investment.

Quartz:

<http://bit.ly/1DOijlz>

End of cap will devastate Jamaican farmers

From the end of next year, a change in European Union policy will likely force hundreds of thousands of people across Jamaica and beyond out of traditional work and into poverty. The change is the end to the existing cap on European sugar beet production, which will flood a sugar market already experiencing historically low prices. George Callaghan, chief

executive of the Sugar Industry Authority in Jamaica, calls the change in EU policy an "earth-shattering event" for the island.

The Guardian:

<http://bit.ly/1AgD96k>

Costa Rica: 75 straight days on renewable energy

Costa Rica has achieved a clean energy milestone by using 100% renewable energy for a record 75 days in a row.

Thanks to heavy rainfall, which powered four hydroelectric plants in the first three months of the year, no fossil fuels have been burnt to generate electricity from December 2014, said a report released in late March 2015. In 2014, 80% of the energy used came from hydropower, while geothermal energy made up about 10%.

The Independent:

<http://ind.pn/1FQIH18>



India's urban lakes are drying up

The water table of Ahmedabad, India, is dipping at an alarming rate because of unfettered urbanisation and industrialisation. Other Indian cities are having similar experiences.

The city's proposed solution is to revive the groundwater levels by restoring its lost lakes. The solution may sound simple but carrying it out on the ground is a daunting task. An optimistic Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation says it will identify the lakes under threat and then draw a plan to revive them.

Down to Earth:

<http://bit.ly/1Azqo3G>