

TWAS NEWSLETTER

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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>