

TWAS NEWSLETTER

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IN THE NEWS

UNESCO warns of “massive” teacher shortage

Almost 69 million teachers need to be recruited around the world by 2030 if international pledges on education are to be kept, warns UNESCO.

The United Nations agency’s estimate is for the number of teachers required to meet the promise of primary and secondary places for all children. The biggest gaps in staffing are in sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia. The UNESCO report says there needs to be a “seismic shift” in recruitment to overcome “massive shortages”.

BBC:

www.bit.do/BCCTeachers



India joins Paris climate pact

India formally joined the Paris Climate Change Agreement by submitting its instrument of ratification at UN headquarters in New York on 2 October.

By putting its seal on the climate deal, the country will now urge the global community to adopt the ‘Gandhian way of life’ and shun extravagant lifestyles to reduce carbon footprints and protect the Earth from adverse impact of climate change. India will articulate its point vigorously during the next climate conference at Marrakech in Morocco, beginning 7 November.

Times of India:

www.bit.do/IndiaAccord

Sri Lanka eliminates malaria

The WHO formally declared Sri Lanka malaria-free in September. Experts attribute the victory to a concerted effort by multiple programmes acting in concert with a robust national healthcare system.

The number of Sri Lankan malaria cases was drastically reduced through focused fighting for a quarter-century, said Hemantha Herath, deputy director of Sri Lanka’s anti-malaria campaign. From 264,549 reported cases in 1999, Sri Lanka saw its last locally reported case in October 2012.

SciDevNet:

www.bit.do/SciDevMalaria

Local languages for Africa's internet?

Promoting local languages and providing relevant, homegrown content could increase internet adoption across the African continent, a new report finds.

The report, published by the non-profit Internet Society, finds that despite increased access to mobile and telecom infrastructure in Africa, internet adoption is still lagging. The continent’s full connectivity is being hampered by the lack of pertinent programmes targeting its mobile users, and the availability of those programmes in their own languages, says the report.

Quartz:

www.bit.do/LocalLanguages

More Vietnamese research urged

At an international workshop in Quy Nhon City, Vietnam, foreign and Vietnamese scientists agreed that Vietnam needs more international institutes where young scientists can do research.

Binh Dinh province has introduced a number of incentives to encourage scientific research. The province has hired foreign architects to develop a 130-hectare scientific urban area in Quy Hoa. Additionally, two American Physics Nobel Prize winners, David Gross and Jerome Friedman, have pledged to support the establishment of scientific research institutes in Vietnam.

Vietnam.net:

www.bit.do/VietnamSci