

TWAS NEWSLETTER

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IN THE NEWS

The 70-year wait for primary school

It will be more than 70 years before all children have access to primary school, says a UNESCO report released in late January.

The report says 57 million children remain without education and, at the current rate, many poor, rural African girls won't have access to education until 2086. The report describes this gap in education and the low quality of many schools as a "global learning crisis".

BBC News, 29 January 2014:

<http://bbc.in/1iDeNw0>

China S&T: rising fast

China has become the world's third-largest producer of peer-reviewed research articles after the European Union and United States, according to a major report published by the US National Science Foundation.

According to the report, the world's researchers produced 827,705 scientific articles in 2011. Researchers in the European Union produced about 31%, the United States produced 26%, China produced 11% and Japan produced 6%. That adds up to three countries and the EU producing almost 74% of the world's peer-reviewed research.

University World News, 28 February 2014:

<http://bit.ly/1lx86wq>

A flood of ocean data

The amount of ocean data being collected through modern methods exceeds scientists' ability to manage it. Researchers at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in Hawaii in February 2014 heard proposals for creating an international database for the incredible amount of data now available on the world's oceans.

The plan would help researchers with low funding participate in pressing fields such as climate science by producing a central place for data from the 13 million locations from which

scientists have historically drawn sea surface temperatures. The database would combine automated work on broad swaths of data with more detailed analysis by experts.

SciDevNet, 20 March 2014:

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

Understanding malaria's spread

Scientists have discovered an important step the malaria parasite needs to complete in order to pass from human to human.

Malaria is transmitted to people through mosquitos, which have been infected by biting already-infected people. What researchers identified is a molecule that serves as the master switch that triggers the development of male and female forms of the malaria parasite. If the parasite is unable to take that crucial sexual developmental step, then transmission of the disease can no longer take place from one person to another.

The Times of India, 25 February 2014:

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

India: In search of gravitational waves

The Indian government is planning to pour \$201 million into LIGO-India, the third array of gravitational wave detectors in the world, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced at the Indian Science Congress in Jammu.

Gravitational waves are spacetime ripples predicted by Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity. A detector array network in the United States called the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) is collaborating to support the new Indian array. Physicists hope the network's expansion will help detect and pinpoint sources of the waves.

Science, 14 February 2014:

<http://bit.ly/1rf2l8D>