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E-ALERT is compiled based on an email service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to you to alert you of the latest issues and debates in the United States.

It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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## Reports

### Item#1

CHINA AND GOOGLE: SEARCHING FOR TROUBLE PART I. YaleGlobal. Jonathan Fenby. January 19, 2010.

Google's recent dispute with China is not just about internet censorship; it's also about China's evolving role on the world stage, according to the report. It is unlikely Beijing will allow citizens to access banned Internet sites through Google, a condition the company demanded for staying in China. There are also concerns about Internet security in general, but the larger issue will be how multinational corporations engage with a more self-confident China. From protecting intellectual property to guarding against fuzzy legal practices, Western firms may need to reassess their China policy. But this is unlikely to shake China's growing self-confidence or provoke self-reflection.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-and-google-searching-trouble> [HTML format, various paging].

### Item#2

CHINA AND GOOGLE: SEARCHING FOR TROUBLE PART II. YaleGlobal. Jeffrey Garten. January 21, 2010.

The China-Google tussle is about two visions of the future, according to Garten. It is about openness and globalization vs. stability and nationalism. For China, the desire is to continue to lift millions of its citizens out of poverty; if such a goal entails national stability, requiring control of the internet, so be it. To Westerners, who attach great value to the rule of law and freedom of expression this might appear backwards; but with the dented Western model, poor corporate governance, the credit crisis, and a failure at Copenhagen to adopt measures to avert climate change, they don't have much of a moral high ground to stand on of late.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-and-google-searching-trouble-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].

### Item#3

CHINA HACKERS HIT MEDIA COMPANIES AND ACTIVISTS ONLINE. Committee to Protect Journalists. January 13, 2010.

The Committee to Protect Journalists expressed concern after Google said that it had uncovered evidence of cyber attackers from China targeting its own and other companies' infrastructures, as well

as individual Gmail accounts. The committee welcomed Google's statement that it was no longer willing to censor its Chinese search engine, Google.cn, in light of the discovery.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://cpj.org/2010/01/hackers-hit-media-companies-and-activists-online-f.php#more> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

CONNECTING AND GIVING: A REPORT ON HOW MID-LIFE AND OLDER AMERICANS SPEND THEIR TIME, MAKE CONNECTIONS AND BUILD COMMUNITIES. American Association of Retired Persons. Alicia Williams et al. January 2010.

American Association of Retired Persons has tracked the community service and civic involvement trends in this area periodically, measuring the extent and nature of volunteering among Baby Boomers, AARP members, and others. However, much has changed since the last study was conducted in 1997: 9/11, two recessions, the aging of the Baby Boom Generation, and a workplace characterized by longer hours and telecommuting. The report examines how these trends and others have impacted the extent and nature of the community involvement and civic participation of mid-life and older Americans.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/general/connecting\\_giving.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/general/connecting_giving.pdf) [PDF format, 74 pages].

Item#5

DOWNCAST UNEMPLOYMENT FORECAST: TARGETED JOB CREATION POLICIES NECESSARY TO OFFSET GRIM 2010 PROJECTIONS. Economic Policy Institute. Kai Filion. January 14, 2010.

The nation's 10% unemployment rate does not capture the severity of the crisis for minority workers in many regions of the country. The Issue brief provides a breakdown of the unemployment projections into 2010 for various demographic groups in every state.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://epi.3cdn.net/d9904b716d3cf62538\\_psm6bnec9.pdf](http://epi.3cdn.net/d9904b716d3cf62538_psm6bnec9.pdf) [PDF format, 13 pages].

Item#6

EARTHQUAKE PROPENSITY AND THE POLITICS OF MORTALITY PREVENTION. The World Bank. Philip Keefer et al. January 19, 2010.

Governments can significantly reduce earthquake mortality by implementing and enforcing quake-proof construction regulation. The authors examine why many governments do not. Contrary to intuition, controlling for the strength and location of actual earthquakes, mortality is lower in countries with higher earthquake propensity, where the payoffs to mortality prevention are higher. Importantly, however, the government response to earthquake propensity depends on country income and the political incentives of governments to provide public goods to citizens.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2010/01/19/000158349\\_20100119134830/Rendered/PDF/WPS5182.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2010/01/19/000158349_20100119134830/Rendered/PDF/WPS5182.pdf)

[PDF format, 40 pages].

Item#7

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE FOR POVERTY REDUCTION. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Dalila Cervantes-Godoy and Joe Dewbre. January 18, 2010.

The Millennium Declaration set 2015 as the target date for halving the number of people living in extreme poverty. Exceptional progress has been made but up to 1 billion people are still likely to remain destitute by 2015. The paper examines why some countries are doing better than others.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/57/44420648.pdf> [PDF format, 27 pages].

Item#8

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT: FY 2010 Appropriations. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Carl E. Behrens. January 2010.

The Energy and Water Development appropriations bill provides funding for civil works projects of the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Energy (DOE), and a number of independent agencies. The report includes key budgetary issues for FY2010.

Full Text:

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40669\\_20100105.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40669_20100105.pdf) [PDF format, 55 pages].

Item#9

INTERNET FREE SPEECH. Public Citizen. January 2010.

The rapid growth of the Internet and Internet technologies provides a renewed opportunity for citizens to have their voices heard on a wide variety of issues, including their government, the corporations that have an increasing role in their economic security, and the unions that represent their labor interests. The Internet affords individuals the ability to exchange ideas on these and other issues with an ever-growing world community. The site includes guide for bloggers and non-profit organizations, legal perils and legal rights of Internet speakers, and Internet free speech cases.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.citizen.org/litigation/briefs/IntFreeSpch/> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

LINKAGE BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND COMPETITIVENESS. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Leena Lankoski. January 13, 2010.

Debates exist between those who claim that environmental policy will impose additional burdens and costs on industries, thus impairing their competitiveness, and those who claim that improved environmental performance can spur competitiveness.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/0/8/44392874.pdf> [PDF format, 54 pages].

Item#11

POLICIES FOR INCREASING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT IN 2010 AND 2011. Congressional Budget Office. Susan Yang. January 2010.

The number of jobs in the United States has declined almost every month since December

2007. Nearly all professional forecasters believe that the economy has begun to recover from the recent recession, but many also predict that the pace of the recovery will be slow and that unemployment will remain high for several years.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/108xx/doc10803/01-14-Employment.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages].

Item#12

RECONCILING HOUSE AND SENATE HEALTH REFORM PROPOSALS: ELIGIBILITY, RETENTION POLICIES THAT WILL MAXIMIZE HEALTH COVERAGE AMONG THE LOW-INCOME UNINSURED. Urban Institute. Stan Dorn. January 13, 2010.

For health reform legislation to maximize coverage among low-income, uninsured Americans, the administrative details for subsidies need to make enrollment and retention simple, seamless, and as automatic as possible for consumers. Neither the House nor the Senate health reform bill extends to Medicaid the streamlined procedures that apply to other subsidies. The lawmakers could establish, for all subsidy systems, a single, streamlined system for eligibility determination, enrollment, and retention that minimizes the need for consumers to complete paperwork.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412004\\_health\\_reform\\_proposals.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412004_health_reform_proposals.pdf) [PDF format, 12 pages].

Item#13

SOCIAL NETWORKING IN GOVERNMENT: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES. Human Capital Institute. January 2010.

Blogs, wikis, RSS feeds and social networking sites like Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn have provided creative ways to recruit, engage, connect and retain employees. They have also provided an opportunity to facilitate strategic knowledge sharing across organizations and government agencies. Most SN tools are Web-based and provide a variety of ways for users who share interests and/or activities to interact. Users can share best practices and build communities of practice. "Sixty-six (66) percent of government workplaces use some type of SN tool — and sixty-five (65) percent of those are using more than one tool," according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.hci.org/files/field\\_content\\_file/SNGovt\\_SummaryFINAL.pdf](http://www.hci.org/files/field_content_file/SNGovt_SummaryFINAL.pdf) [PDF format, 5 pages].