

## Article Round up

May, 2010

### Economics and Trade

#### 1. Vietnam: Country Commerce

Economist Intelligence Unit – Released April 2010, 3 pages

A general briefing on commerce in Vietnam.

#### 2. The U.S.-Vietnam Economic Relationship

Robert D. Hormats, U.S. Under Secretary for Economics, Energy and Agricultural Affairs, April 12, 2010, 4 pages.

Together, the United States and Vietnam provide a great example of how partnerships in the 21st century can advance general interests and demonstrate cooperation. The United States is committed to strengthening its partnership with Vietnam as a key pillar of its presence in this region and of its involvement in multilateral institutions in the Asia-Pacific area, such as ASEAN and APEC.

#### 3. The Role of Infrastructure Investment in Economic Development

Francisco Rodgrihuez. A Center Foundation Report, 17 pages.

The idea that infrastructure investment should have a positive effect on economic growth is intuitively appealing. However, the discussion of the link between infrastructure and economic growth is far from settled. For instance, in the U.S., studies of time series and cross-section data show negative results. Conversely, in Europe as well as in developing countries, there is a significant role for infrastructure in explaining economic growth. Claiming that infrastructure has a positive on economic growth is different from saying that infrastructure investment should be increased. Investment decisions depend on society's priorities as well as social returns from investment in education, health, security, and general public services.

#### 4. Asia-Pacific Regional Economic Integration and Architecture

C. Fred Bergsten. Speech at the Conference on Asia-Pacific Regional Economic Integration and Architecture, March 25, 2010, 3 pages.

The author, Director of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, discusses the importance of moving in parallel on Asia-Pacific trade liberalization and similar movements inside in Asia itself. He also discusses the implications of an Asian trade bloc for the rest of the world.

## **5. Green Economics**

Paul Krugman. New York Times Magazine, April 11, 2010, pp. 34//49.

Krugman, Nobel Prize-winning economist, notes that we can afford to tackle climate change, but any serious solution must rely mainly on giving everyone a self-interested reason to produce fewer emissions. This is not fair, he says, but climate altruism must take a back seat to getting such a system in place. Rather than focus on climate change itself, it is necessary instead to understand climate economics, or rather the economics of lessening climate change. Ronald Reagan liked to talk about the magic of the marketplace but today conservatives now think that the marketplace loses its magic as soon as market incentives are invoked in favor of issues such as energy conservation. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/11/magazine/11Economy-t.html>

## **International and Regional Relations**

### **6. Vietnam and America: Parameters of the Possible**

Frederick Brown, Current History, vol. 109, no. 726, April 2010, pp. 162-169.

The author, a fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, writes that the 2008 the Vietnamese prime minister's official visit to Washington was a major step in thawing U.S.-Vietnam relations. Brown writes that the Vietnamese leadership has come to realize that their connection with the U.S. could be an asset in their competition with China, despite misgivings among conservative elements in both the Vietnamese Communist Party and in the U.S. foreign policy establishment. He notes that the regime largely abandoned Marxist economics in the 1980s, and became further isolated from Marxist doctrine in the 1990s with the collapse of the Soviet Union. The U.S.-Vietnam relationship is still colored by the legacy of the Vietnam War and fundamental differences in official perspectives, but Brown believes that both governments have a realistic view of what can be accomplished; he believes that educational exchanges offer the best opportunity for improving relations.

## **Social Issues and Governance**

### **7. The Big Question: How Can Nations Break the Cycle of Crime and Corruption?**

World Policy Journal, Spring 2010, 4 pages.

Corruption and crime drag nations into a cycle of deprivation and wanton greed. How do nations, especially developing ones, escape this quagmire? A panel of experts discusses the issue and weighs in on the challenges.

### **8. The Global Glass Ceiling**

Isobel Coleman. Foreign Affairs, Volume 89, pages 13-20.

It is now accepted wisdom that empowering women in the developing world is a catalyst for achieving a range of international development goals. It is time for multinational corporations to get on board: funding education for girls and incorporating female-owned firms into supply chains is good for business.

### **9. The Rise of Asian Universities**

Richard C. Levin. *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2010, page 63-75.

Governments in Asia understand that overhauling their higher education systems is necessary to sustain economic growth. They are making progress by investing in research, reforming traditional approaches to curricula and pedagogy, and beginning to attract outstanding faculty from abroad. Many challenges remain, but it is more likely than not that by midcentury, the top Asian universities will stand among the best universities in the world.

### **10. Journalism Ethics amid Structural Change**

Jane B. Singer. *Daedalus*, Spring 2010, 11 pages.

The author examines key aspects of journalism's structural changes in the 21st century, focusing on how these changes affect the ethical beliefs and behavior of journalists.

## **Global Issues and Environment**

### **11. Nuclear Energy as a Panacea for Future Energy Needs.**

Allison MacFarlane. *Environment*, March/April 2010, 12 pages.

In light of new calls to bring nuclear issues back to the negotiating table in alternative energy discussions, the author examines the costs and benefits of this hot-button issue.

### **12. Climate Change and Damage from Extreme Weather Events**

Robert Repetto, Robert Easton. *Environment*, March/April 2010, 12 pages.

In this article, Robert Repetto examines the economic risks a densely populated city runs in anticipating a major hurricane, noting that current risk analyses rely too heavily on looking backward at past weather events.

### **13. Water is Life**

Barbara Kingsolver, *National Geographic*, April 2010. Vol. 217. No 4, 3 pages.

The amount of water on Earth has not changed. The water the dinosaurs drank million of years ago is the same water that falls as rain today. But will there be enough for a more crowded world?

### **14. Paper or Plastic?**

Tom McNichol. *The Atlantic*, April 29, 2010, 3 pages.

Are paper bags always better for the environment than plastic ones? The author, a San Francisco-based writer, discusses whether paper bags are that much more environmentally friendly than plastic.

### **15. Think Mobile, Act Local - Cell Phones as Appropriate Technology**

John Murrow. *World Watch*, May/June 2010, page 22.

The author discusses what is appropriate to leverage the rapid rise in mobile phone usage for developing countries.

### **16. The Meaning of the Mess**

Bryan Walsh. *Time*, May 17, 2010, pages 30-35.

The author wonders what the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico means for the future of energy. He states that the blown oil well created an environmental catastrophe, but the accident could at last provide the impetus to craft an energy policy that is smart, pragmatic and green.

### **17. Made in China: Cancer Villages**

Lee Liu, *Environment* Vol. 52, Number 2, March/April 2010.

As China continues to expand its role on the global stage as an industrial powerhouse, a new and frightening repercussion of development has emerged. "Cancer villages," or small communities suffering from extremely high rates of cancers, are springing up across rural China. These cancer clusters provide a focal point for examining environmental health problems in China and raise critical questions for sustainability research and policy.

## **American Society and Values**

### **18. Hillary Happy**

Tom Junod. *Esquire* 05-10, page 83-89, 129.

She has lived the most extraordinary American life. Now she lives in extraordinary exile from the two men to whom she is most loyal in politics, because of controversy.

### **19. Remaking Education for a New Century**

Patrick Tucker. *The Futurist*, January/February 2010, 3 pages.

The author, senior editor of *The Futurist*, interviews Janna Anderson, an associate professor at Elon University's School of Communications, about the role that education outside the classroom will play for students' future study and teachers' methodologies.

## **20. The Alternative**

Michelle Davis, Washington Post Magazine, April 11, 2010, pp. 22-29.

Younger students are giving community colleges a second look as a gateway to a four-year degree in a still-tight economy. As job losses rack up and family savings dwindle, more students who saw themselves going directly from high school to a four-year institution are instead enrolling at their local community college. Once known for the night courses they offered to usually older students who were holding down daytime jobs and had other responsibilities, community colleges now maintain daytime programs and specialized courses of study once only available in more expensive degree programs. Nationally, about 46 percent of students on community college campuses are younger than 21, according to a 2007 report from the American Association of Community Colleges, up from 42.5 percent in 2003. Currently available online at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/02/AR2010040202553.html>

## **21. New Economic Models for U.S. Journalism**

Robert H. Giles. Daedalus, Spring 2010, 13 pages.

The author discusses the search for workable business models for U.S. journalism, focusing on how high-quality journalism can survive and thrive in the internet age.

## **22. Can We Future-Proof Library Automation?**

Marshall Breeding. Computers in Libraries, March 2010, 3 pages.

How do we make our technology investments not only future-proof, but also more able to endure the cycles of change that will continuously transform libraries? The author, Vanderbilt University Libraries' Director for Innovative Technologies and Research, examines the role of electronics in transforming libraries, focusing on the importance of planning for change.

## **23. The Ripple Effect: Widening the Library's Circle of Influence**

Tom Storey. Next Space, January 2010, 7 pages.

The author discusses how libraries can extend their reach beyond traditional boundaries in order to better reach users in new and compelling ways, focusing on the "ripple effect" and how libraries can generate enthusiasm and action within the communities that support them.

## **24. Schumpeter's Children**

Magaret B. W. Graham. Wilson Quarterly Spring 2010, page 48-57.

Even when big business was incontestably king, entrepreneurial forces drove the American economy and powered its periodic renewals. Today, there are worrisome signs that the game is up.

## **25. 10 Suggestions for Enhancing Lecturing**

Ray Heitzmann. Education Digest. May 1010, 4 pages.

Criticism of the lecture method remains a staple of discussion and writing in academia-and most of the time it's deserved. Those interested in improving this aspect of their teaching might wish to consider some or all of the following suggestions for enhancing lectures.

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