

ສາທາລະນະສູນກາງລັດຖະບານສະຫະລັດອາເມລິກາ



U.S. Embassy, Vientiane, Laos
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Information Resource Center (IRC) Public Diplomacy Section U.S. Embassy, Vientiane, Laos



Article Alert: January, 2014

Dear All,

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center is very pleased to offer you **ARTICLE ALERT**, the monthly current awareness publication of the U.S. Embassy Public Diplomacy Section. Article Alert is designed to keep IRC users abreast of issues and concerns in the United States. **Full texts of all listed articles are available upon request** at irc_vientiane@state.gov or call us: 021 267089/267263, fax: 021 267160.

SPOTLIGHT: DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

1. "Constraining Political Corruption: An Empirical Analysis of the Impact of Democracy"

Alessandro Pellegata. *Democratization*, December 2013, 24 pages.

The author examines the relationship between democracy and political corruption, focusing on two analytical dimensions of democracy: the current level of democracy and its degree of consolidation over time.

2. "Reflections on "Governance""

[Marc F. Plattner](#). *Journal of Democracy*, October 2013, 12 pages.

The author, Vice President for Research and Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy, discusses the meaning of governance and its relationship to democracy, focusing on the role of the State as an institution that accumulates and uses power, and in providing effective and good governance.

U.S. POLITICS

3. "We're Three Years from the Next Presidential Election, and Hillary Clinton Is, Once Again, the Inevitable Democratic Nominee"

[Noam Scheiber](#). *The New Republic*, November 25, 2013, 6 pages.

The author, a senior editor for The New Republic, examines the Democratic Party and the 2016 U.S. presidential election, focusing on the possible candidacy of former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, and their position on the issues of financial regulation and economic policy.

HUMAN RIGHTS

4. "Child Trafficking in Thailand: Prevention and Prosecution Challenges"

Ross Michael Pink. *Asian Affairs: An American Review*, October 2013, 13 pages.

The author examines the deep rooted problem of child trafficking in Thailand, and the systemic realities of marginalization, corruption, low police training and salaries and poverty that have led to ineffective law enforcement against traffickers.

5. "Effective Aid"

[Michael Vanrooyen](#). *Harvard International Review*, Fall 2013, 5 pages.

What are the most important barriers to providing effective aid? What future issues must be understood to optimize the efficiency of aid? The author, Director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative at Harvard University, examines factors that contribute to ineffective humanitarian aid and discusses progress toward humanitarian reform including the need for professionalism, coordination and accountability.

REGIONAL SECURITY IN ASIA

6. "Ten Trends That Will Shape Asia in 2014"

[Evan A. Feigenbaum](#). Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, December 30, 2013, 6 pages.

Can Asian countries continue to prosper and keep disputes in check while China vigorously reforms and North Korea provokes its neighbors? The author, a nonresident senior associate in the Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, forecasts ten trends that will shape the volatile Asia, yielding risks, opportunities, and patterns that will influence the next twelve months and beyond.

7. "Rebalancing the US Army Towards Asia"

Paul Lushenko. *Asia Pacific Bulletin No. 244*, December 5, 2013, 2 pages.

The author, Captain in the U.S. Army, discusses how the U.S. Army has pursued strategic, operational, and tactical initiatives to achieve its security goals in Asia, which are primarily to avoid major armed conflicts.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD AFFAIRS

8. "Global Forecast 2014: U.S. Security Policy at a Crossroads"

[Craig Cohen](#), et al; eds. Center for Strategic and International Studies, November 1, 2013, 76 pages.

The authors analyze U.S. security policy and the issues that will determine the future trajectory of American power in 2014 and beyond, particularly America's ability to sustain its rebalance to Asia, and to rebuild a national security consensus to meet the challenges the United States will face in the years ahead.

9. "The Challengers"

Foreign Policy, November/December 2013, 5 pages.

The article explores leaders who are shaking up the status quo in their nations or internationally in the 21st century, including Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky and his longest talking filibuster the U.S. Senate had seen in decades to protest the Obama administration's use of drones.

ECONOMICS GROWTH

10. "ASEAN Centrality and the ASEAN-US Economic Relationship"

[Peter A. Petri](#) and [Michael G. Plummer](#). *Policy Studies No. 69*, November 22, 2013, 60 pages.

Can the United States deepen its engagement with ASEAN, while also respecting the region's quest for centrality? The authors examine the significance of the ASEAN-U.S. economic relationship and explore the concept of ASEAN centrality and its implications for intraregional and extra-regional integration.

11. "365 Days of Unequal Growth"

[Uri Dadush](#). Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, December 18, 2013, 3 pages.

If the global economy is recovering, why do many people around the world not have much confidence that 2014 will bring significant improvements? The author, a senior associate in Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's International Economics Program, examines the global economic trends in 2014, focusing on how the perception of economic stagnation will impact the reality of economic recovery.

GLOBAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

12. "Rice Security in Southeast Asia: Beggar Thy Neighbor or Cooperation?"

[Amy Freedman](#). *Pacific Review*, December 2013, 22 pages.

What are the prospects for greater cooperation in coordinating crops policies so as to better ensure reliable access for more citizens in the region? The author, a professor and department chair of political science and international studies at Long Island University Post, analyzes agricultural and trade policies for rice and grains in Southeast Asia and the factors that contribute to food insecurity in the region.

13. "Are Engineered Foods Evil?"

[David H. Freedman](#). *Scientific American*, September 2013, 6 pages.

The author discusses the safety of genetically modified (GM) crops, focusing on the benefits of GM foods compared to their health risks and the difference between selective plant breeding and mutagenic techniques.

14. "The One-Stop Carbon Solution"

[Steven L. Bryant](#) and Emily Cooper. *Scientific American*, November 2013, 6 pages.

What if we could tap vast deposits of methane-rich brine deep beneath the ocean and use the energy to cut carbon emissions? The authors discuss how a technology could economically produce large amount of energy and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND IT

15. "The Decline of Wikipedia"

[Tom Simonite](#). *Technology Review*, November/December 2013, 7 pages.

The author, a senior IT editor at MIT Technology Review, discusses the decline of Wikipedia and the challenges facing the volunteer workforce that built the site include defending it against vandalism, hoaxes, and manipulation. Can it be revived, or is this the end of the Web's idealistic era?

16. "Connecting with Our Connected World"

[Richard Yonck](#). *The Futurist*, November/December 2013, 6 pages.

The author, a foresight analyst for Intelligent Future LLC., discusses the possible effects of increased machine-to-machine communications on human interactivity and the effect of connectivity on businesses, individual daily routines, and privacy.

17. "Leaders of the Tweet World"

[Linda Kinstler](#). *The New Republic*, November 25, 2013, 2 pages.

The author explores political leaders' use of the Twitter micro-blogging service globally, and discusses patterns in their Twitter use, including differences between presidents and prime ministers.

18. "Why the Brain Prefers Paper"

[Ferris Jabr](#). *Scientific American*, November 2013, 6 pages.

The author compares e-readers and tablets to paper books, and discusses why paper still has advantages over screens as a reading medium despite all the increasingly user-friendly and popular technology.

EDUCATION

19. "Fulbright Starts Efforts to Help Alumni Keen Global Ties"

[Jan Wilhelm](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 1, 2013, 8 pages.

The author examines how the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is attempting to help alumni of its Fulbright fellowship program maintain connections created during international research and study as well as improve individuals' job prospects.

20. "Managing the Classroom: A Very Salient Responsibility in Teaching and Learning Situations is Classroom Management"

Marlow Ediger. *Education*, Fall 2013, 4 pages.

The author, Professor Emeritus at Truman State University, discusses the importance of classroom management lessons in teacher education and how it can impact students' academic achievement.

LIBRARY TRENDS

21. "Best Databases 2013"

Elizabeth Michaelson. *Library Journal*, November 1, 2013 Supplement Reference 2014, 7 pages.

The author evaluates several databases which are of use for libraries and the best databases for libraries in 2013, featuring smaller and newer publishers including Zinio, Novel Data, Plum Analytics, and Rosen Digital.

22. "Digital Changes Everything: The Intersection of Libraries and Archives"

[Jan Zastrow](#). *Computers in Libraries*, November 2013, 3 pages.

The author, University of Hawaii Manoa's Congressional Papers Archivist, explores the digitization of libraries and archives, focusing on the similarities between libraries and archives and the confusion about the roles of digital librarians and digital archivists.