

ສາທາລະນະສູນກາງຂ່າວສານສະຫະລັດອາເມລິກາ



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

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Article Alert: November, 2013

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: HIGHER EDUCATION

1. "Is That All There Is? Taking Education to New Levels in the Social-Media Era"
[Munir Mandviwalla](#), et al. *Change*, September/October 2013, 8 pages.

The authors examine how social media-enabled platforms can lead to transformation in educational experiences and outcomes including teaching, learning, and students' professional development and placement. Its impact on higher education in the United States is also discussed.

2. "How to Focus Students on School after Summer Break"
Pamela Martineau. *Education Digest*, September 2013, 6 pages.

The author, a contributor to *California Schools*, discusses how educators and school administrators can motivate students to focus on academics after summer vacation and at the start of a new school year, including methods that address study skills, school environment, and tests.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

3. "Coping with Rising Inequality in Asia: How Effective Are Fiscal Policies?"
[Jorge Martinez-Vazquez](#), et al. *Asian Economic Papers*, Fall 2013, 33 pages.

The authors discuss the impact of redistributive fiscal policies in Asia, then compare that impact to what is observed in a broad set of other countries outside the continent. They also analyze the effectiveness of taxation and selected government expenditure in reducing income inequality in Asia and in the rest of the world.

4. "Monetary Policy during the Past 30 Years with Lessons for the Next 30 Years"

[John B. Taylor](#). *CATO Journal*, Fall 2013, 13 pages.

The author, the George P. Shultz Senior Fellow in Economics at the Hoover Institution, examines the U.S. monetary policy between 1982 and 2012, pointing out the differences between the 1980s, the 1990s, and the early 21st century; then discusses the implications for U.S. monetary policy for the future.

5. "What Now for Monetary Policy?"

[John H. Makin](#). American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, September/October 2013, 7 pages.

What should the Federal Reserve's goals be? The author, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, examines the role of Federal Reserve which has evolved from its original task of providing liquidity in times of financial crisis to include ensuring a low and stable rate of inflation, and now targeting lower unemployment and higher growth.

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

6. "Yellow Skin, White Masks"

[Mina Yang](#). *Daedalus*, Fall 2013, 14 pages.

The author, an assistant professor of Musicology at the University of Southern California, explores how emerging Asian American hip-hop dancers and musicians negotiate their self-representation in different contexts, and what their strategies reveal about the postmillennial Asian youth's relationship to American and transpacific culture and the outer limits of American music.

7. "Born to Take the Highway: Women, the Automobile, and Rock 'n' Roll"

Chris Lezotte. *Journal of American Culture*, September 2013, 16 pages.

The author, a Ph.D. candidate in American Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University, explores a cultural history of the interrelated concepts of automobiles, rock and roll, and women in the 20th-century United States, particularly associations between automobile driving and personal independence, and connections between driving and female empowerment.

TECHNOLOGY

8. "Hand over That Smartphone"

Shirley Duglin Kennedy. *Information Today*, September 2013, 2 pages.

The author, the web content strategist for the Center for Deployment Psychology, examines Internet addiction and the legal, social and psychological problems associated with it.

9. "The Data-Driven Society"

[Alex "Sandy" Pentland](#). *Scientific American*, October 2013, 6 pages.

The author, director of MIT Media Lab Entrepreneurship Program, discusses the world's data-driven societies and the role of big data and its ability to trace, predict, and even control the behavior of individuals and groups of people.

10. "Smarter Software's Impacts on Human Privacy"

[Keturah Hetrick](#). *The Futurist*, November/December 2013, 3 pages.

The author discusses research on computer comprehension of human speech and language, including the definitions of words, logic, and syntax used in telephone conversations or e-mail, and the implications a semantic search program could have on personal privacy.

WORLD AFFAIRS

11. "Change Management"

[Condoleezza Rice](#). *Harvard International Review*, Fall 2013, 2 pages.

Condoleezza Rice, Professor of Political Science at Stanford University and a former U.S. Secretary of State, reflects the role of U.S. Secretary of State and U.S. foreign policy, particularly its role within the international balance of power.

12. "Twenty-First Century Statecraft in Action"

[Michael A. Hammer](#). *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, Winter 2013, 8 pages.

Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Michael A. Hammer discusses the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Public Affairs practice of what Secretary Clinton has termed "Twenty-First Century Statecraft," seeking to further U.S. foreign policy and national security interests, as well as telling America's compelling story to the world through the newest platforms that provide the greatest reach.

13. "Conservative Internationalism"

[Henry R. Nau](#). *National Review*, September 30, 2013, 4 pages.

The author, a professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University, explores different approaches to U.S. engagement in world affairs, and make a case for an alternative strategy which is mainly internationalist but conservative and combines rather than rejects the insights of the other approaches.

14. "Repression, Dissent, and the Onset of Civil War"

[Joseph K. Young](#). *Political Research Quarterly*, September 2013, 17 pages.

Why are some weak states prone to civil war while others are not? The author, an assistant professor of the American University's School of Public Affairs, offers a theory that explains how interactions between dissidents and states can produce civil wars. He also discusses the preferences of state actors to resort to violence rather than peaceful conflict resolution.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

15. "The Great Comeback: Bringing a Species Back from Extinction"

Ben J. Novak. *The Futurist*, September/October 2013, 5 pages.

What if extinction could be undone? The disappearance of the once-numerous passenger pigeon inspired one budding young geneticist to right a great ornithological wrong. The author discusses his Great Comeback project to sequence the genome of the passenger pigeon and bring the species back from extinction.

16. "Green Pluralism: Lessons for Improved Environmental Governance in the 21st Century"

[Peter M. Haas](#), et al. *Environment*, September/October 2013, 17 pages.

The authors examine case studies of different environmental challenges as part of a multinational research project aimed to identify some of the best and worst practices in international and transnational environmental cooperation.

17. "How Big Business Can Save the Climate"

Jerry Patchell and [Roger Hayter](#). *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2013, 6 pages.

The authors discuss climate change and the role of big business in reducing global ozone-depleting emissions, focusing on the reported failures of various governments to meet emission-reduction targets in regards to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other chemicals.

18. "Everything You Know About Calories Is Wrong"

[Rob Dunn](#). *Scientific American*, September 2013, 4 pages.

The author, a biologist at North Carolina State University, discusses the inaccuracy of counting calories and why the calorie counts on food labels can greatly differ from the calories the human body actually extracts. He explains how the body digests and uses food, and points out flaws in the way calories are calculated.

19. "Replaceable You"

[Geoff Brumfiel](#). *Smithsonian*, September 2013, 9 pages.

Is it possible for the brain to form a direct interface with bionic limbs and organs? The author explores the revolution in personal electronics in a study that will make it possible, and the development of an implant that can record and transmit data wirelessly.

20. "A Trace of Arsenic"

[Deborah Blum](#). *Discover*, October 2013, 5 pages.

The author, a Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist, explores the health risks of arsenic in food, particularly the link between consumption of arsenic-laced rice to genetic damage in humans.

LIBRARY TRENDS

21. "Public Libraries Ramping Up Multimedia Learning Mission"

[Nora Fleming](#). *Education Week*, September 11, 2013, 3 pages.

The author, a contributing writer for *Education Week*, discusses the educational partnerships between U.S. public libraries and schools, providing opportunities for students to engage in digital learning opportunities aimed at making them college- and career-ready.

22. "Digital Native Librarians, Technology Skills, and Their Relationship with Technology"

[Jenny Emanuel](#). *Information Technology & Libraries*, September 2013, 14 pages.

The author, a digital services and reference librarian at the University of Illinois, examines the technology skills of millennial academic librarians and their attitudes toward technology, focusing on whether the increasingly high-tech nature of academic librarianship has attracted Millennials to the career.