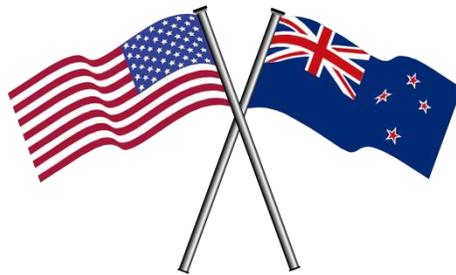




## U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand Confirmed



On 20 November 2009 David Huebner was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Samoa.

David Huebner is an American lawyer based in Shanghai, where he specializes in international arbitration and mediation. He is licensed both as an attorney in California, New York, and the District of Columbia, and as a solicitor in England and Wales.

Read the official nomination, hearing and confirmation documents:

**President Obama Announces More Key Administration Posts** press release. The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. October 07, 2009.

**Written Statement of David Huebner**, United States Ambassador-Designate to New Zealand and Samoa. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, November 5, 2009.

**Executive Nominations confirmed by the Senate**, November 20, 2009.

Spotlight offers abstracts of current articles from U.S. publications and by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in international or U.S. domestic affairs. **Views expressed in the articles cited are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.**

\*\* You can either read the whole document or skip to subject using table of contents\*\*

**All ARTICLES underlined are available online –“click” on ARTICLE #**

**If you are unable to access the articles please contact us by email @**

**Wellington.arc@state.gov citing article numbers. Thank you.**

**If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, download it now**

**<http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/>**

## Spotlight Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Asia/Pacific Region.....                          | 2  |
| International Relations and Public Diplomacy..... | 2  |
| Middle East.....                                  | 3  |
| Environment & Climate Change.....                 | 4  |
| Social Welfare.....                               | 6  |
| Agriculture, Food & Fisheries.....                | 7  |
| Economics, Trade & Finance.....                   | 8  |
| Health & Health Care Reform.....                  | 9  |
| Media & Communications.....                       | 10 |
| Research, Science & Technology.....               | 10 |
| Education.....                                    | 11 |
| Defense and Nonproliferation.....                 | 11 |

## Asia/Pacific Region

**Shades of Red: China’s Debate over North Korea.** *International Crisis Group.* November 2, 2009.

The report examines current Chinese policy toward Pyongyang in the wake of North Korea's latest round of provocations, including missile launches, the withdrawal from the Six-Party Talks, and the May 25<sup>th</sup> nuclear test. These events drew out an unusually public discussion in China about its ties with North Korea. [\*\*ARTICLE 967\*\*](#)

**Hard Lessons: Navigating Negotiations with the DPRK** by Abraham M. Denmark et al. *Center for a New American Security.* November 9, 2009.

The report is meant to help policymakers who will engage with North Korean officials navigate the pitfalls of past negotiations and forge a credible path toward de-nuclearization. Based on interviews with high-level current and former American and South Korean government officials, politicians, academics, and journalists, the authors summarize obstacles faced in the past and recommend new strategies for addressing them. [\*\*ARTICLE 968\*\*](#)

**Obama in Asia – Part II** by Kavi Chongkittavorn. *YaleGlobal.* November 18, 2009.

While President Obama’s visit to Southeast Asia is hailed as a breakthrough in relations between the U.S. and the region, the ground was prepared since the new administration took office. With accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in July, writes Kavi Chungkittavorn, Washington signaled its sincerity toward Asean. For now Obama’s willingness to consult and listen has earned the U.S. much goodwill in Asean. [\*\*ARTICLE 969\*\*](#)

**Unions an Upward Mobility for Asian Pacific American Workers** by John Schmitt et al. *Center for Economic and Policy Research.* November 2009.

Asian Pacific American (APA) workers are, with Latinos, the fastest growing group in the U.S. workforce and in organized labor. The report uses national data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) to show that unionization raises the wages of the typical APA worker by 9% compared to their non-union peers. [\*\*ARTICLE 970\*\*](#)

## International Relations and Public Diplomacy

**Two Decades After the Wall’s Fall: End of Communism Cheered but now with more Reservations.** *Pew Global Attitudes Project.* November 2, 2009.

Majorities of people in former Soviet republics and Eastern European countries endorse the emergence of multiparty systems and a free market economy. However, the initial enthusiasm about these changes has dimmed in most of the countries surveyed. [\*\*ARTICLE 971\*\*](#)

**The End of Chimerica** by Niall Ferguson. *Harvard Business School*. November 2009.

For the better part of the past decade, the world economy has been dominated by a world economic order that combined Chinese export-led development with U.S. over-consumption. The financial crisis of 2007-2009 likely marks the beginning of the end of the Chimerican relationship. The paper looks at this era as economic historians, trying to set events in a longer-term perspective. [ARTICLE 972](#)

**Managing Unmet Expectations in the U.S.-Japan Alliance** by Michael Finnegan. *National Bureau of Asian Research*. November 2009.

The report examines the U.S.-Japan alliance to answer three related questions: Is the alliance meeting the mutual expectations of the partners? If not, what are the potential consequences? Given the stakes involved, what are the policy implications for the alliance? [ARTICLE 973](#)

**China's Role in the "New Era of Engagement"** by Stewart M. Patrick. *Council on Foreign Relations*. Nov. 10, 2009.

China has benefited enormously from Western-dominated global structures, writes Stewart Patrick, and Washington now expects it to contribute more significantly to world order.

**Obama's Afghanistan Rating Declines: a Year Out, Widespread Anti-Incumbent Sentiment.** *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*. November 11, 2009.

The mood of America is glum, according to the Pew survey. Two-thirds of the public is dissatisfied with the way things are going in the country. Nine-in-ten say that national economic conditions are fair or poor, and nearly two-thirds describe their own finances that way. An increasing proportion of Americans say that the war in Afghanistan is not going well, and a plurality continues to oppose the health care reform proposals in Congress. [ARTICLE 974](#)

## Middle East

**Iran and the West at a Crossroad - Part I** by Jamsheed K. Choksy. *YaleGlobal*. October 30, 2009.

Despite Iran's recent equivocation over a deal crafted to lower the threat of the country producing nuclear weapons, there are signs that the Islamic Republic could, nevertheless, settle the issue, according to the author.

**Pakistan: Protect People First** by Kristele Younes and Patrick Duplat. *Refugees International*. Oct. 26, 2009.

Recent offensives against militant groups have displaced several million civilians and left thousands dead. The UN's activities are limited by the insecure environment and restrictions by the Pakistan government, but it must do a better job at adopting a principled approach to humanitarian assistance. As for the U.S., if it wants to help stabilize Pakistan, it needs to insist that the government prioritize the protection of civilians, says the report. [ARTICLE 975](#)

**The Day After....In Jerusalem: A Strategic Planning Exercise on the Path to Achieving Peace in the Middle East** by Roger C. Molander et al. *RAND Corporation*. November 6, 2009.

The RAND Center for Middle East Public Policy conducted a series of exercises to help policymakers more effectively address the challenges of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in particular, as a key component of the broader effort to secure stability in the Middle East. The exercises illuminated key security challenges in Arab-Israeli relationships, derivative linkages and threats to U.S. regional and international security, and alternative strategies in addressing the Israeli-Palestinian problem and other regional issues. [ARTICLE 976](#)

**Iran, the U.S., and the Gulf: The Elusive Regional Policy** by Marina Ottaway. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. November 12, 2009.

Any effective U.S. diplomatic approach to Iran must involve other countries in the Gulf, but Washington will not succeed if it continues to strive for an anti-Iranian alliance, according to the study. While an overall security arrangement including all Gulf countries is not possible at this stage, a normalization of relations between Iran and its neighbors is an important step for reintegrating Iran into the international community. [ARTICLE 977](#)

**Lebanon's Unstable Equilibrium** by Mona Yacoubian. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. November 2009.

In the wake of Lebanon forming a new government, U.S. Institute of Peace assesses how the country can ensure ongoing political progress and stability.

**Palestine: Salvaging Fatah.** *International Crisis Group*. November 12, 2009.

President Mahmoud Abbas's threat not to run in the next elections is the latest sign of the crisis facing Fatah. Fatah's challenge is to clearly define its agenda, how to carry it out, and with whom. While Fatah has begun internal reforms to revitalize the movement, much remains to be done. According to the report, Fatah's leaders need to clarify its political strategy if it is to play an effective role in leading Palestinians toward a two-state solution. [\*\*ARTICLE 978\*\*](#)

**The Cost of War: Afghan Experiences of Conflict, 1978-2009.** *Oxfam International*. November 17, 2009.

To better understand how Afghans have experienced and understand the devastating conflict of the last thirty years, eight nongovernmental organizations operating in Afghanistan conducted research in 14 provinces across the country. The research focused on individual experiences of the past thirty years of conflict, perceptions of the current conflict and recommendations for alleviating the violence and addressing its root causes. [\*\*ARTICLE 979\*\*](#)

**Vision for Victory in Afghanistan** by Michael E. O'Hanlon. *Brookings Institution*. Nov. 18, 2009. [\*\*Part I\*\*](#) [\*\*Part II\*\*](#)

On a recent weeklong visit to Afghanistan sponsored by the U.S. military, Michael O'Hanlon met with Afghan and foreign officers and officials whose mood countered the overall dismal outlook and recent reports of violence there. O'Hanlon's visit left him with guarded optimism about our prospects for creating a safe and stable Afghanistan.

## **Environment & Climate Change**

**2008 U.S. National Post-Consumer Plastics Bottle Recycling Report.** *Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers and American Chemistry Council*. October 28, 2009.

Plastic bottle recycling by consumers increased 75 million pounds in 2008 (up 3.2%), to reach a record high of more than 2.4 billion pounds for the year, according to the report. The report also found that the results reflect a continuing increase in the pounds of bottles collected for recycling each year since the industry survey began in 1990. The recycling rate for plastic bottles rose nearly 3 percent to reach 27 percent. [\*\*ARTICLE 980\*\*](#)

### **Congressional Budget Office: The Costs of Reducing Greenhouse-Gas Emissions**

**The Bottom Line on International Climate Negotiations** by Robert Heilmayr and Chris Lau. *World Resources Institute*. September 2009.

In December 2009, diplomats from around the world will convene in Copenhagen, Denmark to decide on a new international agreement on climate change. The questions and answers in the brief address the agreements and structures that form the basis of the Copenhagen climate change negotiations. [\*\*ARTICLE 981\*\*](#)

**Global Climate Change Policy Tracker: an Investor's Assessment.** *Columbia Climate Center, Columbia University and Deutsche Bank Climate Change Advisors*. October 26, 2009.

The report provides an analysis of climate change policies and assigns a risk rating to 109 countries, states and regions based on key government mandates and supporting policy frameworks. [\*\*Summary\*\*](#)

[\*\*Detailed Summary of Targets by Region and Country\*\*](#)

[\*\*Detailed Analysis of Targets by Region and Country\*\*](#)

**More Carrot and Less Stick Needed to Fight Global Warming** by Emmanuelle Ganne. *YaleGlobal*. Oct. 2009.

With the convention on climate change fast approaching, countries are focusing on measures that punish carbon users. As the author puts it, governments favor a stick approach. Such policies place costs on households, create an image of fighting climate change as a burden, and do little to change behavior. The costs to reverse climate change will be high, but an approach that supports the use of clean technologies, lowers barriers for their implementation, and helps foster changes in people's behavior would be better than punishing carbon users. [\*\*ARTICLE 982\*\*](#)

**National Climate Change Strategies: Comparative Analysis of Developing Country Plans.** *World Resources Institute*. June 2009.

This chart is intended to help policymakers compare the National Climate Change plans of five developing countries: India, Brazil, China, Mexico, and South Africa.

**Three Pillars of Post-2012 International Climate Policy** by Sheila M. Olmstead and Robert N. Stavins. *Harvard Project on International Climate Agreements*. October 23, 2009.

The authors presents a proposal for a post-2012 international global climate policy agreement with three essential elements: meaningful involvement by key industrialized and developing nations; an emphasis on an extended time path of targets; and inclusion of market-based policy instruments. They believe the architecture is consistent with fundamental aspects of the science, economics, and politics of global climate change. **ARTICLE 983**

**Confronting Climate Change: an Early Analysis of Water and Wastewater Adaptation Costs.** *National Association of Clean Water Agencies.* October 28, 2009.

The report details the impacts climate change can have on wastewater and drinking water utilities and estimates the adaptation costs for these critical facilities to be between \$448 billion and \$944 billion through 2050. The associations, which represent the nation's public wastewater and drinking water agencies, urges Congress and the Obama administration to recognize that climate change is fundamentally about water and to implement policies that will help utilities take timely actions to adapt. **ARTICLE 984**

**Getting to Yes on Climate Change – Action of Other Countries.** Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Testimony of Jonathan Lash, World Resources Institute. October 29, 2009.

Lash says that "Only if all nations come forward with what they propose to do is agreement possible. The question is no longer whether others will act...the question is whether we will act. The point is no longer that global warming cannot be addressed without those other countries. The point is that it cannot be addressed without this country and that we cannot gain the benefits of leadership unless we enact climate legislation."

**Modest Support for "Cap and Trade" Policy: Fewer Americans See Solid Evidence of Global Warming** by Andrew Kohut. *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.* October 22, 2009.

There has been a sharp decline over the past year in the percentage of Americans who say there is solid evidence that global temperatures are rising – 35% today, down from 44% in April 2008. The latest national survey finds that 57% think there is solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades. In April 2008, 71% said there was solid evidence of rising global temperatures. **ARTICLE 985**

**Awaiting Climate Accord, Governments Toy with Dubious Measures** by Doaa Abdel Motaal. *YaleGlobal.* November 6, 2009.

In the lead up to the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December, developed and developing nations are preparing themselves for the outcome, multilateral deal or not. This approach is bound to harm the prospects for reversing global warming, for fostering free trade, and for ensuring competition, according to World Trade Organization Counselor Doaa Abdel Motaal. **ARTICLE 986**

**Energy Needs and Efficiency, Not Emissions: Re-framing the Climate Change Narrative** by Nancy Birdsall and Arvind Subramanian. *Center for Global Development.* November 9, 2009.

The basic narrative on climate change between the rich and poor worlds has been problematic. The focus on emissions has made industrial countries inadequately sensitive to the unmet energy needs in developing countries. And it has led developing countries to adopt the rhetoric of recrimination and focus on the legacy of historical emissions by industrial countries. **ARTICLE 987**

**Reconciling Climate Change and Trade Policy** by Aaditya Mattoo et al. *Center for Global Development.* November 10, 2009.

There is growing clamor in industrial countries for additional border taxes on imports from countries with lower carbon prices. A key factor affecting the impact of these taxes is whether they are based on the carbon content of imports or the carbon content in domestic production. **ARTICLE 988**

**Reviewing and Verifying International Climate Action** by Paul Joffe. *World Resources Inst.* Nov. 11, 2009.

Climate change is a global issue that requires action from all countries. As the U.S. Congress develops a domestic climate and energy package, the United States seeks assurance that other countries will also act and a means to track the progress of commitments by verifying that actions have been implemented. **ARTICLE 989**

**Zero Net Deforestation by 2020.** *World Wildlife Fund.* November 19, 2009.

Ninth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP9) in May 2008 in Bonn, delegates of 67 countries pledged support for WWF's call for zero net deforestation by 2020. **ARTICLE 990**

## Social Welfare

**America's Children: Key Indicators of Well-Being, 2009.** *Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.* October 28, 2009.

The report presents 40 key indicators on important aspects of children's lives. These indicators are drawn from our most reliable statistics, easily understood by broad audiences, objectively based on substantial research, measured regularly so that they can be updated to show trends over time, and representative of large segments of the population rather than one particular group. [ARTICLE 991](#)

**Family Mobility and Neighborhood Change: New Evidence and Implications for Community Initiatives** by Claudia Coulton et al. *Urban Institute.* November 2, 2009.

Americans change residences frequently. Residential mobility can reflect positive changes in a family's circumstances or be a symptom of instability and insecurity. Mobility may also change neighborhoods as a whole. The analyzes the reasons and changes. [ARTICLE 992](#)

**The Shriver Report: a Woman's Nation Changes Everything** by Maria Shriver. *Center for American Progress.* October 2009.

For the first time in the U.S. history, women are half of all U.S. workers and mothers are the primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in nearly two-thirds of American families. This is a dramatic shift from just a generation ago. It fundamentally changes how we all work and live, not just women but also their families, their co-workers, their bosses, their faith institutions, and their communities. [ARTICLE 993](#)

**The "Zeal of the Convert": is it the Real Deal?** by Allison Pond and Greg Smith. *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.* October 29, 2009.

A common perception of individuals who switch religions is that they are fervent about their new faith. The analysis finds that people who have switched faiths, or joined a faith after being unaffiliated with a religion, are slightly more religious than those who have remained in their childhood faith; measured by the importance of religion in their lives, the frequency with which they attend religious services and measures of religious commitment. [ARTICLE 994](#)

**2009 Report on International Religious Freedom.** *U.S. Department of State.* October 26, 2009.

The International Religious Freedom report is submitted to Congress annually by the Department of State in compliance with Section 102(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) of 1998. The report supplements the most recent Human Rights Reports by providing additional detailed information with respect to matters involving international religious freedom. It includes individual country chapters on the status of religious freedom worldwide.

**Commitment to Development Index 2009** by David Roodman and Cindy Pietsch. *Center for Global Development.* October 22, 2009.

The Index ranks 22 of the world's richest countries on their dedication to policies that benefit the five billion people living in poorer nations. Moving beyond simple comparisons of foreign aid, the Index ranks countries on seven themes: quantity and quality of foreign aid, openness to developing-country exports, policies that influence investment, migration policies, stewardship of the global environment, security policies and support for creation and dissemination of new technologies. [ARTICLE 995](#)

**Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue** by Frederic Sampson et al. *U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.* October 28, 2009.

The report acknowledges that a 'one size fits all' approach to education does not serve learners' needs and can create huge gaps between what pupils learn and how they live. It also includes an examination of the cultural relevance of educational methods and contents; learning societies and the right to education; and participatory learning and intercultural competencies. [ARTICLE 996](#)

**Getting Good Jobs to America's People of Color** by Algernon Austin. *Economic Policy Institute.* Nov. 12, 2009.

The lack of good jobs that pay decent wages and provide health care and retirement benefits is a serious problem for all Americans and an especially dire problem for America's people of color. The author examines the rate of employment in so-called "good jobs" for different demographic groups. [ARTICLE 997](#)

**Temporary Extension of Unemployment Benefits: Emergency Unemployment Compensations (EUC08)** by Julie M. Whittaker and Alison M. Shelton. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.* November 17, 2009.

In July 2008, a new temporary unemployment benefit, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC08) program, began. This temporary unemployment insurance program provides up to 20 additional weeks of unemployment benefits to certain workers who have exhausted their rights to regular unemployment compensation (UC) benefits. The EUC08 program expires at the end of December 2009. [ARTICLE 998](#)

**Band Aids and Beyond.** *Oxfam International*. October 22, 2009.

In 1984, a massive humanitarian operation was launched in response to famine in Ethiopia. Thousands of lives were saved. Twenty-five years on, as droughts become dangerously common, we have to look beyond the traditional 'band-aid' responses. For Ethiopians it is more sustainable and dignified to identify and tackle the *risk* of disaster rather than simply waiting for disaster to strike. This approach is also a more cost-effective way for Northern countries to meet their responsibilities, according to the report. [ARTICLE 999](#)

**Revitalizing Democracy Assistance: the Challenges of USAID** by Thomas Carothers. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. October 2009.

Democracy is largely stagnant in the world and a growing number of governments exhibit hostility toward international democracy aid. Tackling longstanding problems with the basic structures of U.S. democracy aid would boost the effort. As the largest source of such assistance, USAID is an obvious starting point for deep-reaching reforms, according to the report. [ARTICLE 1000](#)

**Happiness and Age Cycles – Return to the Start...? On the Functional Relationship Between Subjective Well-Being and Age** by Justina A.V. Fischer. *OECD*. November 18, 2009.

Previous happiness research has explicitly assumed that subjective well-being is U-shaped in age. The paper sheds new light on this issue testing several functional forms. It finds that life satisfaction reaches another local maximum around the age of 83, with a level identical to that of a 26-year old. This hyperbolic well-being-age relation is robust to the inclusion of cohort effects. [ARTICLE 1001](#)

**CRS Report: An Overview of the Nonprofit and Charitable Sector** by Molly F. Sherlock and Jane G. Gravelle. November 17, 2009.

The nonprofit and charitable sector represents a significant portion of the U.S. economy. The sector is also highly diverse. Having a greater understanding of the nonprofit and charitable sector as a whole may help policymakers evaluate proposals that may impact the sector.

## **Agriculture, Food & Fisheries**

**Characteristics, Costs, and Issues for Organic Dairy Farming** by William D. McBride and Catherine Greene. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. November 2, 2009.

Organic milk production has been one of the fastest growing segments of organic agriculture in the U.S. in recent years. The study examines the structure, costs, and challenges of organic milk production. The analysis addresses economies of size, regional differences, and pasture use in organic milk production and compares organic and conventional milk production costs. [ARTICLE 1002](#)

**Nanotechnology in Food Products** by Leslie Pray and Ann Yaktine. *Institute of Medicine*. October 29, 2009.

Nanotechnology, an emerging technology that enables researchers to manipulate matter at the atomic level, is providing scientists with the ability to enhance food safety and make foods more nutritious and satisfying by enhancing their nutrition content and other characteristics. However, researchers still have much to learn about the result of using nanotechnology to create food packaging or to modify a food. [ARTICLE 1003](#)

**International Food Assistance: a U.S. Government-Wide Strategy Could Accelerate Progress Toward Global Food Security** by Thomas Melito. *U.S. Government Accountability Office*. October 29, 2009.

Efforts of host governments and donors, including the United States, to achieve the goal of halving hunger in sub-Saharan Africa by 2015 have been insufficient due to a variety of reasons. The testimony discusses some of the reasons and recommendations. [ARTICLE 1004](#)

**Does SNAP Decrease Food Insecurity?: Untangling the Self-Selection Effect** by Mark Nord and Anne Marie Golla. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. October 29, 2009.

Self-selection by more food-needy households into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), makes it difficult to observe positive effects of the program in survey data. The study investigates self-selection and ameliorative program effects by examining households' food security month by month for several months prior to initial receipt of SNAP benefits and for several months after joining the program. [ARTICLE 1005](#)

**Design Matters: Making Catch Shares Work.** *Pew Environment Group*. November 2009.

Catch shares are fishery management programs that allocate fishing privileges in the form of a specific portion of the total annual catch quota. While catch shares take many forms, in general they allocate the quota to allow fishing entities exclusive access to a portion of the quota, but require that fishing cease once that entity's share of the quota is met. Science-based annual catch limits are essential if catch shares are to be effective and if requirements to end overfishing and rebuild depleted fish populations are to be met. [ARTICLE 1006](#)

**Water and Agriculture: Implications for Development and Growth** by John Briscoe et al. *Center for Strategic & International Studies*. November 10, 2009.

At a time of mounting population pressures, environmental declines, and growing demand for water, the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) convened international leaders from government, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and academia to share their expertise in water, agriculture, and global development. [ARTICLE 1007](#)

**Ethanol and a Changing Agricultural Landscape** by Scott A. Malcolm et al. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. November 18, 2009.

The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 established specific targets for the production of biofuel in the U.S. Until advanced technologies become commercially viable, meeting these targets will increase demand for traditional agricultural commodities used to produce ethanol, resulting in land-use, production, and price changes throughout the farm sector. The report summarizes the estimated effects of meeting the EISA targets for 2015 on regional agricultural production and the environment. [ARTICLE 1008](#)

## **Economics, Trade & Finance**

**Fact Sheet: U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade.** *Executive Office of the President of the United States*. October 29, 2009.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, together with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan, co-chaired the 20th JCCT in Hangzhou, China, on October 28-29, 2009. The Fact Sheet provides outcomes of the topics discussed.

**Understanding the World Trade Collapse** by Calista Cheung and Stephanie Guichard. *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*. October 29, 2009.

The paper shows that world demand can explain most of the collapse in world trade, but that tight credit conditions have likely amplified the short-term trade response.

**How we Know the Recovery Package is Helping** by Josh Bivens. *Economic Policy Institute*. October 29, 2009.

According to the author, a multitude of evidence makes clear that most of GDP's third quarter growth can be traced to the Recovery Act, and that the long-term health of the economy is going to depend on pushing forward, not pulling back, with even more stimulus measures. [ARTICLE 1009](#)

**The Outlook for Consumer Spending and the Broader Economic Recovery** by Karen E. Dynan. *Brookings Institution*. October 29, 2009.

The author testified before the Joint Economic Committee that there is a great deal of uncertainty about the strength and speed of the nation's recovery, with gradual expansion being the most likely economic scenario. She says that consumer spending is likely to grow modestly over the next few years because of weak income growth, higher saving and lower borrowing. Policymakers have options to bolster the recovery but they should be mindful of the long-run costs, particularly in terms of the budget deficit, she says. [ARTICLE 1010](#)

**Renewing the American Dream: A Road Map to Enhancing Economic Mobility in America** . Economic Mobility Project, *Pew Charitable Trusts*. November 6, 2009.

The report, based on three years of research from Pew's Economic Mobility Project, lays out a road map of more than 25 policy ideas and practical recommendations aimed at enhancing economic mobility in America.

**Transforming the Rebound into Recovery** by Ivailo Izvorski and Antonio Ollero. *World Bank Working Paper*. November 2009.

A vigorous economic rebound is under way in East Asia since the second quarter of 2009, following the sharp impact from the financial crisis and the global recession that began in late 2008. As much as the reduction in exports and industrial production across the region was unexpectedly swift and deep, so is the strength of the rebound, with doubts about green shoots dispelled in a matter of months and replaced by near-consensus views of a synchronized global rebound led by emerging East Asia, according to the report. **ARTICLE 1011**

**Confronting the China-U.S. Economic Imbalance** by Roya Wolverson. *Council on Foreign Relations*. November 16, 2009.

Sizeable trade and currency imbalances between China and the United States have fueled tensions over China's exchange-rate policies vis-à-vis the dollar and intensified debate over the proposed remedies to the problem, says the author. **ARTICLE 1012**

**Death Cometh for the Greenback** by Joseph Stiglitz. *The National Interest*. Nov/Dec. 2009

For the past eight years, the dollar has increasingly become less revered. Its value has been volatile. As the rest of the world saw the United States struggling with a failing war and soaring budget deficits, many who had large dollar holdings began to reduce those reserves (or increase them less than they otherwise would have). All this put downward pressure on the dollar. And thus began the first signs of a vicious circle. **ARTICLE 1013**

**Bailout! Stimulus! Your Essential Guide** by Jamie Dougherty. *Columbia Journalism Review*. Nov. 24, 2009.

We're past the one-year marks of the financial crisis and the \$700 billion bailout; next up, in February: the stimulus plan's first birthday. These dubious anniversaries have sparked their share of retrospective coverage, book releases, and much editorializing.

**Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All 50 States** by Carl Davis et al. *Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy*. November 18, 2009.

The study is a comprehensive analysis of state and local tax systems in all fifty states. It shows that on average, state and local tax systems require the poorest taxpayers to pay the highest effective tax rates.

## **Health & Health Care Reform**

**Lower Premiums, Stronger Businesses: How Health Insurance Reform Will Bring Down Costs for Small Businesses.** *Healthreform.GOV*. October 29, 2009.

The report outlines the many ways health insurance reform will lower health care costs for small businesses. The report notes small businesses, the backbone of job creation in our economy, are disproportionately burdened by the financial strains caused by rising health care costs, among other reasons. **ARTICLE 1014**

**Pharmaceutical R&D and the Evolving Market for Prescription Drugs.** *Congressional Budget Office*. October 26, 2009.

The brief describes the state of investment in drug R&D and the factors that influence it. It also examines how various policy options to control the growth in health care costs or to expand insurance coverage could affect spending on R&D.

**Health Care Problems Heat Up: Climate Change and the Public's Health** by Jeffrey Levi et al. *Trust for America's Health*. October 26, 2009.

The report finds that only five states have published a strategic climate change plan that includes a public health response. The report examines U.S. planning for changing health threats posed by climate change, such as heat-related sickness, respiratory infections, natural disasters, changes to the food supply, and infectious diseases carried by insects. **ARTICLE 1015**

**The Comprehensive Congressional Health Reform Bills of 2009: a Look at Health Insurance, Delivery Systems, and Financing Provisions** by Sara R. Collins et al. *The Commonwealth Fund*. October 2009.

The report provides an overview of key provisions of the two separate comprehensive health reform bills passed in the U.S. Congress. While the general frameworks of the bills are similar, they differ in a few respects: the Senate bill does not include a public plan option or requirement that employers offer coverage, nor does it reform Medicare's formula for setting physician fees; the House bill includes these features. **ARTICLE 1016**

**Health Insurance Reform and Breast Cancer: Making the Health Care System Work for Women.** *Healthreform.GOV*. October 23, 2009.

The report details how health insurance reform will help women diagnosed with breast cancer. The report highlights the problems in the health care status quo that significantly impact women who are diagnosed with breast cancer or are breast cancer survivors. **ARTICLE 1017**

## Media & Communications

**Twitter and Status Updating, Fall 2009** by Susannah Fox et al. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*. October 21, 2009.

Some 19% of internet users now say they use Twitter or another service to share updates about themselves, or to see updates about others--up from 11% in April.

**FOX News Viewed as Most Ideological Network** by Andrew Kohut and Michael Remez. *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*. October 29, 2009.

The Fox News Channel is viewed by Americans in more ideological terms than other television news networks. And while the public is evenly divided in its view of hosts of cable news programs having strong political opinions, more Fox News viewers see this as a good thing than as a bad thing.

**Fairness 2.0: Media Content Regulation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** by Robert Corn-Revere. *Cato Institute*. November 10, 2009.

Civil libertarians feared that a change of administrations would herald a revived Fairness Doctrine, a policy that previously permitted the government to oversee broadcast news coverage for "balanced views." A return to the Fairness Doctrine, however, now seems unlikely. It is very likely, however, that politicians from both the left and the right will try to extend government control over the media, according to the report. **ARTICLE 1018**

**CRS Report: The Advertising Industry in the Digital Age** by Suzanne M. Kirchoff. November 09, 2009.

U.S. advertising spending declined in 2008. Deeper reductions are forecast for 2009. The sharp drop in ad dollars has prompted advertising agencies and media companies to lay off tens of thousands of workers and curtail production. Though the market is projected to gradually stabilize, some ad-dependent businesses like newspapers and magazines may not see revenues return to pre-recession levels for years, if then.

## Research, Science & Technology

**Arctic Report Card: Update for 2009.** *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*. October 22, 2009.

Despite the fact that summer 2009 had more sea ice than 2007 or 2008, scientists are seeing drastic changes in the region from just five years ago and at rates faster than anticipated, according to the report, a collaborative effort of 71 national and international scientists. **ARTICLE 1019**

**Key Functions for a UNFCCC Technology Institutional Structure: Identifying Convergence in Country Submissions.** *World Resources Institute*. November 2009.

The paper identifies the key elements needed to ensure enhanced action on technology transfer and development and then evaluates the approaches taken in major country positions. It finds a number of important convergences in these positions and identifies four types of institutions that recur in country positions: central bodies, dedicated funds, regional institutions and coordinating committees. **ARTICLE 1020**

**Steady as She Goes? Three Generations of Students Through the Science and Engineering Pipeline** by B. Lindsay Lowell et al. *Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University and Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University*. October 27, 2009.

A decline in students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is widely noted, according to the report. Fears of increasing global competition compound the perception that there has been a drop in the supply of high-quality students moving up through the STEM pipeline in the U.S. The report explores: What is the attrition rate of STEM students on the high school to career pathway? How does this attrition rate change from earlier to current cohorts?; What are the changes in quality of STEM students? [ARTICLE 1021](#)

## Education

**Fact Sheet: The Race to the Top.** *The White House.* November 4, 2009.

President Obama recently presented states with the opportunity to compete in a "Race to the Top" designed to spur systemic reform and embrace innovative approaches to teaching and learning in America's schools. The reforms contained in the Race to the Top will help prepare America's students to graduate ready for college and career, and enable them to out-compete any worker, anywhere in the world. [ARTICLE 1022](#)

**Leaders and Laggards: A State-by-State Report Card on Educational Innovation.** *Center for American Progress, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and American Enterprise Institute.* November 9, 2009.

According to the report, the authors find much to applaud when grading the states on school performance. However, they also feel that the education system needs to be reinvented. After decades of political inaction and ineffective reforms, our schools consistently produce students unready for the rigors of the modern workplace. The report finds the lack of preparedness is staggering. [ARTICLE 1023](#)

**Science and Engineering Degrees by Race/Ethnicity: 1997-2006** by Mark K. Fiegener. *National Science Foundation.* November 2009.

The report shows an increase in the number of awarded to minority students since 2004. It shows that more degrees were awarded to minorities in nearly all categories. Among U.S. citizens and permanent residents who earned bachelor's degrees from fiscal year 2004 to 2006, Asians showed the largest rate of increase—10.5%. American Indian/Alaska Natives showed the smallest at 1.3%. [ARTICLE 1024](#)

**Open Doors 2009: The Annual Report on International Education.** Judith A. McHale, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. November 16, 2009.

## Defense and Nonproliferation

**How to Stop the Spread of Nukes – Part I** by Bennett Ramberg. *YaleGlobal.* November 9, 2009.

A key element of President Obama's foreign policy is nuclear disarmament, as evidenced by his personally shepherding the Security Council's Resolution 1887, which seeks to halt the Bomb's spread. However, according to the author, this resolution does little to reduce nuclear armaments, and fails to tackle the issue of states that seek to get the Bomb. The author proposes an "action template" with a definite timetable and specific measures, including suspending commerce and travel. [Part II](#)

**\*\* To access articles, either read the whole document or skip to subject – see box, bottom right front page \*\***  
**All ARTICLES are available online. All URLS were correct as at 01 December 2009. Please "click" the ARTICLE #**  
**No recommendation is made in respect of non-U.S. Government web sites and publications listed.**  
If you have trouble accessing the articles, please contact at the ARC – [Wellington.arc@state.gov](mailto:Wellington.arc@state.gov) citing article numbers.  
**Please visit our web site @ <http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/>**