

Subject: FW: New research on development issues in Vietnam - Volume 7, number 27 (2015 August 28)

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Agriculture and rural development

Are Younger Women Left on the Farms in Vietnam?

Jonna P. Estudillo and Keijiro Otsuka. in: *Moving Out of Poverty: An inquiry into the inclusive growth in Asia*, Routledge, 2015.

Abstract: Using a rare individual-level data set, this chapter examines dynamic changes in the choice of occupation of three generations of members belonging to the same household in rural Vietnam. We focus on the role of schooling and inherited farmland, which exerts a profound impact on the gender patterns of employment and income. The main finding is that, although Vietnamese females in the older generations have been disfavored with respect to both schooling investments and farmland inheritance, both genders have been treated relatively equally in the younger generations. Furthermore, we found a gender-specific choice of occupation in the youngest generation in our study villages in the north – more men choose nonfarm work; more women choose farming – while such gender specialization is largely absent in our study villages in the south. This means that economic development in Vietnam has promoted women's schooling and their participation in the labor market either as wage workers in the evolving nonfarm sector or as workers on their own farms producing rice and high-value products. -- This chapter has five remaining sections. The second section provides a brief description of Vietnam. The third section describes the study villages and sample households. The fourth section traces schooling investment, land inheritance, and job choice. The fifth section explains the regression model, while the sixth section shows the results of the determinants of schooling and farmland inheritance, as well as the job choices of individual members. Finally, the seventh section presents the summary and conclusions.

Framing the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Post 2015: Promoting Rural Development, Employment, and Inclusive Growth in ASEAN.

Vo Tri Thanh and Nguyen Anh Duong, 2015.

Abstract: This paper aims to envision ASEAN cooperation on rural development, employment creation and inclusive growth, based on analyses of the interplay of such policies in AMSs. Rural development policy has been implemented in various AMSs, but as a priority by itself rather than a complement to industrialization. Such efforts contribute to higher growth and more employment in rural areas. This in turn makes way for alleviation of rural

poverty. Despite being scattered, still, the rural poverty gap attracts attention. The visions for rural development, employment creation and inclusive growth beyond 2015 should cover: (i) Diversified and climate-resilient rural economy; (ii) Employability of rural labours; (iii) Rural democracy and deconcentration; (iv) Sufficiently upgraded rural infrastructure; (v) Material improvement of living conditions in rural areas; (vi) Sufficient rural-urban links; and (vii) Ensured social protection and substantial reduction of chronic poverty. The paper also make several recommendations for ASEAN and for the CLMV in line with such visions. [Thanh&Duong-2015.docx].

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How does the Fruit and Vegetable Sector contribute to Food and Nutrition Security?

Frank Joosten, Yuri Dijkhoorn, Yared Sertse and Ruerd Ruben. LEI Wageningen UR (University & Research centre) LEI Nota 2015-076, 2015.

Abstract: This short and explorative study focused on the question of whether and to what extent investments, interventions and the development of the Fruits & Vegetables Sector in developing countries contribute to enhanced food and nutrition security. A focused literature review concentrated on evidence primarily, but not exclusively, derived from the Fruits & Vegetables Sector in the following countries: Ethiopia, Rwanda, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Indonesia and Viet Nam. The study methodology also included a series of semi-structured interviews amongst different growers, traders and workers in the Ethiopian fruit and vegetable sector. Free full text

https://www.wageningenur.nl/upload_mm/d/e/7/00678129-598d-4397-97fb-e815f988e477_2015-076%20Dijkhoorn_DEF.pdf OR <http://knowledge4food.net/explorative-report-how-does-the-fruit-and-vegetable-sector-in-low-and-middle-income-countries-contribute-to-food-and-nutrition-security/>.

My boat my identity: Investment in tuna fishing in Viet Nam.

Lan Ho. Australian Journal of Management, 2015, volume 40, number 3, pp. 562-583.

Abstract: This research examines the issue of boat development, from the perspective of boatowners in the context of the Vietnamese tuna longline commercial fishery. In particular, it seeks to better understand fishers' decision to acquire their first fishing boat. This research employed a constructivist grounded theory method, using qualitative data generated from interviews, observation and collected documents. The study finds that fishers' decision to acquire their first fishing boat is, primarily, a commitment to work long term in the fishing occupation, to maintain and develop one's identity as a fisher. Aside from that, fishers are also motivated by the financial and non-financial rewards of fishing, particularly with tuna as a highly prized export. Non-financial rewards refer to aspects of job satisfaction such as being one's own boss, thrill of the activity, the social company and passion for the sea.

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Economic development

Implementing Clusters for Economic Development in Emerging Economies: The Case of Luong Bamboo Sector in Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam.

Ngoc Dung Nguyen and Jacques Martin. 18th Toulon-Verona International Conference "Excellence in Services" University of Palermo August 31-September 1 2015, 2015.

Abstract: Clusters have proven their effectiveness for economic development and have been set throughout the world for a number of decades and more recently in emerging and developing countries for boosting economic performance. Choosing a suitable type of clusters for a typical economic sector in a specific geographical region with many different issues at stake, including today sustainable development is a difficult task. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to initially investigate, analyze and select the most suitable and appropriate factors to build up a workable and efficient cluster for emerging economies. To do so, a brief literature review on clusters and supply chain management (Porter, 1990); clusters and value systems (Ketels, Memedovic, 2008); development of clusters (Ketels, 2003); evolution of clusters (Solvell, 2009); report on clusters (Solvell et al., 2003); clusters in developing countries (Ketels et al., 2006), case studies of SMEs and clusters (Nadvi, 2005) and sustainability (WCED, 1987) has

been carried out. Then, a typical agro-industrial model was designed. Finally, a case study on Luong bamboo production and processing sector in Thanh Hoa has been conducted to illustrate the literature review and design a specific agro-industrial bamboo cluster. Free full text <http://www.toulonveronaconf.eu/papers/index.php/tvc/article/view/197>.

Key Determinants of SMEs in Vietnam. Combining Quantitative and Qualitative Studies.

Uyen H. P. Phan, Phuong V. Nguyen, Kien T. Mai and Thao P. Le. Review of European Studies, 2015, volume 7, number 11.

Abstract: This paper aims to identify key determinants impacting on a firm performance of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Viet Nam. SMEs have contributed significantly to the overall Vietnamese economy. However, in the context of emerging market in Viet Nam nowadays, SMEs have to deal with a tough competitive market. Hence, an awareness what factors enhancing firm performance enables them to achieve sustainable development. Based on the survey of 2551 Viet Nam SMEs, which was conducted by Science & Social Association, Viet Nam Ministry of Labor- Invalids and Social Affairs, the paper provides the holistic view of several perspectives' impacts on the performance of SMEs. We find out that three main factors, including human resource, education level of entrepreneurs and training cost have significant effects on the performance. As considering in the field of international trade, the results illustrate the more SMEs conduct export activities, the better enterprises' performance. Specifically, we point out that other factors such as formalization, credit access, informal loan and firm location are strongly associated with the performance. Furthermore, we also conducted in-depth interviews with 6 entrepreneurs and top managers to explore current challenges of Vietnamese SMEs and suggest appropriate solutions to overcome them. Free full text <http://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/res/article/viewFile/52409/28062>.

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Services Productivity and Trade Openness: Case of ASEAN.

Shandre Mugan THANGAVELU, Lili Yan ING and Shujiro URATA. ERIA Discussion Paper Series ERIA-DP-2015-56, 2015.

Abstract: Using fixed effect and Generalised Method of Moments (GMM) estimations, this paper analyses the impacts of trade on the labour productivity of the services sector (at the four key sub-services sector levels: (i) wholesale, retail, and hotel; (ii) transport, storage, and communications; (iii) finance, insurance, and real estate; and (iv) community, social, and personal sectors) for five ASEAN countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand—from 1990 to 2005. The results show that more exposure to exports will improve labour productivity in the services sector in these countries. Based on input–output relationships, services play an important role as inputs in the manufacturing sector, which is notable in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Free full text <http://www.eria.org/ERIA-DP-2015-56.pdf>.

Big Data Era: Big Challenges for ASEAN Economic Community [Conference paper].

Muhammad Anshari and Yabit Alas, 2015.

Abstract: Big data generates knowledge and value for business organization and government. Big data optimizes capabilities process, high growth and diversified data that create value for generating pervasive knowledge. The paper examines the Strategic Thrusts (STs) of ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM 2015) focusing on economic transformation, people empowerment and engagement, innovation, development of human capital and infrastructure, and bridging the digital divide. The study critically examines the progress of STs for ASEAN members respectively, and describes challenges for ASEAN Economic Community facing a big data era. Researchers employed thematic literature analysis and discussed broader issues related to the STs' performance indicators and recommended for future improvement. Despite the limitation of the study, the paper proposes a model for potential solutions along the five STs Dimensions. Free full text https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Muhammad_Anshari/publication/280800757_Big_Data_Era_Big_Challenges_for_ASEAN_Economic_Community/links/55c6f18e08aeb9756743a25c.pdf.

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Trust, Respect, and Reciprocity: Informing Culturally Appropriate Data-Sharing Practice in Vietnam.

Laura Merson, Tran Viet Phong, Le Nguyen Thanh Nhan, Nguyen Thanh Dung, Ta Thi Dieu Ngan and others. Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics, 2015, volume 10, number 3, pp. 251-263.

Abstract: International science funders and publishers are driving a growing trend in data sharing. There is mounting pressure on researchers in low- and middle-income settings to conform to new sharing policies, despite minimal empirically grounded accounts of the ethical challenges of implementing the policies in these settings. This study used in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with 48 stakeholders in Vietnam to explore the experiences, attitudes, and expectations that inform ethical and effective approaches to sharing clinical research data. Distinct views on the role of trust, respect, and reciprocity were among those that emerged to inform culturally appropriate best practices. We conclude by discussing the challenges that authors of data-sharing policies should consider in this unique context. Free full text <http://jre.sagepub.com/content/10/3/251.abstract>.

Environment

Potential of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Associated with Municipal Solid Waste Management in Hanoi City, Vietnam.

Hoang Trung Thanh, Helmut Yabar, Yoshiro Higano and Takeshi Mizunoya. Journal of Scientific Research & Reports, 2015, volume 8, number 3, pp. 1-10.

Abstract: Vietnam is considered to be one of the most potentially affected countries by the effects of climate change due to its topography and socio-economic properties. In order to contribute to the global efforts in climate change mitigation the government has recently announced to strive for a lowcarbon economy. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with municipal solid waste (MSW) management system are one of the critical concerns in this regard. This study applied Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) approach to estimate the total amount of emissions from current MSW management in the capital city of Vietnam; and explored the potential of reduction through various possible scenarios of MSW management system. All scenarios studied presented high potential for emission reduction through improving composting, anaerobic digestion (biogas production), installing landfill gas capture system; and reducing amount of waste disposed in landfill. Particularly, the integrated MSW management consisting different technology options has the greatest potential of reduction, and landfill gas recovery system has significant effective impacts on mitigating GHG emissions from waste sector. This study therefore suggests feasible alternatives to achieve targets of emission reduction in the waste sector for the city studied. Free full text http://www.sciencedomain.org/media/journals/JSRR_22/2015/Jul/Thanh832015JSRR17774.pdf.

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Analysis of spatial and temporal changes of wetland ecosystems in Xuan Thuy National Park (Nam Dinh province) based on techniques of remote sensing and GIS.

Ho Thanh Hai, Hoang Thi Thanh Nhan and Tran Anh Tuan. Tap chi sinh hoc, 2015, volume 37, number 2.

Abstract: Xuan Thuy National Park and surrounding area located in estuary of the Red river (Ba Lat mouth) with characterized ecosystem of mangroves on the tidal delta (the largest delta in the north of Vietnam). Based on analysis satellite images collected in various periods and GIS techniques, maps of wetland ecosystem types of the Xuan Thuy national park in years of 1986, 1995, 2007 and 2013 that were established. Areas of each wetland types in each of above periods were calculated. Spatial and temporal changes of these wetland ecosystems were studied also. Study results show that wetland ecosystems, especially mangrove forest were changed on morphology, areas, and spatial distribution under influent of natural evolution and anthropogenic impacts. Based on succession of mangrove forest related to formation of soil, ecological succession of coastal wetlands in Xuan Thuy national park are occurred according to direction from continent to the sea such as: Settlement and rice field => Sedge field/shrimp pond => Mangrove forest => Estuary sandy bar. Therefore, it is necessary to establish of models for sustainable use of estuary coastal wetlands that are available to each periods of ecological succession.

Ecological status of coral communities in the island area of the Nha Trang Bay (Vietnam).

K. S. Tkachenko. Russian Journal of Ecology, 2015, volume 46, number 5, pp. 456-462.

Abstract: The ecological status of coral communities in the island area of the Nha Trang Bay (Central Vietnam) has been evaluated in March to May 2013. The material has been sampled at five stations from depths of 3–6 m using the photoquadrat method. It has been shown that characteristics of these communities markedly change with distance from the Nha Trang City and the sources of eutrophication and sediment influx: the total coral cover and the proportion of acroporids increase from 5.3% to 82.6% and from 0 to 61% respectively, while the abundance of macroalgae decreases from 41.5% to 0; the species richness of corals also increases significantly, from 7 to 68 species per station. Possible causes of the long-term changes in the coral reef ecosystems of the Nha Trang Bay are discussed. [spr].

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Distribution, accumulation profile, and risk assessment of polybrominated diphenyl ethers in sediment from lake and river systems in Hanoi Metropolitan Area, Vietnam.

PhamThiNgoc Mai, Nguyen Van Thuong, TrinhThi Tham, NguyenKhanh Hoang, HoangQuoc Anh and others. Environmental Science and Pollution Research, 2015, pp. 1-10.

Abstract: Concentrations of seven polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) congeners were determined in surface sediments collected from several rivers and lakes in Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam, to understand the status of background contamination, accumulation pattern, sources, and toxic implications for benthic organisms. Total PBDE concentrations in all sediment samples ranged from 0.03 to 17.5 ng/g dry weight (mean 1.33 ng/g dry wt). The most predominant congeners were BDE-47 and BDE-99, which comprised 30 and 25 % of total PBDE concentrations, respectively. Results from statistical analysis indicated that the potential sources of PBDEs of sediments in Hanoi may come from penta-BDE and octa-BDE mixtures. Risk quotients of PBDEs in sediments were also calculated for a benthic species, ranged from 2.12×10^{-6} – 1.60×10^{-2} , and were markedly lower than threshold value for occurrence of any ecotoxicological risk. This study provides some of the most comprehensive data on the occurrence of PBDEs in sediments from lake and river systems in Vietnam. [spr].

Groundwater screening for 940 organic micro-pollutants in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

HanhThi Duong, Kiwao Kadokami, HongThiCam Chau, TrungQuang Nguyen, ThaoThanh Nguyen and others. Environmental Science and Pollution Research, 2015, pp. 1-13.

Abstract: Groundwater is the main source of drinking water for more than half of the residents of Hanoi (HN). It also provides about one third of the total water demand for residents of Ho Chi Minh City (HCM). However, due to rapid urbanization and frequent discharges of untreated urban wastewater to surface water, freshwater is widely contaminated by man-made chemicals, which may result in groundwater pollution. As part of an ongoing campaign to collect baseline information on the occurrence of organic micro-pollutants (OMPs) in the aquatic environment in Vietnam, 43 water samples were collected from 26 groundwater wells in HN (22) and HCM (4) in September 2013 and August 2014. Samples were analyzed by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and the resulting chromatograms were screened for 940 OMPs by an automated identification and quantification system (AIQS) within a GC-MS database. A total of 74 compounds were detected, with between 4 and 43 (median 18) compounds found at each site. Overall, contamination levels were low, with over 89 % of the detected concentrations that were less than $0.5 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$. Results suggest that most of the sampled aquifers have been impacted by non-point source pollution. Most of the contaminants detected are either currently not regulated in drinking water or are present at low levels. A health risk assessment for detected contaminants implied that there were no risks to humans. Since this study was based on a limited number of samples, especially in HCM, further, more detailed studies on the occurrence of OMPs in groundwater in HCM and a full risk assessment of detected contaminants should be prioritized. [spr].

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Health and nutrition

Exploring the influence of context in a community-based facilitation intervention focusing on neonatal health and survival in Vietnam: a qualitative study.

Duc M. Duong, Anna Bergström, Lars Wallin, Ha TT Bui, Leif Eriksson and others. BMC Public Health, 2015, volume 15.

Abstract: Background: In the Neonatal health – Knowledge into Practice (NeoKIP) trial in Vietnam, local stakeholder groups, supported by trained laywomen acting as facilitators, promoted knowledge translation (KT) resulting in decreased neonatal mortality. In general, as well as in the community-based NeoKIP trial, there is a need to further understand how context influences KT interventions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Thus, the objective of this study was to explore the influence of context on the facilitation process in the NeoKIP intervention. -- Methods: A secondary content analysis was performed on 16 Focus Group Discussions with facilitators and participants of the stakeholder groups, applying an inductive approach to the content on context through naïve understanding and structured analysis. -- Results: The three main-categories of context found to influence the facilitation process in the NeoKIP intervention were: (1) Support and collaboration of local authorities and other communal stakeholders; (2) Incentives to, and motivation of, participants; and (3) Low health care coverage and utilization. In particular, the role of local authorities in a KT intervention was recognized as important. Also, while project participants expected financial incentives, non-financial benefits such as individual learning were considered to balance the lack of reimbursement in the NeoKIP intervention. Further, project participants recognized the need to acknowledge the needs of disadvantaged groups. -- Conclusions: This study provides insight for further understanding of the influence of contextual aspects to improve effects of a KT intervention in Vietnam. We suggest that future KT interventions should apply strategies to improve local authorities' engagement, to identify and communicate non-financial incentives, and to make disadvantaged groups a priority. Further studies to evaluate the contextual aspects in KT interventions in LMICs are also needed. Free full text <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/15/814>.

Health system context and implementation of evidence-based practices-development and validation of the Context Assessment for Community Health (COACH) tool for low- and middle-income settings.

Anna Bergström, Sarah Skeen, Duong M. Duc, Elmer Zelaya Bandon, Carole Estabrooks and others. Implementation science : IS, 2015, volume 10, number 1, p. 120.

Abstract: BACKGROUND: The gap between what is known and what is practiced results in health service users not benefitting from advances in healthcare, and in unnecessary costs. A supportive context is considered a key element for successful implementation of evidence-based practices (EBP). There were no tools available for the systematic mapping of aspects of organizational context influencing the implementation of EBPs in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Thus, this project aimed to develop and psychometrically validate a tool for this purpose. METHODS: The development of the Context Assessment for Community Health (COACH) tool was premised on the context dimension in the Promoting Action on Research Implementation in Health Services framework, and is a derivative product of the Alberta Context Tool. Its development was undertaken in Bangladesh, Vietnam, Uganda, South Africa and Nicaragua in six phases: (1) defining dimensions and draft tool development, (2) content validity amongst in-country expert panels, (3) content validity amongst international experts, (4) response process validity, (5) translation and (6) evaluation of psychometric properties amongst 690 health workers in the five countries. RESULTS: The tool was validated for use amongst physicians, nurse/midwives and community health workers. The six phases of development resulted in a good fit between the theoretical dimensions of the COACH tool and its psychometric properties. The tool has 49 items measuring eight aspects of context: Resources, Community engagement, Commitment to work, Informal payment, Leadership, Work culture, Monitoring services for action and Sources of knowledge. CONCLUSIONS: Aspects of organizational context that were identified as influencing the implementation of EBPs in high-income settings were also found to be relevant in LMICs. However, there were additional aspects of context of relevance in LMICs specifically Resources, Community engagement, Commitment to work and Informal payment. Use of the COACH tool will allow for systematic description of the local healthcare context prior implementing healthcare interventions to allow for tailoring implementation strategies or as part of

the evaluation of implementing healthcare interventions and thus allow for deeper insights into the process of implementing EBPs in LMICs. Free full text <http://www.implementationscience.com/content/10/1/120>.

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The INDEPTH Data Repository: An International Resource for Longitudinal Population and Health Data From Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems.

Kobus Herbst, Sanjay Juvekar, Tathagata Bhattacharjee, Martin Bangha, Nidhi Patharia and others. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*, 2015, volume 10, number 3, pp. 324-333.

Abstract: The International Network for the Demographic Evaluation of Populations and Their Health (INDEPTH) is a global network of research centers that conduct longitudinal health and demographic evaluation of populations in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) currently in 52 health and demographic surveillance system (HDSS) field sites situated in sub-Saharan Africa (14 countries), Asia (India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia), and Oceania (Papua New Guinea). Through this network of HDSS field sites, INDEPTH is capable of producing reliable longitudinal data about the lives of people in the research communities as well as how development policies and programs affect those lives. The aim of the INDEPTH Data Repository is to enable INDEPTH member centers and associated researchers to contribute and share fully documented, high-quality datasets with the scientific community and health policy makers. Free full text <http://jre.sagepub.com/content/10/3/324.abstract>.

Sharing Public Health Research Data: Toward the Development of Ethical Data-Sharing Practice in Low- and Middle-Income Settings.

Michael Parker and Susan Bull. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*, 2015, volume 10, number 3, pp. 217-224.

Abstract: It is increasingly recognized that effective and appropriate data sharing requires the development of models of good data-sharing practice capable of taking seriously both the potential benefits to be gained and the importance of ensuring that the rights and interests of participants are respected and that risk of harms is minimized. Calls for the greater sharing of individual-level data from biomedical and public health research are receiving support among researchers and research funders. Despite its potential importance, data sharing presents important ethical, social, and institutional challenges in low-income settings. In this article, we report on qualitative research conducted in five low- and middle-income countries (India, Vietnam, Kenya, Thailand, and South Africa) exploring the experiences of key research stakeholders and their views about what constitutes good data-sharing practice. Free full text <http://jre.sagepub.com/content/10/3/217.abstract>.

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The Global Surgery Partnership: An Innovative Partnership for Education, Research, and Service.

T. Taro, C. Yao, S. Ly, H. Wipfli, K. Magee and others. *Academic medicine : journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges*, 2015.

Abstract: **PROBLEM:** An estimated two billion people worldwide lack access to adequate surgical care. Addressing surgical disparities requires both immediate relief efforts and long-term investments to improve access to care and surgical outcomes, train the next generation of surgical professionals, and expand the breadth of formative research in the field. While models exist for establishing short-term surgical missions in low- and middle-income countries, far less focus has been placed on models for multi-institutional partnerships that support the development of sustainable solutions. **APPROACH:** In 2011, the Global Surgery Partnership (GSP) was founded by an established children's hospital (Children's Hospital Los Angeles), an academic medical center (University of Southern California), and a nonprofit organization (Operation Smile) to build oral cleft surgical capacity in resource-poor settings through education, research, and service. **OUTCOMES:** Leveraging the strengths of each partner, the GSP supports three global health education programs for public health graduate students and surgical residents, including the Tsao Fellowship in Global Health; has initiated two international research projects on cleft lip and palate epidemiology; and has built upon Operation Smile's service provision. As of January 2015, Tsao fellows had operated on over 600

patients during 13 missions in countries including China, Vietnam, Mexico, and India. NEXT STEPS: The GSP plans to conduct a formal evaluation and then to expand its programs. The GSP encourages other global health organizations and academic and medical institutions to engage with each other. The partnership described here provides a basic model for structuring collaborations in the global health arena.

Harmful practices in the management of childhood diarrhea in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review.

Emily Carter, Jennifer Bryce, Jamie Perin and Holly Newby. BMC Public Health, 2015, volume 15.

Abstract: Background: Harmful practices in the management of childhood diarrhea are associated with negative health outcomes, and conflict with WHO treatment guidelines. These practices include restriction of fluids, breast milk and/or food intake during diarrhea episodes, and incorrect use of modern medicines. We conducted a systematic review of English-language literature published since 1990 to assess the documented prevalence of these four harmful practices, and beliefs, motivations, and contextual factors associated with harmful practices in low- and middle-income countries. -- Methods: We electronically searched PubMed, Embase, Ovid Global Health, and the WHO Global Health Library. Publications reporting the prevalence or substantive findings on beliefs, motivations, or context related to at least one of the four harmful practices were included, regardless of study design or representativeness of the sample population. -- Results: Of the 114 articles included in the review, 79 reported the prevalence of at least one harmful practice and 35 studies reported on beliefs, motivations, or context for harmful practices. Most studies relied on sub-national population samples and many were limited to small sample sizes. Study design, study population, and definition of harmful practices varied across studies. Reported prevalence of harmful practices varied greatly across study populations, and we were unable to identify clearly defined patterns across regions, countries, or time periods. Caregivers reported that diarrhea management practices were based on the advice of others (health workers, relatives, community members), as well as their own observations or understanding of the efficacy of certain treatments for diarrhea. Others reported following traditionally held beliefs on the causes and cures for specific diarrheal diseases. -- Conclusions: Available evidence suggests that harmful practices in diarrhea treatment are common in some countries with a high burden of diarrhea-related mortality. These practices can reduce correct management of diarrheal disease in children and result in treatment failure, sustained nutritional deficits, and increased diarrhea mortality. The lack of consistency in sampling, measurement, and reporting identified in this literature review highlights the need to document harmful practices using standard methods of measurement and reporting for the continued reduction of diarrhea mortality. Free full text <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/15/788>.

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Moving towards universal health coverage: lessons from 11 country studies.

M. R. Reich, J. Harris, N. Ikegami, A. Maeda, K. Takemi and others. Lancet (London, England), 2015.

Abstract: In recent years, many countries have adopted universal health coverage (UHC) as a national aspiration. In response to increasing demand for a systematic assessment of global experiences with UHC, the Government of Japan and the World Bank collaborated on a 2-year multicountry research programme to analyse the processes of moving towards UHC. The programme included 11 countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Peru, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam), representing diverse geographical, economic, and historical contexts. The study identified common challenges and opportunities and useful insights for how to move towards UHC. The study showed that UHC is a complex process, fraught with challenges, many possible pathways, and various pitfalls-but is also feasible and achievable. Movement towards UHC is a long-term policy engagement that needs both technical knowledge and political know-how. Technical solutions need to be accompanied by pragmatic and innovative strategies that address the national political economy context.

Selection of depression measures for use among Vietnamese populations in primary care settings: a scoping review.

Jill Murphy, Elliot M. Goldner, Charles H. Goldsmith, Pham Thi Oanh, William Zhu and others. International journal of mental health system, 2015, volume 9.

Abstract: Depression is an important and growing contributor to the burden of disease around the world and evidence suggests the experience of depression varies cross-culturally. Efforts to improve the integration of services for depression in primary care are increasing globally, meaning that culturally valid measures that are acceptable for use in primary care settings are needed. We conducted a scoping review of 27 studies that validated or used 10 measures of depression in Vietnamese populations. We reviewed the validity of the instruments as reported in the studies and qualitatively assessed cultural validity and acceptability for use in primary care. We found much variation in the methods used to validate the measures, with an emphasis on criterion validity and reliability. Enhanced evaluation of content and construct validity is needed to ensure validity within diverse cultural contexts such as Vietnam. For effective use in primary care, measures must be further evaluated for their brevity and ease of use. To identify appropriate measures for use in primary care in diverse populations, assessment must balance standard validity testing with enhanced testing for appropriateness in terms of culture, language, and gender and for acceptability for use in primary care. Free full text <http://www.ijmhs.com/content/pdf/s13033-015-0024-8.pdf>.

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Malnutrition Expectations and Precautionary Demand for Children: Evidence from Vietnam.

Eric T. STUEN, Nam Trung HOANG and Van Hong Thi HOANG. Forum of International Development Studies, 2015, volume 46, number 2.

Abstract: Precautionary demand for children has long been recognized by economists as a component of household demand for children, such that households respond to the risk of children not surviving to adulthood by increasing their optimally desired family size. We examine whether such an effect exists in response to nutritional constraints. We argue that nutrition measures are suitable proxies for the expectations of parents regarding the lifetime mortality risks of their children. Using a sample of 5,966 Vietnamese households, we estimate Logit models of a birth indicator regressed on self-constructed measures of nutrient consumption and other controls. We find significant effects for calories, protein and an index of micronutrients on the likelihood that the household had a child. The micronutrient index effect is dominant, and is contingent on the health insurance status of children in the household. These findings provide initial non-experimental evidence of the relevance of nutrition on demand for children. They suggest that rising prices and disruptions to food supplies may increase population growth rates, all else equal, an indirect effect that may be moderated by agricultural and food aid policies. Free full text <http://ir.nul.nagoya-u.ac.jp/jspui/bitstream/2237/22950/1/02.pdf>.

Social development

The Process of Reporting and Receiving Support Following Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence During Childhood.

Kathryn H. Howell, Åsa K. Cater, Laura E. Miller-Graff and Sandra A. Graham-Bermann. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 2015, volume 30, number 16, pp. 2886-2907.

Abstract: While a significant body of research suggests that exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) during childhood has severe and long-lasting consequences, little is known about how children cope with witnessing IPV, including who they tell about the violence, whether they receive support after disclosing, and the association between childhood disclosure and adulthood mental health. The current study examines these issues in 703 Swedish young adults who endorsed witnessing IPV during childhood. In this sample, 57% reported that they had ever confided in someone about the witnessed violence. The primary reason given for not disclosing was the belief that no one could do anything about it, which was endorsed by 41% of the young adults who kept the violence concealed. Individuals who disclosed the violence were most likely to tell a friend and least likely to use an anonymous hotline. Young adults with higher levels of depression were less likely to have disclosed IPV during their childhood. Individuals' use of formal reporting outlets was endorsed infrequently, with only 5.2% recalling that they had personally reported the violence or someone else had reported it on their behalf. If such reports were filed, it was most likely to the police. These formal reports typically resulted in participants feeling that the problem continued anyway or that they were believed, but no changes were made. Given the infrequent use of formal reporting services, results suggest that for this sample, reporting outlets for IPV exposure may be underutilized and

may not be perceived as beneficial.

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Living Arrangements and Psychological Well-Being of the Older Adults After the Economic Transition in Vietnam.

Ken Yamada and Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan. *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, 2015.

Abstract: Objectives: We examine the relationship between living arrangements and psychological well-being of the older adults in Vietnam, where there is an influence of Confucian values and a lack of close substitutes for family care of the older adults, by exploiting a great deal of regional variation in economic development. We also examine the role of living arrangements in well-being differentials across regions. Method: We estimate a triangular simultaneous-equation discrete-response model, which accounts for the simultaneity between living arrangements and psychological well-being (happiness, depression, loneliness, poor appetite, and sleep disorder), using a nationally representative sample of 2,225 adults aged 60 and older drawn from the 2011 Vietnam Aging Survey. Results: Intergenerational coresidence significantly increases the psychological well-being of the older adults in Vietnam. The results are fairly robust, even after taking quasi-coresidence into account, decomposing the psychological well-being index into each affect and symptom, and splitting the sample by gender. Discussion: Changes in living arrangements induced by differences in labor market opportunities in neighboring regions have resulted in significant differences in psychological well-being among the older adults. The findings point to the need for attention to the mental health of elderly parents left behind in less economically developed regions. [ojo].

Assessment of Vietnam's National Mine Action Program.

Ted Patterson and Thao Griffiths. *Journal of ERW and Mine Action*, 2015, volume 17, number 2.

Abstract: A December 2012 assessment conducted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation found that despite Vietnam's well-received mine action program reform efforts, various factors, including economic and bureaucratic challenges, continue hindering progress. Free full text <http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1140&context=cisr-journal>.

Association for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Quang Binh, Vietnam.

Nguyễn Thị Thúy Nga. *Journal of ERW and Mine Action*, 2015, volume 17, number 2.

Abstract: The Association for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (AEPD) was established in May 2010 to continue the work of Survivor Corps in rural Vietnam. AEPD uses peer support to empower persons with disabilities who have sustained mine, explosive remnants of war or other war-related injuries. This approach employs survivors, who have successfully reintegrated into communities and recovered from psychosocial trauma, as peer-outreach workers. AEPD staff host training workshops, partner with local health clinics, assist in creating self-help groups and provide economic opportunity activities. AEPD also leads landmine advocacy action in Vietnam. Free full text <http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1142&context=cisr-journal>.

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Does migration make financial sense? The case of domestic workers from Vietnam to Taiwan.

Nguyen Quynh Phuong and Sundar Venkatesh. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 2015, volume 35, number 11/12.

Abstract: Purpose: Adopting a view that migration is an investment, the purpose of this paper is to investigate the risk adjusted returns that migrant domestic workers from Vietnam to Taiwan can expect to earn. -- Design/methodology/approach: The study analyses data obtained through interviews of a sample of migrant domestic workers, all from Phu Tho in the north of Vietnam, who had migrated to Taiwan. -- Findings: The study found that migrants were driven strongly by financial motivations. Analysis of the typical costs of migrating, wages in the host country, average length of stay and, especially, uncertainties affecting the length of stay, found that the

investment in migration is a highly risky one for migrants. In most cases, migration does not pay. -- Research limitations/implications: Estimates of costs and benefits can be improved with larger samples of respondents and data sources that can help validate the interviews. -- Practical implications: There is a need to improve financial literacy among migrants to help them better assess their investment in migration. -- Originality/value: To our knowledge, there is no research of the financial costs and benefits of migration as domestic workers, especially from Vietnam to Taiwan.

Environmental Stressors and Migration: Evidence from Vietnam.

Vally Koubi, Gabriele Spilker, Lena Schaffer and Thomas Bernauer, 2015.

Abstract: While various studies predict large environmental migration flows due to climate change and other environmental events, the ex post empirical evidence for this phenomenon is inconclusive. We contribute to the emerging empirical literature in this field by focusing on the micro-level. We examine how and why different environmental stressors may induce internal migration. The analysis relies on original survey data from Vietnam including both migrants and non-migrants. The results suggest that long-term environmental events, such as droughts, significantly reduce migration while sudden-onset environmental events, such as floods or cyclones, significantly increase the likelihood of migration controlling for other potential reasons to migrate. These findings indicate that different types of environmental stressors can create different incentives for people to migrate or stay. [Koubi-et-al-2015.pdf]. Free full text http://www.snisch.ch/~snisch/system/files/3995_final_wp_koubi_et_al_environmental_stressors_and_migration_evidence_from_vietnam_1.pdf.

Critical cartography 2.0: From “participatory mapping” to authored visualizations of power and people.

Annette M. Kim. Landscape and Urban Planning, 2015.

Abstract: This article reviews the state of “critical cartography” which is being experimented with exuberance in a number of disciplines and arenas: geographers, community development activists, artists, and new media innovators, to name a few. The promise and possibilities of debunking and retooling cartography are significant: by opening up who can make a map and the kinds of maps that are made, overlooked phenomena can be reclaimed, different perspectives can be made apparent, and new knowledge constructed. However, the conditions under which the emancipatory potential of critical cartography might be realized need to be investigated. This article critiques the claims that current new mapping practices increase participation and democracy and outlines four issues critical cartography needs to further develop in order to increase its potential: 1) greater reflexivity on the critical cartographer's own position and influence of the project, 2) acknowledgement of the choices made of what not to include in the map, 3) greater consideration about the politics of aesthetics, 4) expanded search for deeper social engagement with new mapping projects. The article also discusses these issues through a case study map project of street vendors contesting the use of sidewalk space in Ho Chi Minh City. It explores the qualities a non-participatory, authored map project might engender critical visualization through processes of spatial ethnography. [sci].

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Tourism

Community-Based Tourism and Development in the Periphery/Semi-periphery Interface: A Case Study from Viet Nam.

Le Tuan Anh, David Weaver and Laura Lawton. in: Reframing Sustainable Tourism, Springer, 2015.

Abstract: This chapter investigates how local residents in community-based tourism (CBT) situations within the periphery/semi-periphery interface perceive the relationship between CBT and “development”. Qualitative research methods using a grounded theory approach were applied to examine perceptions of 55 local residents living in three CBT case study sites in the hinterland of Sa Pa town, a popular tourist destination in north-western Viet Nam. The study shows that residents not only regard development as a complex and multi-dimensional construct but overwhelmingly recognize the positive role played by CBT, and identify the influencing factors and recommendations

to optimize the contributions of CBT for relevant stakeholders.

Water

Fresh Water Struggle in Two Vietnam Regions.

Lo Kwong Fai Andrew and Luu Thien Huong. J Environ Anal Toxicol, 2015, volume S7.

Abstract: Water is one of the most valuable natural resource, and most people are aware of the limited supply and importance of water. In Vietnam, public water systems have not been spread to all of the regions yet. Using surface water and groundwater remains the common solution for most residents. However, in some areas, surface water and groundwater is unsuitable for drinking purposes. Rainwater is considered to be a unique alternative for alleviating this problem. This study, therefore, aims at tackling the issues of the water supply encountered at two Vietnam regions, and to propose solutions not only to protect the environment and human livelihood but also for cutting down economic cost. Free full text <http://www.omicsgroup.info/open-access/fresh-water-struggle-in-two-vietnam-regions-2161-0525-S7-003.pdf>.

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