

PEACE & PROGRESS

UNU Graduate Student Journal

Transforming our world NEWSLETTER



SYRIA PEACE

By Joseph Cook and Nsioh Macnight

Talks Resume in Geneva

The Syrian conflict is moving into its 7th year. According to the United Nations 2017

Humanitarian Response

Plan for the Syrian Arab Republic, there has been a rapid rise in humanitarian needs across the country. The report highlights that 13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, 6.3 million are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), up to \$3.4 US billion are needed to meet the humanitarian needs, 7 million are food insecure, 1 in 3 Syrian children are out of school, 60 % require health assistance, and 30,000 people suffer war-related trauma every month. With the hope of bringing the

trauma every month. With the hope of bringing the conflict to an end, the United Nations have been facilitating discussions between the parties involved in the hostilities. Read more

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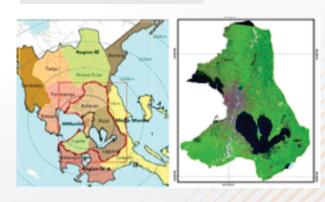
The peace negotiations are focused on ensuring the talks are Syrian-led and ultimately, Syrian-owned

"If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there'd be peace."

— John Lennon

Modeling Land Use Changes Across Sectors for a Sustainable Mega Manila City

By Mebeelo Kafungwa



Globally cities seek to achieve better economic development. Vlahov (2007), describes cities as the predominant mode of living, driven by economic growth and mostly exponentially correlated to the expansion of urban areas that have a concentrated disadvantage. This expansion of urban areas eventually undermines the configuration of any city, nature of services available and living conditions. The complexity and diverse nature of cities create dynamic urban land use changes. Therefore,

requires modeling methods to understand and project the spatial patterns. However, if we are to achieve urban sustainability, there is need to innovate new analytic frameworks that include all variables of land use change. Read more



By Nicole Anschell UNU-EHS students at the Global Festival of Ideas in Bonn



At the beginning of the month, nine UNU-EHS students kicked off their semester break at the World Conference Center in Bonn as either participants or volunteers for the first annual Global Festival of Ideas for Sustainable Development. This three-day conference, which was hosted by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Action Campaign welcomed over 800 development experts, civil society members, and policy makers from all over the world. To complement the plenaries and discussion sessions, the festival proved to be the first

'playable' conference, debuting an interactive policy game, HiveMind, in order to simulate the commitment, strategy and funding required to achieve the 17 SDGs. Read moreneed to innovate new analytic frameworks that include all variables of land use change. Read more



UNU-IAS International Symposium underscores the link between Biodiversity and Sustainability

By Christmas de Guzman



Attended by various experts, researchers, students and other representatives from the academic and development sectors, an international symposium with the theme "Biodiversity and Sustainability: Linking People and Nature" was held last 12 March at the United Nations University (UNU) U Thant International Conference Hall. Co-organized by the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S) at the University of Tokyo, the symposium was

opened with a welcome remark by Dr. David Malone, rector of the UNU, who pointed out that Japan, as a country, presents this connection between traditional culture and biodiversity. Read more

Leadership for Sustainability

By Tamara Luisce





need for leaders that can understand sustainability and lead accordingly in business, government and civil society is urgent. Now, more than ever, we need to be prepared to make informed choices and develop strategies that will realize sustainability goals in all sectors of the globalized world. At the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), fourteen students and professionals from eleven countries around the world met from March 13 to March 21, 2017, to participate in the Leadership

for Sustainability course. The countries represented

were Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Cameroun, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Mexico, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste. Read more



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