



Global South Matters

# THE DAKSHIN NEWS

Development And Knowledge Sharing Initiative

16 May-22 May, 2025

## IN FOCUS

### Accelerating Clean Cooking in Africa: Balancing Cost, Culture, and Innovation

*Omegere John Patrick, DAKSHIN*

Access to clean cooking technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa remains critically low, despite notable progress in recent years. As of 2020, approximately 923 million people across the continent still lacked access to clean cooking solutions. In many rural households, cooking is predominantly done using three-stone traditional stoves, where a pot is balanced over an open flame. Often used indoors, these stoves emit high levels of smoke and particulate matter, severely compromising indoor air quality. Women, who are typically responsible for cooking, face the highest exposure to this pollution, increasing their risk of respiratory illnesses, eye problems, and other health complications. Additionally, the reliance on firewood not only drives deforestation but also limits women's economic productivity, with many spending an average of three hours per week collecting firewood.

[Read More](#)

### Special Article

#### Belarus and the Global South: Geography Doesn't Matter

*Yury M. Yarmolinsky, Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research*

As the decline of the old order and the dramatic emergence of a new international landscape usher in a new era, the voice of the Global South is growing louder and more ambitious. This was evident, among other developments, in the 3rd Voice of the Global South Summit, convened by India in August 2024. **Although the Republic of Belarus is not geographically situated in this region, our spirit, approach, and objectives align us with the progressive Global Majority.** The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, emphasized this point clearly in his speech at the above-mentioned Summit, where he participated at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

[Read More](#)

## Key Developments in the Global South



### World Health Depends on Global South Status: PM Modi

In a major development for public health and improving preparedness for future pandemics, India has joined other WHO member states in jointly adopting the global pandemic treaty at the World Health Assembly in Geneva. The summit's key objective was to conclude negotiations on the Global Pandemic Treaty, and the Prime Minister congratulated the World Health Organization (WHO) and all member states on the successful conclusion of negotiations by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) on the Pandemic Treaty. The adoption was based on the approval of the Agreement by vote in Committee by Member State delegations.

[Read More](#)



### Islamic Development Bank Launches Digital Platform for South-South Cooperation

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) launched today its innovative Matchmaking Platform for South-South Cooperation (SSC) under the spirit of “From the South to the South, and by the South”, during a high-level event held at the Centre International de Conférences (CIC) in the Algerian capital city, Algiers, as part of the 2025 IsDB Group Annual Meetings. The IsDB Matchmaking Platform was developed under the Roadmap for Scaling Up the Reverse Linkage Mechanism and brought to life by the IsDB's Reverse Linkage Division. It directly responds to the requests of the IsDB's Governors and is a key outcome of the Riyadh Declaration@50, adopted during the IsDB's Golden Jubilee in 2024.

[Read More](#)



### World Bank Strengthens Agricultural Ties with Indian State

The Government of Assam and the World Bank have reaffirmed their long-standing partnership to advance agricultural reforms and investment in the state. A high-level meeting was held to discuss the next phase of the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), with a focus on modernising agriculture, empowering farmers, and boosting private sector engagement. The World Bank delegation was led by Farbod Youseffi, Senior Agribusiness Specialist (South Asia) and Task Team Leader for APART, and Andrew Goodland, Lead Agriculture Specialist (India and Afghanistan). The State

Project Director of ARIAS Society also participated in the meeting.

[Read More](#)



## **ICARDA Inaugurates the African Breeding Accelerator**

ICARDA officially inaugurated its brand-new accelerated breeding platform, the African Breeding Accelerator in Rabat, under the patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, and Water and Forests, in the presence of high-level institutional representatives, ICARDA board members, and numerous distinguished national and international partners. Climate change poses a major challenge to agriculture and crop production. The development and adoption of improved crop varieties, better adapted to drought and disease, is essential for food security and climate resilience.

[Read More](#)



## **Indonesia, Chile Seek Stronger Agricultural, Trade Ties**

Indonesian Agriculture Minister Andi Amran Sulaiman hosted his counterpart from Chile, Esteban Valenzuela Van Treek, in Jakarta on Monday (May 19), to explore avenues for expanded agricultural and trade cooperation to mutually enhance food security. As cited from his office's statement here on Tuesday, Sulaiman expressed Indonesia's eagerness to partner with Chile to improve water management for agricultural activities. During the meeting, the two ministers also discussed trade opportunities, including Chile's eagerness to export potatoes, milk, and cattle to Indonesia.

[Read More](#)



## **Azerbaijan's Agriculture Ministry Rolls Out International Cooperation on AI Technologies**

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Agriculture has begun cooperation with international organizations on artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, Deputy Chairman of the Agrarian Services Agency Anar Azimov said at the 2nd Forum of Agronomists within the framework of public-private partnership, Trend reports. He noted that in a world that's always on the move, where change is the name of the game, digitalization and the use of AI are key players in speeding up the clock on processes. These technologies will have a great impact both on improving services within the framework of state control and on transmitting information to farmers.

[Read More](#)



## Indonesia and Thailand Ink health MoU

In a series of official visits by the President of the Republic of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto to Thailand, bilateral cooperation between the two countries was strengthened through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the health sector. The signing took place at Government House, Bangkok, on Monday, May 19, 2025, and was witnessed directly by President Prabowo and Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Sinawatra. The MoU document signed is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia and the Ministry of Public Health of the Kingdom of Thailand on Health Cooperation. The signing was carried out by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Sugiono, and the Minister of Public Health of Thailand, Somsak Thepsuthin.

[Read More](#)



## African Health Leaders and Global Partners Unite to Address Health Challenges

Health leaders from malaria-endemic African countries and global partners called today for intensified action to counter antimalarial drug resistance – a growing challenge that threatens to undermine hard-won progress against one of Africa’s deadliest diseases. Meeting on the margins of the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly, the high-level gathering turned a spotlight on the urgent need for coordinated action to contain the spread of resistance to frontline malaria medicines. Led by the Government of Rwanda, the side event brought together a powerful coalition of co-hosts, including Eritrea, Ethiopia, Namibia, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

[Read More](#)



## Angola Pledges US\$ 8 Million for Sustainable Health Financing

Angola has pledged US\$ 8 million to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Investment Round, joining a growing number of countries that are backing a new model for financing global health. The announcement was made today by H.E. President João Lourenço during his address to the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA78) in Geneva, where he spoke both as President of Angola and as Chair of the African Union. This contribution reflects Angola’s strong commitment to multilateral cooperation and its recognition of WHO’s critical role in coordinating international efforts to protect and improve health worldwide.

[Read More](#)



## The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and Unitaid Enter New Strategic Partnership

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and Unitaid have formed a new strategic partnership to expand the production of essential health products in Africa and improve sustainable access to medicines, diagnostics, and medical oxygen across the continent. Signed on the margins of the 78th World Health Assembly, the Memorandum of Understanding focuses on scaling up regional manufacturing as a central pillar of Africa's health security and autonomy. These efforts will target key health priorities such as HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis, cervical cancer, sexually transmitted infections, and other diseases and conditions – particularly those affecting women and children.

[Read More](#)



## EAC Hosts Leaders Forum on Digital Public Infrastructure

The 2nd Edition of the East African Digital Leaders Forum on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is currently underway at the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The forum seeks to review progress, facilitate joint action and foster cross-border digital infrastructure development in the region. The objective of the three-day meeting supported by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) is to assess the implementation of DPI initiatives across EAC Partner States since the August 2024 workshop, focusing on building trusted DPI with Safeguards and facilitating cross-border collaboration by bringing together interoperable digital identity, e-payment and data exchange mechanisms across the region.

[Read More](#)



## Malawi Launches First-Ever Digital Readiness Assessment

In a landmark step toward achieving an inclusive and sustainable digital future, the Ministry of Information and Digitalization, through its Department of e-Government and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), officially launched Malawi's first-ever Digital Readiness Assessment (DRA) during a high-level event held in Lilongwe. The event was graced by Honourable Moses Kunkuyu, Minister of Information and Digitalization, who led the official launch. Also present were Mr. Baldwin Chiyamwaka, Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Information; Mr. Stephen Mjuweni, Principal Secretary for e-Government; and Ms. Fenella Frost, UNDP Resident Representative, Dr. Kisu Simwaka, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of Malawi, along with senior government officials, development partners, members of the diplomatic corps, academia, civil society, and private sector leaders.

[Read More](#)



## Indonesia Prepares New Cybersecurity Law

The Indonesian government is preparing a revision of the Cybersecurity and Resilience (RUU KKS) that will include penalties for platforms that fail to adequately protect their cybersecurity, according to the Deputy Head of the National Cyber and Encryption Agency (BSSN), Rachmad Wibowo. According to him, the government completed the harmonization process at the end of April and plans to hold a focus group discussion (FGD) to ensure proper socialization of this legislation. The Cybersecurity and Resilience Bill is a priority within the government's National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2025-2029.

[Read More](#)

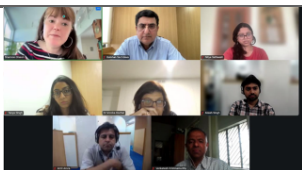


## South Africa Reaches 82% Geographic Digital Access: DG Jordan-Dyani

Director General in the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, Nonkqubela Jordan-Dyani, says South Africa has so far managed to reach 82% geographic coverage when it comes to digital access. Today marks World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. The day highlights the role of technology in bridging the digital divide and driving development in underserved African regions. Jordan-Dyani says they're considering a number of programmes to cater for part of the population that had been left out.

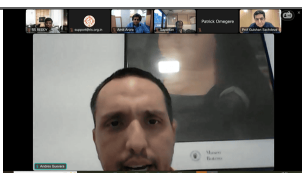
[Read More](#)

## DAKSHIN Network and Collaborations



### Meeting with the echo network

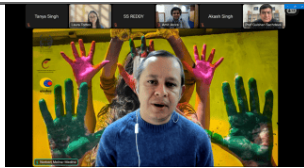
DAKSHIN Team and 'the echo network' had a successful online meeting on 15 May 2025. Dr Shannon B. Olsson, Founder and Global Director, the echo network shared details related to echo network's annual two day summit i.e. to be held on 4-5 July 2025. The summit would focus on the milestones and achievements of echo network. DAKSHIN Team was invited to participate in the two day summit by Dr Olsson. Dr Monika Kochar from DAKSHIN suggested on planning a session of health in the summit. Further, Dr Olsson presented a brief overview of echo network's Sage programme, which had three engagement levels (Junior, Senior, Fellows). Following this, both the delegation agreed to sign Letter of Association (LoA) in order to formalize their association.



### Meeting with Cedice Libertad, Venezuela

DAKSHIN and Cedice Libertad in Venezuela Mexico had a successful meeting on 19 May 2025. Professor Gulshan Sachdeva; Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN initiated the meeting

by providing a background about the inception of the centre and its vision and mandate. Following this, Professor Andrés Guevara from Cedice Libertad presented the broad focus areas of the institute. He emphasized that researching on the free market economy and entrepreneurship as some of the core focus areas of the institute. Further, he added that the main activities of the institute of revolved around programmes including education and capacity building, national/international relations, knowledge generation and the integration of economic ideas into the lifestyle of citizens. Subsequently, both the sides agreed to harness their respective complementarities through capacity building approaches and entrepreneurship programmes and linking such programmes with the other countries of the Global South.



### **Interaction with Centro de Estudios de África y Asia (CEAA), Venezuela**

DAKSHIN had a productive online bilateral meeting with Centro de Estudios de África y Asia (CEAA), an academic unit attached to the University of Los Andes in Venezuela on 21 May 2025. This was the first bilateral meeting between the two centers. Professor Gulshan Sachdeva initiated the discussion by giving a brief description about DAKSHIN, the rationale behind its inception and its core mandate. He laid out the major focus areas of the centre such as agriculture, health and digital solution and the centre's vision to expand further by including other important sectors such as education and connectivity too. Following this, Professor Norbert Molina Medina, Director, Centro de Estudios de África y Asia presented a brief description about the centre and its rich experience in research and teaching. He emphasized that centre has a rich focus on Indic Studies and international relations, foreign policy, development studies, society and culture studies form some of its broader focus areas. Following this, Professor Gulshan Sachdeva expressed that DAKSHIN's intent to collaborate on a specific proposals including strengthening their centre for Indic Studies, exchange of scholars and joint research. The meeting concluded with both sides acknowledging the importance of creating new alliances and opportunities through such meaningful cooperation.

## **DAKSHIN Events**



## MOU Signing Ceremony & Roundtable on India Belarus Partnership

20 May 2025

DAKSHIN -Global South Centre of Excellence and the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research (BISR) in Minsk, Belarus signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 20 May 2025. The event was commemorated by a roundtable discussion that witnessed esteemed delegation from Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research, RIS, the Government of India and distinguished experts.

[Read More](#)

**RIS**  
Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries  
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

**DAKSHIN**  
GLOBAL SOUTH  
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

**CRPM**  
Center for  
Research and  
Policy  
Making  
...policy impact since 2004

**Strengthening Gender-Responsive Budgeting in the Global South**  
**Thursday, 22 May 2025 | 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm (IST) (Online)**

**PROF. SACHIN CHATURVEDI**  
Director General,  
RIS

**PROF. GULSHAN SACHDEVA**  
Chief Coordinator,  
DAKSHIN, RIS

**DR. MARIJA RISTEVA**  
Executive Director, CRPM,  
Macedonia

**MR. ALEXANDER SBRINCEA**  
Project Coordinator, KeyStone  
Moldova, Republic of Moldova

**MS. YANA PETRUSKOVA**  
Program Manager  
CRPM, Macedonia

**DR. LATHA S. CHATURVEDI**  
Professor and Chair, HPPF,  
New Delhi, India

**DR. CHHENG KIMLONG**  
President, Asian Pacific  
Institute, Phnom Penh,  
Cambodia

**PROF. JORGELINA LOZA**  
Associate Researcher,  
International Relations  
Department, FLACSO,  
Argentina

**MS. SAFAATH AHMED ZAHIR**  
Founder & President, Women  
and Democracy NGO,  
Moldova

**MR. EDWARD H. SHENA**  
Gender & Development  
Consultant, USAID,  
Kigali, Tanzania

<https://www.unrct.org/india/2025/05/22/430pm-600pm-ist-online>

Scan to Register

## DAKSHIN Workshop on Gender-Responsive Budgeting

Thursday, 22 May 2025

### FIND US ALSO ON:



**RIS**

Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

Research and Information System for Developing Countries

[Unsubscribe](#) [Subscribe](#) [Contact Us](#) [Privacy Notice](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Copyright](#)