



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

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Key Developments in the Global South



WHO Global Summit charts a bold future for traditional medicine

The second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, jointly organized with the Government of India, concluded today in New Delhi, marking a major milestone for global health as it drew over 16 000 online registrations and brought together 800 delegates from more than 100 countries, including ministers from over 20 nations. Combined with a strong line up of 160 speakers, the global traditional medicine community shared insights on how traditional medicine (TM) can strengthen health systems with safer, evidence-based, and affordable care.

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OPEC Fund to co-finance up to \$2 billion to accelerate development across Africa

The co-financing announcement was made by OPEC Fund President Abdulhamid Alkhalifa during the 17th replenishment session of the ADF, the concessional financing window of the African Development Bank Group. Africa accounts for the largest regional share of the OPEC Fund's portfolio. Since its establishment in 1976, the institution has approved more than \$14.6 billion in financing for African countries. Under its Strategic Framework 2030, the OPEC Fund is scaling up its operations, with Africa a core focus of engagement.

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ICRISAT Schedules Major Conference on Transforming Dryland Agriculture Through South-South Cooperation

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has announced an international conference focused on innovations to transform dryland agriculture through South South Cooperation, scheduled for September 10 to 12, 2026 at ICRISAT Headquarters in Patancheru, Telangana, India. The conference will bring together leaders from the Global South and beyond to advance practical, science based and partnership driven agricultural solutions for dryland food systems, which support the world's most climate vulnerable communities.

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Indonesia Designated as a WHO Listed Authority

The Indonesian Food and Drug Monitoring Agency's (BPOM) appointment as a WHO Listed Authority (WLA) places Indonesia among the few global regulators of medicines and food. This status not only signifies international recognition but also has a direct impact on the national healthcare system and the domestic pharmaceutical industry.

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20 Years of Local Learning and Knowledge Co-Creation in Asia: Case of Southasiadisasters.net

When governments in the Global North made early investments in reducing disaster risks, many nations of the Global South lacked the same resources. In these contexts, civil society organisations stepped forward to raise awareness and take action. The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), founded in Ahmedabad during the droughts of the late 1980s, is one such organisation. Alongside pioneers in Peru and the Philippines, AIDMI has worked tirelessly to strengthen disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, and climate resilience with affected communities at the centre.

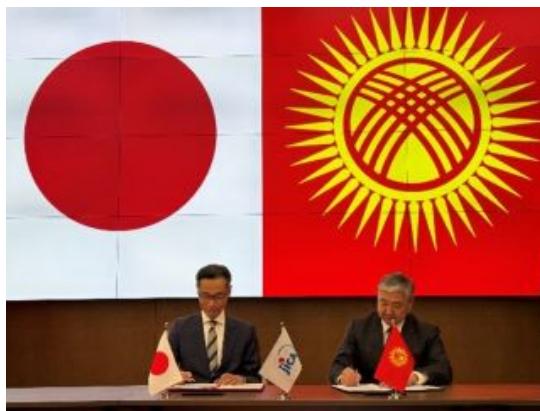
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Indonesia Convenes Multi-Stakeholder Action Dialogue to Advance Effective Development Cooperation

In a landmark step toward strengthening development effectiveness and accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Government of Indonesia, through the Ministry of National Development Planning/BAPPENAS, today hosted a high-level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Development Effectiveness in Jakarta. Co-organized with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the event brought together over 85 representatives from government, development partners, civil society, private sector, philanthropy, academia, and trade unions for a day of reflection, validation, and joint commitment. The event served as part of Indonesia's official Action Dialogue, as the country is progressing to Phase 5 under the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), a significant milestone that places Indonesia among only 13 countries worldwide to have advanced from data collection to action planning.

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JICA's Signing of Grant Agreement with Kyrgyz Republic

the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a grant agreement with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the capital city Bishkek, to provide grant aid for the Project for Development of Training Facilities for Strengthening Capacity of Power System Operation and Maintenance. The signatures were exchanged between Minister Almaz Baketaev of Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic and Chief Representative Nishigata Kotaro of JICA Kyrgyz Republic. This project strengthens the cooperation between Japan and the Kyrgyz Republic in the fields of environment and energy by supporting human resource development for the operation of power transmission and distribution, thereby contributing to enhancing Japan's international presence in the energy infrastructure sector.

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Stronger statistics to measure e-commerce and the digital economy

The digital economy needs to become more “statistically visible”, particularly in developing countries, for evidence-based policymaking and inclusive development. UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently launched a new global database on e-commerce value, the first of its kind to consolidate available national estimates to reveal new insights as well as where major information gaps persist. The launch took place during sixth meeting of the UN Trade and Development Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy, with representatives from 42 countries participating in attendance. The working group said that improving such measurements is essential to policies on taxation, competition, digital trade agreements, support to micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, consumer protection and digital inclusion.

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African Development Bank Group Mobilises Global Private Capital to Close Africa's Financing Gap

Building on the successful conclusion of the 17th replenishment of the African Development Fund (ADF-17), which mobilised \$11 billion for Africa's most vulnerable countries, the African Development Bank Group and the Government of the United Kingdom convened global investors and private sector leaders in London to accelerate a new phase of private capital mobilisation for Africa's development. The inaugural Africa Private Capital Mobilisation Day at Lancaster House, brought together more than 150 senior decision-makers from private equity firms, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, insurers, philanthropies, and development finance institutions and export credit agencies—marking a decisive shift from dialogue to execution.

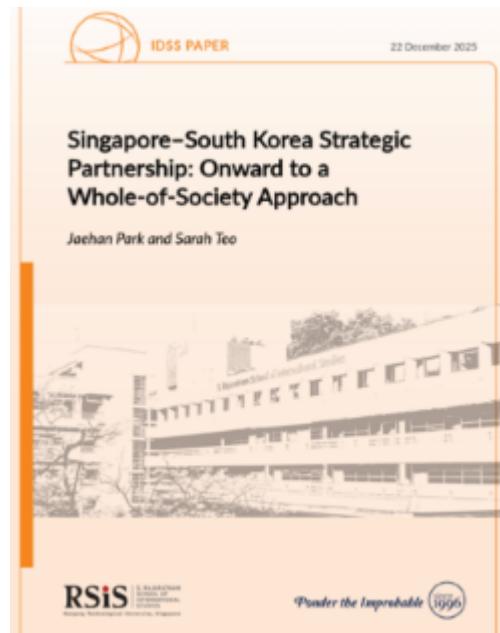
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Syria, Hungary discuss ways to expand agricultural cooperation

Syrian and Hungarian officials met on Monday to discuss expanding cooperation in agriculture, including agricultural research and the possible reactivation of previously signed agreements between the two countries. Agriculture Minister Amjad Badr and the Hungarian Embassy's chargé d'affaires in Damascus, Soós István Gyula, also discussed the possibility of drafting a memorandum of understanding on vaccines, exchanging technical expertise, and upgrading laboratory capabilities.

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Singapore–South Korea Strategic Partnership: Onward to a Whole-of-Society Approach

For Singapore, the upgrade positions South Korea alongside other strategic partners including the United Kingdom and Germany. For South Korea, Singapore now sits in the same category as other important partners such as the European Union, Mexico and Turkey. Over the past five decades, relations between South Korea and Singapore have grown progressively closer, underpinned by shared interests in regional stability and continued economic prosperity. The strategic partnership signals both countries' intention to broaden the scope and ambition of their bilateral cooperation. In addition to strengthening cooperation in areas like defence technology, artificial intelligence (AI), and energy, the two countries agreed for Singapore to import beef and pork from South Korea's Jeju Island for the first time – a symbol of growing cultural ties between Seoul and Singapore manifested in K-food's growing popularity in the latter.

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Africa strengthens regional health diplomacy with new WHO–ECSA pact

AFRICAN countries, including Tanzania, have reaffirmed their growing role in regional health diplomacy following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Africa and the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSAHC). The agreement, signed yesterday, aims to strengthen health cooperation across the region and establishes a structured framework for joint action to improve health outcomes and build resilient health systems among ECSAHC's nine member states, including Tanzania.

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Egypt, Armenia discuss expanding agricultural cooperation

Egypt's Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Alaa Farouk, met on Monday, December 22, 2025, with Armenian Minister of Economy Gevorg Papoyan and his delegation. They explored ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in agriculture. The meeting was part of Egypt's efforts to broaden its international partnerships. Deputy Minister of Agriculture Mostafa El-Sayyad also attended. The talks focused on boosting joint agricultural investment. They also encouraged greater involvement by the private sector and business communities in both countries. Discussions covered cooperation in key areas such as seed production, land reclamation, and the rational use of water resources.

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Mercosur, Việt Nam launch preferential trade agreement negotiations

Mercosur and Việt Nam have launched negotiations for a preferential trade agreement, Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira announced on Saturday at the bloc's 67th summit in Foz de Iguazu. Mercosur, or the Southern Common Market, comprises Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Vieira, representing Mercosur's rotating presidency, described Việt Nam as an important trading partner for the South American bloc. Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay issued a joint statement with Việt Nam confirming the formal start of negotiations.

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Zimbabwe sends 143 more education specialists to Rwanda

Up to 143 specialist educators from Zimbabwe are set to arrive in Kigali for deployment under a teacher exchange programme between the two countries that is already playing a vital role in Rwanda's education reform journey. The MoU provides for the exchange of skilled personnel in critical sectors such as education, health, and information and communication technologies. The first cohort of 157 Zimbabwean teachers arrived in Rwanda in February 2022 and has since been deployed in various schools, especially teacher training institutions.

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BAPPENAS Delegation Visits JICA Ogata Research Institute for Discussions on Establishing a New Research Institute

A delegation from Indonesia's Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), led by Taufik Hanafi, Chief Planner Deputy for Development Control, Evaluation, and Risk Management, visited the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development (JICA Ogata Research Institute). The visit aimed to gather information and exchange views in preparation for establishing a new research institute. As part of its plan to establish a new research institute, BAPPENAS visited to gain insights into the JICA Ogata Research Institute's operations, research programs, and partnerships.

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