



UN DATES 2016

FEBRUARY

- 13 World Radio Day
20 World Day of Social Justice

MARCH

- 3 World Wildlife Day
6 Clean up Australia
7-13 Qld Women's Week—aim to celebrate the achievements of women and girls. Theme—*'Good for her—Great for us. When women achieve—Queensland succeeds.'*
8 International Women's Day.

April

- 7 World Health Day

May

- 3 World Press Day
29 International day of UN Peacekeepers

June

- 5 World Environment Day
17 World Day of Desertification

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NEW UNAA QLD OFFICE

**With appreciation to
Senator Claire Moore
for printing this issue.**

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Syria: UN-mediated talks get under way; relief agencies amplify calls for access to besieged civilians.



Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura (left) meets with Syria's Ambassador to the UN in New York Bashar Ja'afari, at the Intra-Syrian Geneva Talks 2016. UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

28 January 2016 – On the eve of scheduled [intra-Syrian talks](#) in Geneva to seek an end to five years of internecine fighting, the top United Nations official for the war-torn country took to the airwaves today to speak directly to the Syrian people, vowing that the world organization will never abandon them.

"My message today is meant to reach every single man, woman, child of Syria, inside Syria and outside, in the refugee camps, or wherever you are," Special UN Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura said in a video recording.

"We count on you to raise your voice, to say khalas, it is enough, to say to everyone who is actually coming – from Syria and from abroad – to this conference that there are expectations on them to make sure that their vision, their capacity of compromise in discussion for reaching a peaceful solution in Syria is now, and they need to produce that," he said.

29 January 2016 – With United Nations-mediated talks on ending the five-year crisis in Syria getting under way today as scheduled, UN relief agencies and their partners are reiterating their appeal for unhindered access by relief workers to more than four million desperate people spread across 18 besieged areas in the war-torn country.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva after the first set of [intra-Syrian talks](#), which today featured only a Government delegation headed by the Permanent Representative of Syria to the United Nations, Bashar Jaafari and UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura said that as was standard practice, a "preparatory meeting" had been held to get an idea about what the next steps will be.

"Now the issue is obviously that any type of ceasefire discussions, which is obviously something that we are aiming at, apart from substantive discussions on the future of Syria, need two interlocutors [...] that is why for us it is very important to have an indication of where we are on the presence of the High Negotiations Committee (HNC)" he said, referring to the ongoing discussions among the opposition about attending the Geneva talks.

"One of their key concerns" he said, "included the desire to see a gesture from the government authorities regarding some type of improvement for the people in Syria during the talks, for instance release of prisoners, or for instance some lifting of sieges."

From UN News Centre: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53121#.Vq04xo9OKUk>



Welcome to the United Nations. It's your world

WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan's statement on the first meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee on Zika virus and observed increase in neurological disorders and neonatal malformations.

"I convened an Emergency Committee, under the International Health Regulations, to gather advice on the severity of the health threat associated with the continuing spread of Zika virus disease in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Committee met today by teleconference.

In assessing the level of threat, the 18 experts and advisers looked in particular at the strong association, in time and place, between infection with the Zika virus and a rise in detected cases of congenital malformations and neurological complications. The experts agreed that a causal relationship between Zika infection during pregnancy and microcephaly is strongly suspected, though not yet scientifically proven. All agreed on the urgent need to coordinate international efforts to investigate and understand this relationship better.

The experts also considered patterns of recent spread and the broad geographical distribution of mosquito species that can transmit the virus. The lack of vaccines and rapid and reliable diagnostic tests, and the absence of population immunity in newly affected countries were cited as further causes for concern.

After a review of the evidence, the Committee advised that the recent cluster of microcephaly cases and other neurological disorders reported in Brazil, following a similar cluster in French Polynesia in 2014, constitutes an "extraordinary event" and a public health threat to other parts of the world.

In their view, a coordinated international response is needed to minimize the threat in affected countries and reduce the risk of further international spread.

Members of the Committee agreed that the situation meets the conditions for a Public Health Emergency of International Concern".

Access here: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2016/emergency-committee-zika-microcephaly/en/> WHO statement on the first meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR 2005) Emergency Committee on Zika virus and observed increase in neurological disorders and neonatal malformations access the statement here: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2016/1st-emergency-committee-zika/en/> .

List of the experts who are members of the Emergency Committee (EC) on Zika virus and observed increase in neurological disorders and neonatal malformations is available on <http://www.who.int/ihr/procedures/zika-ec-members/en/>

Films showing smoking scenes should be rated to protect children from tobacco addiction

1 February, 2016: The World Health Organization is calling on governments to rate movies that portray tobacco use in a bid to prevent children and adolescents from starting to smoke cigarettes and use other forms of tobacco.

Movies showing use of tobacco products have enticed millions of young people worldwide to start smoking, according to the new WHO *Smoke-Free Movies Report – From evidence to action*, the third edition since its launch in 2009.

"With ever tighter restrictions on tobacco advertising, film remains one of the last channels exposing millions of adolescents to smoking imagery without restrictions," says Dr Douglas Bettcher, WHO's Director for the Department of Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases.

Taking concrete steps, including rating films with tobacco scenes and displaying tobacco warnings before films with tobacco, can stop children around the world from being introduced to tobacco products and subsequent tobacco-related addiction, disability and death.

"Smoking in films can be a strong form of promotion for tobacco products," adds Dr Bettcher. "The 180 Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) are obliged by international law to ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship." **More information:**

www.who.int/entity/tobacco/publications/marketing/smoke-free-movies-third-edition/en



Goals 6 to 14 / 17



United Nations Global Compact

Global business leaders and UN heads met with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland to explore opportunities to scale up public-private partnerships that will advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UN Secretary-General advised that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be taken as “our declaration of interdependence”, as he called for collective action to tackle global challenges, warning that “a crash in one market can drive a crisis around the world”.

The United Nations Global Compact is the world’s largest corporate sustainability initiative, with over 12,000 participating businesses and other organisations, and growing. It is both a practical framework for action and a platform for demonstrating corporate commitment and leadership

GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK AUSTRALIA

The business-led Global Compact Network Australia, brings together signatories to the United Nations Global Compact, to advance corporate sustainability and the private sector's contribution to sustainable development, including Australia's leading companies, non profits and universities.

New Year, New Website: <http://www.unglobalcompact.org.au/>



ISSUES and KEY ENGAGEMENT PLAFORMS

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

—Social sustainability is about the impacts, positive and negative, that business has on people – employees, workers in the value chain. **Human Rights | Indigenous Engagement | Gender Equality | Children’s Rights | Security & Human Rights**



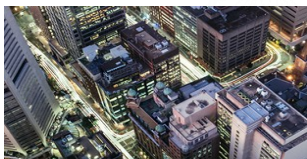
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

– Businesses have a critical role to play in addressing these challenges, with a responsibility to minimise their own environmental impact, and an opportunity to explore how they can have a net positive impact. on customers and communities. **Climate Change | Water**



ANTI-CORRUPTION AND GOVERNANCE

- Corruption is one of the world’s greatest challenges, and a significant obstacle to sustainable development. Corruption also has a significant impact on the private sector, impeding economic growth and distorting competition. **Anti-bribery and Corruption**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

— Business has a crucial role in achieving sustainable development – through responsible operations, new business models, investment, innovation and technology, and collaboration..

Sustainable Development Goals | Food and Agriculture | DFAT Private Sector Engagement



SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY

— Supply chains have become increasingly globalised, complex and competitive. Outsourcing production, or sourcing from suppliers in developing or emerging economies, can deliver significant

GCNA Event: Key trends in business and human rights for 2016: What business needs to know!

THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2016 12:00pm – 1:00pm Online WEBINAR

Momentum in the business and human rights agenda continues to build, and growing pressure is being put on businesses to know and show that they are respecting and human rights. This webinar will examine current business and human rights trends, continuing challenges and what the developing landscape means for businesses operating both in Australia and offshore.

Speakers will include: **Ben Walker**, Head of Sustainable Development, ANZ Bank, **Bill Anderson**, Head of Social and Environmental Affairs, Asia Pacific, Adidas, **Ariel Meyerstein**, Vice-President, Labour Affairs, Corporate Responsibility and Corporate Governance, US Council for International Business, **Vanessa Zimmerman**, Group Advisor Human Rights, Rio Tinto and Chair, GCNA Human Rights Leadership Group (Facilitator)

To view invitation AND **REGISTER GO TO:** <http://www.unglobalcompact.org.au/>



ASIA INSIGHTS From the Director:



At the start of 2016, I would like to wish you all the best for the New Year and welcome you to the first edition of our Asia Insights for 2016. The coming year is already shaping up to be a busy one at the Griffith Asia Institute with the expansion of our regional international dialogues and partnerships program and the development of several new research initiatives. In April, the Inaugural Griffith Asia Institute Lecture will be held here in Brisbane and I am delighted that the former Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon John Howard AC has agreed to be our speaker.

During 2016, GAI will remain committed to academic excellence and effective high level engagement as a way of deepening community understanding of the numerous challenges and opportunities we all face around the Asia Pacific region. I very much look forward to working with all of the Institute's hard working staff, academic members and many colleagues and supporters around Australia and elsewhere during what I imagine will be a very exciting year ahead. *Russell Trood, Director GAI*



Griffith Asia Institute

Australia-Japan Security Relations in a Changing Region

When: Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

Where : Auditorium 1, State Library of Queensland, Stanley Place, South Brisbane.

Registration from 5:30pm with a reception to follow the panel discussion

A close security relationship between Australia and Japan can extend the bi-lateral relationship in important ways, and also contribute to stability and cooperation within the current regional order. Expanding Australia-Japan security relations further, however, is not without its challenges in the current regional environment.

Our panellists will discuss the kinds of shared regional and bi-lateral interests that drive and will benefit from closer security relations, the challenges doing so may create for the bi-lateral relationship, and the ways in which stronger security ties might be achieved while also maintaining an inclusive regional environment.

Panellists include:



Ambassador Toshio Iijima, Policy Planning and International Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan.*If government business prevents the Ambassador's attendance, another senior government official will attend. **Ms Mami Mizutori**, Executive Director, Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, UK., **Mr Murray McLean AOM**, former Australian Ambassador to Japan. He is the Chair of the Australia Japan Foundation and a Member of the Board of the Australia Japan Business Cooperation Committee , **Professor Rikki Kersten**, Dean, School of Arts, Murdoch University, **Professor Andrew O'Neil**, Head of School, School of Government and International Relations, Griffith University.

SHAPE the discussion: In this interactive panel event, we welcome you to join the conversation by emailing your questions for the panel in advance when you register, and/or by asking questions directly on the night during the panel discussion. **Registration Deadline** Monday 22 February 2016

For further information see <http://events.griffith.edu.au/d/lfqpll> or contact Natasha Vary at email: events-gai@griffith.edu.au



From Paris to the UN: Making the COP21 Agreement a Reality

Global investors are poised to step up action on climate risks and clean energy opportunities.

That was the message that came across loud and clear at the [2016 Investor Summit on Climate Risk: Advancing the Clean Trillion](#).

More than 500 investors came together at the UN to hear from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Former Vice President Al Gore, Michael Bloomberg, UN climate leader Christiana Figueres, Bank of America Chairman and CEO Brian Moynihan, French Minister Ségolène Royal and leading investors on [how to turn the ambitious Paris climate agreement into reality](#).

The support and leadership of investors is crucial to addressing climate risks and capturing the opportunities this challenge presents. Many investors are already making progress. From the launch of a new \$2 billion low-carbon index fund as part of a \$5 billion commitment to sustainable investments by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli, to the commitment from European pension fund ABP to quadruple its clean energy investments to 5 billion euro by 2020, to reducing the carbon footprint of investment portfolios, investors and financial institutions are moving in the right direction.

But there is still a lot of work to be done. [UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon challenged the investor community](#) to "double - at a minimum - their clean energy investments by 2020." Among the most significant investment opportunities is the electric power sector which - [according to a new study released by Ceres and Bloomberg New Energy Finance](#) - presents a \$12 trillion opportunity for renewable power alone over the next 25 years. This week's Investor Summit built upon, and will help sustain, momentum from last month's historic Paris climate accord. The investor community is clearly poised to accelerate a global low-carbon transition. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon concluded, "The once unthinkable has now become unstoppable," and the leadership of financial and investor institutions will be critical as we begin mobilizing the trillions of dollars needed to catalyze the global clean energy transition.

Learn more and view video footage and photos of the event at www.ceres.org/summit.

Network Highlights

Corporate Program

Recent announcements from member companies **Gap, Inc.** and **Levi Strauss and Co.** demonstrate their continued sustainability leadership among apparel sector companies. After realizing a 37% reduction in GHG emissions from its U.S. operations between 2008 and 2015, against a stated goal of achieving a 20% reduction, Gap has just committed to reducing absolute GHG emissions from globally owned and operated facilities by an additional 50 percent by the end of 2020, a science-based target aligned with limiting warming to no more than 2° C.

Through aggressive energy efficiency and other measures, LS&Co.'s Sky Harbor distribution centre in Henderson, Nevada became only the third retrofitted warehouse in the world, and the first in the apparel industry, to receive a Platinum rating from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. LS&Co.'s motivation for pursuing these facility improvements is clear: distribution centres [account for nearly 40% of the company's carbon footprint](#).

Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy (BICEP)

BICEP Member Vulcan, Inc. Joins Support for review of the Federal Coal Leasing Program

BICEP member Vulcan, Inc. has been working to support litigation to urge the Department of the Interior to conduct a long-needed review of its coal-leasing program. [Learn more in an op-ed by Vulcan founder Paul Allen](#).

Investor Network on Climate Risk (INCR)

Launch of SEC Sustainability Disclosure Search Tool

Ceres and CookESG Research launched a [new search tool](#) that will make carbon asset risk disclosures in U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) company filings easily accessible.

The tool will allow users to find whether disclosures in annual SEC filings discuss carbon asset risks, including competition from renewable sources of energy, capital expenditures on high cost, carbon intensive exploration projects, government efforts to limit carbon emissions, and the possibility of reduced global demand for fossil fuels. It will also enable users to access to climate, water, and hydraulic fracturing risk disclosures as well as a watch list feature that allows users to track a custom list of companies.

Ceres is an advocate for sustainability leadership that mobilizes a powerful network of investors, companies and public interest groups to build a sustainable global economy. Ceres is a non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible. Ceres has received high ratings from charity watchdog groups, a reflection of our effectiveness, integrity and impact. Ceres, 99 Chauncy Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02111 www.ceres.org



RAC QLD works to inform and mobilise people in Brisbane and beyond to challenge Australian government policy and legislation that violates the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers

Footpath protest against government destruction of the lives of little kids

When & where: Friday, February 5 at 12:00 noon,
outside Department of Immigration & Border Protection,
299 Adelaide St, Brisbane QLD 4000, Brisbane, Australia 4000

Why we are protesting:

Peter Dutton, Australian Federal **Minister for Immigration and Border Protection**, is threatening to send 72 children, currently held in Australian detention centres, back to Nauru.

Some of these children (including children in the Brisbane detention centre) have been in detention for over two years. Child psychiatrist Helen Driscoll has examined many and describes them as "extremely traumatised". They have been exposed to self-harm, sexual assaults, unsanitary conditions, lack of appropriate medical care and inadequate educational services.

In 2010 Professor Patrick McGorry described detention centres as "factories for producing mental illness". The government knows the harm they are doing to innocent people but still they are locking people up for increasingly longer times.

Peter Dutton claims he is saving lives, but Nauru and Manus are hellholes that are slowly destroying the lives of thousands.

Preventing the transfer of these 72 children back to Nauru needs to be the first step to closing all of Australia's detention hellholes forever.

Please join our protest. Bring your own sign or props to make your point about how you feel about children in detention. Please invite your friends to this event and share through your networks.

Further info: Mark, ph. 0439 561 196 or mqillespie3@gmail.com.

Website: [RAC QLD](#) Facebook: [Refugee Action Collective Queensland](#)

Samuel



Samuel arrived into the world chubby; a miniature wrestler who, eight months on, has just produced his eighth tooth. Born at the Royal Darwin Hospital, his parents had him baptised as soon as they could and ear marked him for great things.

The dream is that their boy could become an Australian doctor or lawyer but Samuel is unlikely to realise it. He is one of 37 babies the Turnbull government wants to put on a plane, as early as next week, and send to Nauru's offshore processing centre.

Also facing the prospect of removal are around 160 adults, including Samuel's parents, and another 50-odd older children. All were brought back to Australia from offshore centres in Nauru or Manus Island, mostly for medical treatment. SMH 2 Feb 2016

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/>

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Just Peace QLD
Announces its inaugural talk of 2016:



Australia and Syria: Continuing Obfuscation*

by James O'Neill **



Strike wing ... F/A-18A Hornets from Australia's Air Task Group fly in formation during the first mission of Operation OKRA to be flown over Syria. Source: Defence Source: Supplied

James O'Neill's talk will focus on the contradictory statements from Julie Bishop, MP, Australia's foreign minister, and others, concerning the legal basis for this country's decision to bomb Syria.

Date: Tuesday, 9 February, 2016

Time: 7pm

Where: TLC Building, 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane, Level 2

***Obfuscation** is the obscuring of intended meaning in communication, making the message confusing, willfully ambiguous, or harder to understand. The name comes from Latin *obfuscatio*, from *obfuscare* ("to darken").

**James writes on geopolitical issues with a legal and human rights perspective. He was educated at Canterbury, Victoria and Auckland Universities, and has practiced as a barrister in Brisbane since 1984. He publishes in Counterpunch and New Eastern Outlook, and presents to organizations such as the Australian Institute for International Affairs.

For further information contact: Annette Brownlie, 0431 597 256

Visit us on Face Book: www.facebook.com/JustPeaceQLD



Valentine's Day Breakfast!

Join the Queensland EMILY's List Action Group for breakfast on **Friday 12 February**.

This year's breakfast will feature Sharon Orapelang, community activist, change maker, social justice advocate and fabulous speaker!

Come along at 7.15am (for a 7.30am start) Level 2, TLC Building, 16 Peel St, South Brisbane.

Tickets: \$35 waged or \$25 concession.

Book by emailing :

qldemilys@gmail.com or by calling Meredith on 0401 840 663.

Please book by Wednesday 10 February.



THANKS FOR HELPING US
LIFT THE TARGET!
EQUAL MEANS
FIFTY PERCENT
EMILY'S LIST AUSTRALIA
JULY 2015

NEW UNAA QLD OFFICE



After 12 years located at New Farm the UNAA Qld Office has now been re-located to Griffith University at Nathan. The new office address and contacts are :

United Nations Association Qld

The Eco Centre
Nathan Campus Griffith University
170 Kessels Road
Nathan Qld 4111

UNAA Qld Newsletter
180 Annie Street
New Farm Qld 4005

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United Nations Association Qld
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Web: unaaqld.org.au

Editor Monthly Newsletter
Virginia Balmain **Phone 07 32541096**
Email: unaaqld@optusnet.com.au



SUPPORT THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

The United Nations Association is an independent non-government association with a mission to support Peace and Security worldwide and assist United Nations activities and programs such as Peace Keeping, Human Rights, women and children's programs. Currently the UN is represented by 192 countries. Individuals can join UNAA Queensland, UN Student Associations and or UN Youth Australia.

HOMESTAY: Re Asylum Seeker and Refugee Global Crisis

The Community Placement Network (CPN) Program, was first launched in 2012 by the Australian Homestay Network (AHN) and was successful in placing over 600 Australian Asylum Seekers being released from detention centres into AHN managed hosted accommodation. The results for both hosts and guests were outstanding. If you are interested in being considered for hosting people from this European crisis register your interest (there is no obligation) in the CPN program. As soon as we have more information we will get back to you about the next steps. So far we have over 1,000 rooms registered already!

For more information search: homestaynetwork.org - David Bycroft Founding Director AHN

With appreciation to Senator Claire Moore for printing this issue.

UNAA MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS FORM : Please Print

Name _____

Address _____ P/C _____

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HELP US TO HELP REFUGEES

Why not donate say, the cost of a breakfast \$3-\$6, a lunch \$5, a dinner (\$15-\$35)? \$ _____

Donation to United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund supporting WHO &/or UNHCR Aust \$ _____

Donation to UNICEF—supporting refugee children \$ _____

Donation supporting Domestic against Family Violence \$ _____

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 Student & concession... \$ 25.00 Schools, Service Clubs... \$ 50.00
 Non-government organisations... \$ 90.00 Professions and Business Organisations . \$ 250.00

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- Cheque: to UNAA Qld
- Credit Card: No _____ Expiry date ----/----

Name on credit card _____ Authorising Signature _____ Date _____

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