

Understanding U.S. Foreign Assistance, Poverty Alleviation and Development: The Demographic Factors

Monday, January 14, 2002, Santa Rosa, California - At 6.1 billion individuals, the world's population is facing unprecedented challenges. This program discussed the role of U.S. assistance in the developing world. Goals of reducing consumption gaps, poor health conditions, and environmental degradation must approach solutions with an ever-increasing cognizance of cultural, social and environmental impacts. The political and economic intricacies of our world increase the need for international cooperation, and regional sensitivities to better assess what may be at stake in decision making. Recent events have starkly reminded us of the close link between global issues such as poverty and health, and American policy and security.

Welcome:

Robert Abramson, Co-President, United Nations Association of Sonoma County

Speaker:

Steven Durand, Senior Program Officer, Population Resource Center

Co-Sponsor:

United Nations Association of Sonoma County

Factoids:

"Major diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis are making a deadly comeback ... Until recently, antibiotics were regarded as the solution ... Today they are becoming less and less effective as resistance to them spreads"
World Health Organization

"... diseases that arise in other parts of the world are repeatedly introduced into the US... controlling disease outbreaks in other countries is important not only for humanitarian reasons. It also prevents those diseases from entering the US, at great savings to US lives and dollars."
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

"Ninety-five percent of projected population increases will occur in the developing world and nearly all of that in already stressed urban "megacities" of more than 10 million people."
National Intelligence Council

"Unclean water, along with poor sanitation, kills over 12 million people each year, most in developing countries."
Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

In Attendance:

40 local community leaders and policymakers