



## Headlines for Monday, November 29, 2004

- [Africa Needs a Million More Health Care Workers, Report Says](#)
- [WTO Ready To Unleash Campaign To Find Global Trade Chief](#)
- [The Organization Of The Francophonie Adopts 10-Year 'Strategic' Framework](#)
- [Interview: Reading East Asia's Economic Tea Leaves For 2005](#)
- [Commentary: Good News About Poverty](#)
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### Also in this Edition: Laos Premier Urges ASEAN To Support Mega-Dam Project; EU Watchdog Exposes International Aid Fraud; Also Reports...; **Briefly Noted...**

#### Briefly Noted...

...The [Daily Star](#) (Lebanon) reports the World Bank said Friday it will hold a competition - with cash grants worth \$130,000 - to come up with **projects to improve Lebanon's natural environment**. The competition is open to youth groups, local communities, national NGOs, academic institutions and Lebanese municipalities working with social groups, the World Bank said. Organizers hope that local projects awarded with grant money will be replicable on the national level. The World Bank teamed with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) "LIFE" program and Al-Bia Wal-Tanmia magazine to sponsor the competition, called Lebanon Development Marketplace: "Harvesting Youth and Community Ideas for a Better Environment."

Lawrence A. Kogan, an international environment and trade attorney, comments in the weekend edition of [The International Herald Tribune](#) that the European Commission has long attempted to justify its strict health and environmental regulations as necessary to protect the public from uncertain risk associated with genetically modified crops. A recent World Bank report debunks this myth and offers empirical evidence of the commission's true motives. What is really behind the commission's stringent regulations is European industry's comparative disadvantage in the use of genetically modified, or **GM, crop technology**. In drawing this conclusion, the study points to the significant role played by European industry in lobbying for protectionist barriers. The World Bank's findings are doubly disturbing because they reflect the observation by many other scholars of a growing trend in the use of EU regulatory policy to disguise trade barriers.

[HINA](#) (Croatia, 11/25) reports that the World Bank has imposed sanctions on a British company called **BIS Healthcare** and its leader over the coming four years due to frauds they committed in connection with projects on the organization of public health in Croatia, which was financed by the World Bank. BIS Healthcare and its principal Bruno Gomes will not be granted new contracts, financed by the World Bank, from October 2004 to October 2008, the World Bank reported.