



Special points of interest:

- Indonesian Man dies of Bird Flu
- Stop the spread of flu germs
- Ice Melt Impact
- What's new with UTOL?

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Mission Statement

To gather people together who are committed to the Hospital Ship Project of UTOL for the strategic planning of Christian Medical/ Humanitarian Outreach in South-east Asia in order to develop specific goals and action plans for the next three to five years.

Universal Touch of Life Medical Institution

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INDONESIAN MAN DIES OF BIRD FLU, BRINGS TOLL TO 112

An Indonesian man from Tangerang, a satellite town near the capital Jakarta, has died of bird flu, bringing the country's death toll from the disease to 112.

The 37-year-old man, who had had no contact with sick fowl, died in early July, after being treated at three different hospitals, the official said. Tests had showed he was infected with the H5N1 strain of avian influenza.

The virus has infected 387 people in 15 countries, killing 245 of them, according to the World Health Organization's August 10 tally. Indonesia has the highest toll of any nation.

Although bird flu remains an animal disease, experts fear that the virus might mutate into a form easily passed from human to human, sparking a pandemic in which case millions could die.



The US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new test that can rapidly diagnose and identify human influenza infections and human bird flu, the agency announced. It was also reported that vast majority of bird flu victims are from Asia. H5N1 viruses circulate widely in birds in Asia, Africa and Europe, and have caused human illnesses and death," the FDA statement said.

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WELCOME ABOARD!

- ▶ Dr. Teodoro Baldonado has already confirmed his acceptance as the new Board Member of Universal Touch of Life Medical.
- ▶ The 3rd Battalion of the Philippine Marine Reserved Force has officially approved the partnership with UTOL, a formal signing of a MOA will be scheduled.

ICE MELT IMPACT



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Some scientists warned that the ice melt at the Arctic region is occurring faster than previously predicted and would cause major environmental damage, ranging from changing weather patterns to rising sea levels which will threaten scores of Pacific islands and low-lying areas.

The latest salvo in the ongoing debate came with a report in a British newspaper warning that the meltdown in the Arctic was occurring at an unprecedented rate and that it could be ice free in the summer of 2013.

If that were to occur, scientists believe it would be the first time in 125,000 years that the ocean was free of summertime ice.

The decline comes after Arctic sea ice in 2007 fell to its lowest levels ever — 39 percent below the long-term average from 1979 to 2000 — based on satellite measurements that began in 1979. The decline has been estimated at as much as 50 percent since the 1950s.

In its latest report, it said that sub-regions of the Arctic (and Antarctic) "have shown the most rapid rates of warming in recent years. The impacts of this climate change in the polar regions over the next 100 years will exceed the impacts forecast for many other regions and will produce feedbacks that will have globally significant consequences.

A bigger impact would be from a human standpoint, as the Arctic becomes accessible to various countries, raising questions about sovereignty, ecological and economic issues, particularly oil and gas exploration.

In June, a study by NSIDC and the National Center for Atmospheric Research reported that



The shore of the Arctic Ocean is shown here covered with snow and ice. The blue sky with clouds is reflected in the water strip located in the crack of the ice shield. Some forecasters are predicting the Ocean could be ice-free in the summers within five years.

the rapid loss of sea ice could more than triple the rate of climate warming over northern Alaska, Canada and Russia.

"The rapid loss of sea ice can trigger widespread changes that would be felt across the region," said Andrew Slater, NSIDC research scientist and a co-author on the study.

Serreze said he was not a

"doom sayer" when it came to climate change.

"My view on this is, yes, climate change is here," he said. "It's not 20 or 30 years down the road. It's here and the longer we wait to do something about it the worse things are going to be."

PRAYER BOARD (October)

1. Please pray for Dr. Jun and Dr. Amy Sta. Romana, as they plan to leave and work in the Middle East anytime this October.
2. Please pray for our Strategic meeting this November.
3. Please pray as we are looking for sponsors and donors for our strategic meeting. The cost is quite huge as we are inviting doctors from provinces.

"I tell you the truth,
whatever you did for
one of the least of
these brothers of mine,
you did it for me."

Matt 25:40