

GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS & GREECE

» The Financially Weak Come First

After meeting with local officials in the city of Kozani on Saturday (see picture), Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis said that the government is responding to the real needs of the financially weaker citizens with social sensitivity, seriousness and responsibility. The aim, as he said, is to decrease inter-bank interest rates and, consequently, to decrease interest rates for loans and subsidies to businessmen.

Karamanlis acknowledged that problems do exist that are being intensified by the economic crisis and said that the greatest one is unemployment. He pointed out at this point that through the Manpower Employment Organisation (OAED) programmes 50,000 new jobs will be created by the end of the year and another 140,000 new jobs in 2009.

Athens News Agency: PM on real needs of financially weaker; Secretariat General of Information: About Greece-The Social Dialogue in Greece

European Commission- Employment & Social Affairs: National Strategy Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion (2008-2010) -Greece & Employment in Europe Conference

European Commission-PROGRESS programme: Employment



» FinMin @ LSE's Hellenic Observatory

"Europe, the Crisis and the Global Economy" was the title of the lecture delivered by Finance Minister George Alogoskoufis at the London School of Economics (LSE) on November 13. As this year's keynote speaker at an event organized annually by the Hellenic Observatory at the LSE, the finance minister stressed that the crisis has unveiled serious weaknesses of the global financial and economic system that call for coordinated, global policy responses.

Adding a note of optimism, he said that an economic crisis is not only a threat but also an opportunity. "Let us

continue with the pro-active approach that European leaders have adopted in recent weeks. Let us correct the shortcomings of the previous model of globalisation and produce a new model that will work for the benefit of all the peoples of this globe."

» Papandreou on Global Governance

Main opposition PASOK party leader and President of the Socialist International George Papandreou addressed a conference organised by the "Economists for Peace and Security," which took place on November 14 in New York. The main topic of the event was "the financial crisis, the US economy, and international security in the new administration." In his speech, Papandreou emphasised that a solution to the economic crisis is not only a technical issue, but a highly political one, stressing that it is essential for the problem to be resolved in ways that empower citizens through democratic global governance, by the people and for the people.

» Conference: Greece & the Financial Crisis

The Hellenic Bank Association and the Economia Business Tank are or-

ganising a conference in Athens on November 18 on the "Global Financial Crisis and Greece." Economy and Finance Minister George Alogoskoufis will attend the event. The keynote speaker will be Charles Wyplosz, Professor of International Economics at the Graduate Institute of International Studies at the University of Geneva.

E-HEALTH SYSTEM EXCELS ACROSS EU

The e-health unit of the "Sotiria" Chest Diseases Hospital in Athens, a public teaching hospital, is among the top 35 medallists competing for the 2008 European e-Inclusion Award (inclusive public services category), an initiative by the European Commission to reward excellence and good practice in using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services for tackling social exclusion.

"Sotiria"'s e-health unit was established in 1999, with the support of EU's research and development programmes. The service provided by the unit offers home and community based integrated care, rehabilitation and monitoring. The medallists will compete with each other for the 2008 e-Inclusion Award during the Ministerial Conference in Vienna on December 1.

Child abuse cost as high as \$30b: study

The cost of child abuse could be as high as \$30 billion.

The estimate includes the cost of police, doctors and the long-term employment prospects of the abused.

Monash University, Access Economics and the Australian Childhood Foundation co-sponsored the research.

There were 36,000 child abuse and neglect cases reported last year, the research estimates there was another 131,000 unreported cases.

"It is likely that thousands of children are left unprotected from abuse and neglect each year," foundation chief Joe Tucci said.

The group is using the research to call for greater government attention.

Dr Tucci said a new campaign, Stop Child Abuse Now, would be launched this week and includes a TV ad.

"The best estimate of the actual cost of child abuse incurred by the Australian community in 2007 was \$10.7 billion, and as high as \$30.1 billion," the report says.

Aussie vaccine wins big medical prize

The Australian-pioneered cervical cancer vaccine, Gardasil, has been awarded the drug industry equivalent of a Nobel Prize.

Gardasil beat major blockbuster cancer drugs and an anti-smoking medication to win the pharmaceutical industry's top gong, the International Prix Galien.

Queensland designer of the vaccine, acclaimed immunologist Ian Frazer, said the drug was a "major public health breakthrough" that could "prevent a quarter of a million deaths worldwide" yearly.

"In this sense this vaccine is getting the recognition it deserves," Professor Frazer said.

Gardasil beat Australian-approved cancer treatments Avastin and Erbitux - both credited with slowing the growth of tumours in several types of cancer - to win the award.

Also in the running was Champix, a new wonder drug that helps people quit smoking by reducing cigarette craving and withdrawal symptoms.

Gardasil, which has joined the immunisation program for girls and young women, prevents 70 per cent of cervical cancer cases by blocking the two strains of human papillomavirus (HPV) linked to



the deadly disease.

Prof Frazer, Australian of the Year in 2006, said his latest innovation, a skin cancer vaccine in early-stage research unveiled this week, was not expected to have the same success.

"If we get a 50 per cent success rate with the skin cancer vaccine that would be a real win but it's not going to be 100 per cent, I suspect."

Dr Andrew Cuthbertson, chief scientific officer of the Australian

pharmaceutical company CSL that initially commercialised Gardasil, said it was gratifying to be part of a breakthrough that had real benefits for people's health.

"To have a cervical cancer vaccine available only 30 years after the discovery that HPV can cause cervical cancer is an unprecedented progress in medical and pharmaceutical research," he told the industry publication Pharma in Focus.