

Fortnightly links: artificial intelligence, the Cook Islands, Chinese aid and more

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Date : October 20, 2017

Our World in Data has an excellent blog post that brings together its previous work on [long-term](#) improvements in human living conditions.

The EU is pouring money into Africa's poorest economies, hoping to stop the tens of millions of migrants and refugees leaving these countries for Europe, but [will this really stop the exodus?](#)

The Guardian [covers](#) the Cook Islands' current dilemma: prosperity. It is possible the Cook Islands may soon be too wealthy to qualify for Official Development Assistance (ODA). According to the [Cook Island News](#), however, it looks like the day of aid reckoning will be postponed for the time being. The country lacks adequate Gross National Income data to determine whether it is, or is not, actually too affluent to be an eligible ODA recipient.

Will [artificial intelligence](#) ruin the development of low and middle income countries?

Existing studies on public service provision in developing countries often reach negative conclusions on staff performance. [Here's](#) a much more positive set of findings from recent work on health professionals in Uganda.

The new AidData paper causing a flap is [here](#). The key finding: Chinese aid causes growth. This may well be open to methodological challenge, but the underlying data are fascinating regardless.