



## **SNAPSHOTS OF THE WEEK - Economic and legal interrogations**

**August 09, 2020**

### **The National Day of Singapore**

Singapore marks 55 years of independence in 2020 - a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Singapore's economy shrunk 13.2 per cent for the second quarter of this year compared to the same period last year, as the country enters its worst recession since independence. Looking back in the 1960s, the city-state of Singapore was an undeveloped country with a GDP per capita of less than US \$320, while in 2019 its GDP per capita has risen to an incredible US \$60,000, making it one of the strongest economies in the world and one of the world's fastest-growing economies. For a small nation with few natural resources, Singapore's economic ascension is nothing short of extraordinary.

### **Will Singapore witness a gradual recovery and a new remarkable economic growth?**

**August 09, 2020**

### **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**

This year's theme is COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience as indigenous peoples are seeking their own solutions to this pandemic, continuing demonstrating resilience and strength in the face of the pandemic, while confronting grave threats to their survival. More than 86% of indigenous peoples globally work in the informal economy, compared to 66% for their non-indigenous counterparts. Indigenous peoples are nearly three times as likely to be living in extreme poverty compared to their non-indigenous counterparts. Globally, 47% of all indigenous peoples in employment have no education, compared to 17% of their non-indigenous counterparts. This gap is even wider for women.

### **How to get to the bottom of the problems faced by the indigenous peoples?**

**August 11, 2020**

### **The European Commission supports research projects in response to the continuing coronavirus pandemic**

The European Commission supports 23 new research projects with €128 million in response to the continuing coronavirus pandemic. The funding under Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme, is part of the Commission's €1.4 billion pledge to the Coronavirus Global Response initiative, launched in May 2020. The 23 projects shortlisted for funding involve 347 research teams from 40 countries, including 34 participants from 16 countries outside of the EU.

### **Will the funding enable researchers to effectively address the pandemic and its consequences?**

**August 12, 2020**

### **Federal Council adopts report on Switzerland's implementation of international humanitarian law**

The Federal Council adopted a voluntary report on the implementation of international humanitarian law by Switzerland. Seventy-one years after the adoption on 12 August 1949 of the Geneva Conventions, Switzerland is one of the first states to do so. Switzerland intends to set an example and encourage other states to take similar initiatives. This would foster dialogue among states in order to improve the protection of victims of conflicts worldwide.

### **Will other States take similar initiatives?**

**August 12, 2020**

### **International Youth Day**

United Nations recent estimates suggest that 600 million jobs would have to be created over the next 15 years to meet youth employment needs. The proportion of young people not in employment, education or training (the youth NEET rate) has remained stubbornly high over the past 15 years and now stands at 30% for young women and 13% for young men worldwide. The economic impact of COVID-19 is set to make the job market more challenging for youth.

### **How to enable the world's youth to enjoy lives of safety, dignity and opportunity?**

**For further cross-examinations and detailed analysis, please contact: [research@gicel.ch](mailto:research@gicel.ch).**