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Deborah Emilien, right, and her 16-year-old daughter, Miala Elizabeth, thanking their fishing nets in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

Disinformation Is Big Business For One Doctor

Chief Online Spreader of Vaccine Doubts

By SHEERA FRENKEL

SAN FRANCISCO — The new coronavirus had barely begun its deadly journey around the globe, with a seemingly limitless supply of victims, when Dr. Joseph Mercola started telling his followers that the biggest threat they faced was not the virus but fear itself.

NOW VACCINATING: THOSE NOT EAGER BUT NOT OPPOSED

WAITING FOR RIGHT PUSH

Perks, Pressure and Fear of Variants Changing Minds on the Shot

By JULIE BOSMAN

CHICAGO — They followed all the rules. They refused to hug anyone outside their households, wore masks in public and kept their distance from others. They were satisfied that they were finally doing the right thing, a few months after they had first gotten the chance.

On a single day this past week, more than half a million people across the United States received their first coronavirus vaccine shots. Many were high school graduates, who had been told that they could finally start to live their lives again.

Biden Brings In Antitrust Team To Test Titans

By JIM TANKERSLEY and CECILIA KANG

WASHINGTON — President Biden has assembled the most aggressive antitrust team in decades, stacking his administration with three legal crusaders set to peripherals in labor to corporate consolidation and market power with efforts that could include blocking mergers and breaking up big companies.

Taking On Big Oil, and a Dirty Legacy, in Nigeria

Livelihoods Imperiled, Fishermenmen Direct Anger at Chevron

By RUTH MAclEAN

GBARAMATU, Nigeria — When the tide rose under the rickety wooden house-on-stilts of Gesiaba Joseph, a fisherwoman who lives above the receding waters of the Niger Delta in southern Nigeria, it brought a shock of crude oil.

Before long, the new food fish floating on its surface stank, and Gesiaba — her livelihood — became unsellable. The harvest was not as strong as it once was. The boat was not bringing in as much money. The family had to eat less.

And so, the fisherwoman, whose name translates into English as Mercy, did what she had to do to survive. She joined a protest.

Dwayne Bowerbuoy, 17, got his Covid shot on Thursday.

In dozens of interviews on Thursday in eight states, at vaccination clinics, drugstores and pop-up mobile sites, Americans who had finally managed to get their ultimate weapon against the coronavirus — vaccination — described a mix of motivations, many of them unrelated to the threat of the virus itself.

The iconic Samuel Beckett Bridge over the River Liffey and famous Jeanie Johnston ship docked in the Dublin Docklands, the financial district of the Republic of Ireland

BRG

Spotlight on Ireland

Exploring Ireland's Economic Growth and Potential

How a stronger relationship with the USA is contributing to Ireland's economic success

The traction of an agrarian economy is still apparent in Ireland. The iconic rolling hills are lush and picturesque. Many of the streets still boast cobblestone and charming architecture straight from a postcard.

However, there is a new energy in the air and excitement to witness as Ireland's economy booms like never before. In cities, modern office blocks and contemporary stand testament to the mix of old and new, embracing and evolving.

Ireland has quickly become a hub of globalization, a place of economic and social opportunity, and a shining example of the possibilities with a smoothier approach to adaptation. With business sectors of all kinds – from financial technology to biopharma – growing exponentially, the current and future state of Ireland's economy is exceptionally bright.

The United States is set to sustain its position as the largest external investor in Ireland. Furthermore, the United States' investment in Ireland will surpass all of its investments in the BRICS countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa combined. To put it differently, the United States' investment in Ireland has accumulated over the years to a grand total of USD 448 billion – that's about 63% of all foreign direct investment (FDI) in Ireland.

In addition, the number of American companies choosing to invest in and operate within Ireland continues to grow substantially. Currently, more than 700 American companies operate in Ireland, employing roughly 150,000 people directly and about 130,000 people indirectly, contributing to around 20% of national employment.

Leo Varadkar
Taoiseach
Republic of Ireland

Martin Shanahan
CEO
IDA Ireland

Julie Sinnamon
CEO
Enterprise Ireland

Danny McCoy
CEO
Ibec

A cornerstone of the relationship shared by Ireland and the USA is the protection of intellectual property. As Danny McCoy, CEO of Ireland's largest business representative group, Ibec, notes, "The relationship has always been about intangibles such as goodwill, connections, and relationships."

Some lesser intangible things include intellectual property rights and data protection – two of the most crucial elements in a modern world dominated by cloud-based economies and global networks.

Ireland continues to be ranked as one of the best countries for business, and not just for the large, multinational businesses that already have established names globally. This applies for businesses of all sizes, whose name are beyond – including small startups just trying to make a name for themselves at the beginning of their boom.

Julie Sinnamon, who recently took up the CEO position at Enterprise Ireland, the government agency responsible for assisting Irish companies to develop and grow in world markets, stated: "Ireland is a fast-growing, small, open economy, and very nearly as many people in the USA as American companies employ in Ireland. The USA will remain an attractive growth opportunity for Irish companies into the future. We focused our attention on diversifying and working on innovation and competitiveness."

Ireland's appeal to attract inward investment is not faltering. In a post-Brexit world, Ireland is now the largest common-law jurisdiction in the EU and will continue to become even more desirable with its stability, commitment to remain in the EU, and of course, now being the only native English-speaking country in the EU, which promises its own level of business appeal.

Shanahan added, "Ireland is at the heart of Europe. Ireland's continued commitment to the EU is a core part of Ireland's value proposition to foreign investors. As companies seek global solutions that will improve the lowest possible additional costs and the least possible disruption to trade, Ireland offers a base to sustain access to the European Single Market, to maintain uniformity and to grow their business."

The compelling relationship between the USA and Ireland, both in terms of economic benefit and goodwill, was accompanied a time of growth in Ireland that is not limited to just the economy.

Tánaiste Varadkar noted, "Investments from American multinationals also expand here, have been transformational for our economy. We have a similar business culture to America, and when non-Europeans consumers seek a gateway into Europe, they naturally choose Ireland. We are an innovation nation, and both companies have a global impact. To keep up with the demands of our growing society, we are embarking on Project Ireland 2040, which has significantly increased capital investment in public housing, broadband infrastructure, new schools, new hospitals, and public transport."

The progress of Ireland's economy and emergence as a global leader in innovation has been rapid and impressive. Today, Ireland has surpassed the UK in several performance metrics, including income per capita, with companies now been embracing digitalization and diversification. They are consciously investing and pushing forward with new plans to drive economic recovery during the pandemic.

High value investment in order to be successful, our future is on talent available, research and development (R&D) and innovation. Digitization and climate action are persisting all discussions we are having with clients. An exceptional level of collaboration between industry, academia and state agencies drives Ireland's dynamic R&D and innovation sector. This is supported by a highly pro-business government policy, a "world-class" research system, the agreed to work with and for the benefit of industry, is having further development thanks to an unprecedented investment of EUR 8.2 billion under the Irish government's Strategy for Science Technology and Innovation. Ireland is currently 11th in global scientific rankings for overall quality of scientific research, an impressive upward trajectory from a position of 46th just 13 years ago. Ireland offers a strong and growing R&D and innovation environment, complemented by a robust intellectual property (IP) regime.

McCoy, however, argues that "all economies are networked in today's interconnected world. In other words, Ireland cannot claim sole responsibility for fostering innovation, but instead, it can take pride in grounding a location in which collaboration can occur."

The look of the Irish: resilient, sustainable and global.

Over the last quarter-century Ireland has developed its economic substance, characterised by decades of strategic policies, an impactful business footprint and a diverse ecosystem of sectors, making it a global hub with a world-class economy. And even with the international winds of change, Ireland is poised to thrive.

Ireland: A model of substance | www.ibec.ie/irelandmeansbusiness

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