

# Youth Employment Matters

A Newsletter for the Youth Employment Summit

Volume 3, Issue 3

Fall 2001

*Launching a Decade Campaign of Action in Alexandria in 2002, so that an additional 500 million young adults, especially youth facing poverty, will have productive and sustainable livelihoods by the year 2012.*

## Dear Friends:

Each day brings us new challenges and new opportunities - what does not change is our commitment to promoting youth employment and productive livelihoods.

In preparation for the Alexandria Summit, young people all over the world are organizing consultations and networks to promote youth employment. In this edition of our newsletter, we share some of the exciting news we have received about the actions of our partners around the world.

In September, we organized a very successful Youth Planning Workshop. At this Workshop 30 young people from 20 countries framed their vision for the Youth Employment Summit. *"We commit ourselves to the Summit's call for action and support. We recognize our role as partners and accept our responsibility to be accountable for results"* (more details are on page 2).

January 2002 is a very busy month for us. We are participating in four events:

- The YES Youth Forum, hosted by the Synergos Institute's Innovative Development Network, will run parallel to the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in New York
- The Youth Assembly of The Hague International Model United Nations
- The UN Ambassadors briefing, hosted by the Egyptian and Indian Ambassadors
- The International Advisory Group for Youth Leadership Development in New York

As active participants at The Hague Model UN Youth Assembly, YES is chairing the THIMUN Education and Employment Committee.

Please join our discussion list, which has recently been relaunched and revamped and moved to a new site <http://boards.edc.org:8080/~YES2002>. This site allows integration with the YES website, and more flexibility and features.

This newsletter contains all of these stories and more. We encourage all YES members to contribute stories about their work and initiatives for consideration in future editions. We look forward to your continued support and partnership. Until next time!



Poonam Ahluwalia  
Director, Youth Employment Summit

## YES Youth Forum and World Economic Forum (WEF)

We are pleased to announce that the Synergos Institute is hosting the YES Youth Forum, parallel to the Annual Meeting of the WEF in New York City from January 31–February 5, 2002.

The Youth Forum will bring youth leaders to New York to focus on the important issues of leadership development, globalization, and employment. (continued page 4)

## Tanzania, the Philippines and Romania lead the way for YES2002

The countries raising the bar in terms of localized youth employment agenda-setting are Tanzania, the Philippines, and Romania.

**In Tanzania**, nearly 50 youth groups attended a National Meeting of Youth NGOs in Dar es Salaam's Bureau of Standards Hall, August 23, 2001.

Mrs. Gertude Mongella, Tanzanian MP, Secretary-General of the United Nations Beijing Women's Conference (1996) and YES Organizing Committee Member, gave a rousing speech to the assembled delegates.

**In the Philippines**, a coalition of 18 youth organizations met on November 15, to discuss a proposed Philippines YES2002 Preparatory Initiative.

A key partner in the process is YSDA-Philippines (Youth for Sustainable Development Assembly) led by Secretary-General, Roy Cabonegro.

**In Romania**, youth leaders organized a regional LEADERS Forum, dedicated to the theme of youth entrepreneurship and the generation of opportunities by youth for youth. (for more on this story, see page 3)

## Organizing Committee

Chair:

**Ismail Serageldin**,  
Director-General,  
Library of Alexandria,  
Egypt

**Hafsat Abiola**,  
Director, Kudirat  
Initiative for Democracy

**Esteban Gonzalez**,  
President, Nexus Group

**Huguette Labelle**,  
President, Canadian  
International  
Development Agency,  
1993-99

**Rick Little**,  
President,  
International Youth  
Foundation

**Carlos Magariños**,  
Director-General, UN  
Industrial Development  
Organization

**Hon. Gertrude  
Mongella**,  
Secretary General,  
Beijing Conference for  
Women

**Hon. Robert B.  
Reich**,  
US Secretary of Labor,  
1993-97

**H.E. Michel Rocard**,  
Chairman, European  
Committee on  
Employment  
& Social Affairs

**M. S. Swaminathan**,  
Laureate of  
World Food Prize

**Rt. Hon. Baroness  
Shirley Williams**,  
UK House of Lords

## ***Excerpts: Youth Vision Statement***

*"We hereby outline our vision for YES2002 to be held in Alexandria, Egypt, 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2002.*

*". . . We believe that we are assets to our nation and can contribute significantly to its development; YES2002 will be a springboard from which we will leap to that ideal, towards which we continue to strive.*

*"We commit ourselves to the Summit's call for action and support. We recognize our role as partners and accept our responsibility to be accountable for results.*

*". . . The Youth Employment Summit is being realized at a critical point in our history. It is a movement whose time has come. As citizens of one world, we need to seize the opportunities it presents to us.*

*"Let the Youth Employment Summit 2002 be a Summit remembered for fostering partnerships and networks defined by action and accomplishment".*

### **Updates on Youth-led YES Consultations**

Over the past few months, YES2002 has been working with various youth and youth organizations in different parts of the world to launch *Youth for YES2002 Country Networks*. These Networks are leading local YES2002 campaigns in their countries. Below is a sampling of a few YES Global Alliance members who have taken the initiative to organize YES Consultations in their countries. We are grateful for their leadership and commitment:

Philippines: Roy Cabonegro and the YSDA

Tanzania: Kaanaeli Kaal

Senegal: Cheikhou Thiome

Nepal: Cameron Neil

Romania: Ovidiu Bujorean

Azerbaijan: Nabi Ragimov

If you are interested in launching a *Youth for YES2002 Network* in your country, or for more information on these networks, please contact Dumisani Nyoni, YES youth coordinator, at 617 618 2682 or via email at [dumisani@youthemploymentsummit.org](mailto:dumisani@youthemploymentsummit.org).

## **YES Success Stories**

### **Moldova - Youth Entrepreneurship & Training**

Valeriu Popovic is an energetic youth activist who demonstrates that by combining passion with astute networking, it is possible to take an ambitious idea and bring it to fruition. Valeriu's project is a case study in how to make an idea work.

Popovic established the Youth Employment Center (YEC) in Balti, Moldova, in April 2001, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. The main goal of the YEC project is entrepreneurial training for youth, aged 18-30 from Balti. YEC also includes a consulting and informational program for young entrepreneurs.

For further information, contact Valeriu Popovic: [leaders@mdl.net](mailto:leaders@mdl.net)

### **Costa Rica – Renewable Energy Project**

The Earth Council is collaborating with the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank, and the Youth Employment Summit in the implementation of a renewable energy pilot project in a rural area in Costa Rica.

Youth from local communities will be trained to develop renewable energy business plans. They will work with local authorities and non-government organizations, with the aim of generating commercially viable renewable energy for their communities. The project will encourage the youth to be active in their communities and create their own futures, while at the same time meet the goals of the Earth Charter and the Rio Earth Summit's Agenda 21.

This is one of the pilot projects being organized in collaboration with YES, that will be showcased at the Alexandria Summit, with the aim of nurturing replication

For further information, contact Mirian Vilela: [mvillela@ecouncil.ac.cr](mailto:mvillela@ecouncil.ac.cr)

### **Mexico - Youth Business Incentive Scheme**

The strength of the Youth Employment Summit's global network paid off handsomely for Victor del Rosal, of Mexico. Victor worked with the YES team for six months in 2000 before returning to Mexico, but while he was in Boston, he had a big idea!

During his time with YES, Victor was inspired to start a fund for youth entrepreneurship in Mexico. Victor proposed the idea to YES, and the decision was made to support his endeavors. YES Summit Director Poonam Ahluwalia introduced Victor to Youth Business International in London, an initiative of the Prince of Wales Trust in the United Kingdom.

With the support of YBI Victor launched Youth Business Mexico (Jovenes Empresarios por Mexico, Civil Association).

For further information, contact Victor del Rosal: [vdelrosal@email.com](mailto:vdelrosal@email.com).

## TANZANIA LEADS THE WAY

An important outcome from the National Meeting of Youth NGOs (August 2001), was the establishment of a YES Coordinating Committee for Tanzania. The meeting elected Ms. Kaanaeli Kaal as chairperson of the YES Committee. Ms. Kaal also represents the Tanzania Media and Youth Development Association.

Ms. Kaal described the event as a major success: "The meeting and the press conference went very well. Almost all major papers and television and radio stations sent their reporters. Radio and TV stations covered the event well. The state-owned English daily, *Daily News*, and a private owned English daily, *The Guardian* carried the story."

The Tanzanian Committee will play a leading role in supporting local youth organizations in their efforts to find innovative strategies to support youth employment. The YES Secretariat is very excited to recognize this surge of energetic participation in Tanzania, and pledges full support to the Tanzanian YES Coordinating Committee.

For more information, contact Ms. Kaanaeli Kaal, [kaanaeli@hotmail.com](mailto:kaanaeli@hotmail.com)

## THE PHILIPPINES SET THE PACE

According to YSDA Secretary-General Roy Cabonegro, the goals of the Philippines initiative are "to form a partnership between local youth organizations to jointly promote YES2002 in the Philippines, and ensure our meaningful participation in the YES2002 process and the succeeding decade campaign for sustainable youth employment."

The Philippines youth groups involved in this process are also developing two youth enterprise demonstration projects focusing on youth ecopreneurial enterprises: an Ecowaste Cooperative, and a community-based Ecotourism Enterprise.

For further information, contact Roy Cabonegro: [ysda@yahoo.com](mailto:ysda@yahoo.com)

## ROMANIA GETS ORGANIZED

Romanian youth leaders organized a regional LEADERS Forum, from November 16-17 2001, in Bucharest, dedicated to the theme of youth entrepreneurship and the generation of opportunities for youth by youth.

Participants included regional corporate leaders, European Union representatives, youth leaders, officials from the Government of Romania, and journalists.

Organizer Ovidiu Bujorean said, "We want to get involved in the YES campaign. During the LEADERS Forum, we wanted to promote opportunities to get involved in YES2002 for the participants from Romania and the other participating countries."

Countries represented at the Romanian LEADERS Forum included Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Macedonia, Turkey, and Poland.

For more information, contact Ovidiu Bujorean, [ovidiub@rdsnet.ro](mailto:ovidiub@rdsnet.ro)

## NEW TOOLKIT LAUNCHED

YES and key partner Making Cents Inc. proudly announce the publication of our Toolkit, **How To Organize an Event**.

This toolkit is for all members of the Global Alliance for Youth Employment to support them in their efforts to organize events for themselves, and to promote youth employment. Key topics include team recruitment, setting agendas, developing materials, logistics, and promotional tips.

This toolkit is available free of charge on the YES website:  
[www.youthemploymentsummit.org](http://www.youthemploymentsummit.org).

## YES Global Knowledge Resource Under Construction

We would like to acknowledge the support of Industry Canada in our development of the Global Knowledge Resource (GKR) database system. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Michael Nadler for his unwavering commitment.

The GKR is a one-stop-shop database for open access to information and knowledge on promoting youth employment. It will exist as a Web-based resource and periodically be published on CDROM and in hard copy.

The GKR will focus on policies and practices that have worked, showcase innovative and promising strategies, spur collaborative action, and serve as a catalyst for raising awareness and building momentum for youth employment.

The GKR will lay the foundation for the formation of the Framework for Action, which will serve as a guide for the Global Alliance Members to follow during the YES Decade Campaign of Action.

Industry Canada is a leader in software development. The GKR is expected to be launched in early 2002.

## Register Now!!

If you wish to be considered for selection for the YES Youth Forum, to be held in New York City parallel to the WEF Annual Meeting in January 2002, then you should *register at once!*

To register, go the YES website and fill in your details at the YES Youth Forum page:

[www.youthemploymentsummit.org](http://www.youthemploymentsummit.org)

All nominees will be kept fully informed of the criteria for selection and how the process unfolds.

(continued from front page)

## YES Youth Forum and WEF

The Forum will include the following events:

1. A reception hosted by the Synergos Institute with members of the World Economic Forum
2. A workshop where youth leaders from various countries will learn how to develop YES2002 Country Networks, including hosting a National YES Consultation
3. The launch of a YES2002 International Youth Advisory Group, which will provide assistance to the new Youth Leadership Development Program and guide Egyptian youth in their activities up to and beyond YES2002

## YES Global Alliance Partner Earns Youth Programming Award

Young Canadian Leaders for a Sustainable Future (YCLSF), a program run by Winnipeg-based International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), was awarded the Huguette Labelle Award for Excellence in Youth Programming at an awards dinner on Thursday, November 15.

IISD and YES have formed a very successful partnership, having placed three interns at the Secretariat in Boston. Melinda Moriarty, our current IISD intern believes that, "the YCLSF program is excellent and well organized. It is a young program that has been around for five years now, and very quickly it has established itself and become well respected."

Carolee Buckler, YCLSF Program Manager of the International Internship Program, says the program is creating a new generation of decision-makers who are well equipped and dedicated to leading Canada in its commitments toward global sustainability. She stressed the importance of such programs in a world that is changing so dramatically. "Recent world events have forced greater reflection about the essential role that young leaders play in fostering partnerships in the international arena. Now more than ever, we need to bridge cultural gaps in the global community, nurture the thoughts and ideas of young minds, and develop capacity for a sustainable future. An opportunity such as this compels its participants to question their values and understand those of others."

According to IISD, since its inception in 1997, the YCLSF program has placed more than 100 young people from across Canada with organizations in Europe, Asia, North America, and Africa. The program is intended for people aged 21 to 30 years with an interest or background in sustainable development.

Melinda says she's learned new skills working at YES. "I've worked on a variety of projects within YES. I've worked on a business plan for YES's Global Knowledge Resource, which is a database of information on youth employment; I've networked with some YES partners, and helped prepare a proposal for an HIV/AIDS research paper exploring the links between HIV and youth employment. The people I've met at YES are amazing. What I love about working here is that there are people from all over the world, from ten countries. It's so diverse here."

