

Youth Employment Matters

The quarterly newsletter for the Youth Employment Summit

Winter 2002

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

Dear Friends:

The four months since the Fall/Autumn Newsletter have been extremely active and wonderfully productive. YES is moving into final production mode for the Alexandria Summit in September.

The team in Boston and YES's partners are working non-stop to put important elements in place to ensure a successful Summit.

Some of these key elements include:

- ✦ Launching a new, improved YES website – freshly designed by TakingITGlobal in Toronto;
- ✦ Launching Summit registration on the YES website;
- ✦ Conducting highly successful planning events in New York in January;
- ✦ Commissioning research papers as part of the Global Environment Facility funded YES Knowledge Resource;
- ✦ Launching a Youth Leadership Development Program in Egypt funded by the Swedish International Development Agency.

The countdown to the Alexandria Summit at time of writing is 160 days. I urge each of you to focus your attention on what practical steps are necessary for you and your organization to make the most effective contribution at YES 2002, and to take home the greatest benefit.

Sincerely,



Poonam Ahluwalia
Director, Youth Employment Summit

YES 2002 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!!!



The YES Secretariat is very excited to announce that registration is now open for the Youth Employment Summit. The Summit will be held in Alexandria Egypt from 11-15 September 2002,

Registration is available online through the YES website at, www.youthemploymentsummit.org/register.html

All application information must be entered online.

Many Frequently Asked Questions about the YES 2002 Agenda can be answered by reading the YES Agenda page at, www.youthemploymentsummit.org/summit/agenda.html

YES WEBSITE EXCITES!!!

Late January saw the launch of a completely revamped YES website.

The redesign set new time records from conception to implementation. The YES design coordinator, Dumisani Nyoni began communicating with the designers, TakingITGlobal, in late November 2001, and the website launched in late January 2002.

The website has lots of new features, including an Egyptian hieroglyph motif design.

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YES COUNTRY NETWORKS TAKE OFF WORLDWIDE!

Since early 2001 the YES Secretariat has received requests from committed individuals and groups in many countries to set up local YES networks.

Now YES Country Networks exist in 70 countries. It is estimated that the Secretariat will add 30 new countries to this list by September 2002.

The latest countries to announce local networks are Armenia and Togo.

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YES NEW YORK EVENTS BIG SUCCESS!

In January 2002 YES held a series of events in New York City to coincide with the World Economic Forum (WEF). The YES Secretariat organized three events:

1. The United Nations Briefing for UN Ambassadors and the UN press corps
2. The Reception to officially open the YES Youth Forum
3. The YES Youth Forum two day workshop.

All events were over-subscribed and all indications pointed to a successful week.

More information about each event is available in this newsletter. For full reports go to the YES website at, www.youthemploymentsummit.org/campaign/events.html

UN BRIEFING GETS FULL MARKS

In the midst of the World Economic Forum's high-powered gathering in Manhattan, an audience of three hundred witnessed Dr. Ismail Serageldin deliver a dynamic presentation on YES 2002 at the UN headquarters in New York.

Those in attendance included UN Under Secretary-General Nitin Desai, a 150 strong turnout of UN Ambassadors or members of their delegations, 100 youth leaders and the UN press corps. They came at the gracious invitation of the official hosts, the UN Ambassadors of Egypt and India, their Excellencies Ahmed Aboulgheit of Egypt and Kamallesh Sharma of India.

Before Dr. Serageldin was introduced, Under Secretary-General Desai made some wonderful remarks. He noted his continued interest in the evolution of the Youth Employment Summit Campaign, and declared it to be an excellent initiative. He reiterated that the UN system is committed to partnering with civil society initiatives like the Youth Employment Summit to yield the greatest benefit to people in every country.

A highlight of Mr. Desai's remarks was his special mention that the drivers of change are undoubtedly young people. He ended his comments by urging all sectors to give the Youth Employment Summit serious attention and support.

His Excellency Ahmed Aboulgheit introduced Egypt as the host of the Youth Employment Summit, to be held in the City of Alexandria, September 11-15 2002. He noted that Egypt's First Lady, Mrs. Susan Mubarak is the official patron of the event, and invited every government to send a delegation to participate in the Summit. He added a formal invitation would soon arrive in the mailboxes of each government.

India's representative Ambassador Sharma thanked all in attendance and introduced Dr. Ismail Serageldin. Dr. Serageldin is currently the Director-General of the Library of Alexandria and former vice-president of the World Bank. Dr. Serageldin is also the Chair of the YES2002 Organizing Committee.

Dr. Serageldin began his presentation with an analysis of the problem of youth employment. He noted alarming poverty indicators such as the 1.2 billion humans living on less than a \$1 a day and the hundreds of millions of young people due to come of working age in the next 10 years. Dramatic statistics and photographs illustrating each of his points accompanied his presentation.

Perhaps the most important intellectual point made by Dr. Serageldin was to address the question of the qualitative difference between youth employment and macro economic policy. Dr. Serageldin argued there is a qualitative difference, which justifies targeted policies, budgets and programs.

“Let us be clear. Half educated, unemployed youth with no prospect of being integrated into a better future is a prescription for disaster. If young people do not have a stake in the existing social order and political order, if they do not feel there is a way forward for them, why should they sacrifice for a better tomorrow? Why should they have an interest in protecting the stability and social safety of that system?”

Dr. Serageldin's presentation was greeted by unanimous and prolonged applause, a response to a superbly delivered presentation which made the argument for holding and attending the Youth Employment Summit impossible to ignore.

Ambassador Sharma of India then opened the floor for a question and answer session.

The esteemed representatives of nations in attendance posed a large number of questions. In particular, the official representatives of the Peoples Republic of China and Papua New Guinea asked notable questions.

His Excellency the Ambassador of China suggested that the registration fee of \$400 is waived for poorer countries or money is raised to support participation.

Dr. Serageldin responded the necessity for charging the registration fees as it paid for the local logistical costs. Additionally, Dr. Serageldin noted that if the international community does not meet to focus on common problems such as youth employment it is very difficult to share innovative ideas and learn about best practices.

In summary, the briefing reached receptive ears and drew direct, focused questions. The clear perception of those in attendance was that the most important question about the Youth Employment Summit is not 'should my government attend,' but 'how many will we send?'

Please register for the Summit at:
www.youthemploymentsummit.org



YES YOUTH FORUM IN NEW YORK CITY

I went to New York with the goal of implementing the vision of the Youth Employment Summit and to lend my skills towards developing a youth friendly strategy to proactively address youth employment in a tangible way. I'm going home now with a clear vision of how to engage Guyanese youth in this campaign.

Kenroy Roach, Volunteer Youth Corps in Guyana.

As nearly three thousand leaders met at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in New York, forty youth leaders from 25 countries attended a peer-training workshop organized by YES. This workshop was led by 20 year old Zimbabwean Dumisani Nyoni, YES Youth Coordinator. Nyoni helped them prepare their personal action plans to organize YES networks and programs to promote youth employment in their countries. The workshops were facilitated with the special assistance of Dr. Michael Sabiers.

The workshop began with an evening reception hosted at the Synergos Institute where Peggy Dulany, Ismail Serageldin and José María Figueres led a dialogue on "Global Poverty and Youth Employment: Opportunities for Action."

The next morning the workshop began by identifying the role of youth in the YES process. On several occasions during YES consultations over the past four years, young people have made calls for the establishment of country networks to champion the cause of youth employment. It was based on these ideas put forward by youth that the YES Youth Forum focused on training youth leaders to launch YES Country Networks and provided information on actions that these networks could take.

The workshop was divided into two main segments:

1. How to launch a YES Country Network: This covered the steps that each participant could take in setting up a Country Network. Participants worked through the new Handbook put together by Melinda Moriarty, from the YES Secretariat on "How to organize a YES Country Network and Consultation." The youth also shared ideas on networking and discussed various experiences they have had in establishing and participating in various networks. Some of the participants had already

launched YES Networks in their countries, and they shared strategies that have worked for them as well as of various challenges they have faced.

2. What actions can YES Country Networks take to make an impact? The second day of the workshop brought in several specialists to help facilitate discussion around specific issues such as:

(a) **Sustainable Development through Youth Employment.** Ms. Danielle Carbonneau of the World Bank Institute facilitated this session. Participants developed a better understanding about how they could facilitate sustainable development in their countries.

(b) **Building Sustainable Livelihoods in the Renewable Energy sector** facilitated by Riyad Hansa and Dumisani Nyoni from the YES Secretariat. Information on the pilot project being developed by YES in collaboration with the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility was presented. Youth were encouraged to work with their Country Networks and using the toolkits provided by YES on "How to launch a renewable energy enterprise" to set up such projects for which seed grants would be provided to five well-developed proposals.

(c) **Building Successful Partnerships between the Educators and the Employers** facilitated Ms. Vivian Guilfooy and Ms. Joyce Malyn-Smith both from EDC's Center for Education, Employment, and Community. The objective of this session was to train participants in leading efforts to develop demand driven training

programs. During the session, participants learned of specific skills that they could use to bring diverse stakeholders in their countries to address the youth employment challenge.

(d) **Developing Youth Leadership for Employment** sponsored by the Swedish International Development Agency. A leadership advisory group called the "International Youth Leaders for Employment" was formed. The main purpose of this group is to support the project on 'Developing Youth Advocates for Employment' being piloted in Egypt and funded by SIDA.



YES AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

The World Bank and GEF have funded the *Global Promotion of Youth-Led Enterprises in Off-Grid Renewable Energy* project. This project aims to generate and disseminate information at the global level regarding increased opportunities for income generation among youth, while addressing the need to protect the global environment by promoting renewable energy in rural areas. The project seeks to generate employment and income in areas typically unserved by national power grids through technology transfers that promote youth-led initiatives in the area of climate change mitigation. In brief, the project will include and engage young people as active collaborative partners in creating solutions to global environmental issues.

One critical challenge facing the world today is the strengthening of linkages between economic growth and increased employment opportunities with protection of environment for future generations, which is vital to the development prospects of any country. In many developing countries, the combination of high population growth rates, higher rates of youth unemployment and widespread poverty has placed significant pressure upon natural resources and socio-economic fabric of the communities. The new approaches and strategies should allow for the integration of improved environmental management – of both local and global resources into micro-level employment and income generation efforts.

Following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992 commonly known as the “Earth Summit” – the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established. GEF was established as a financing instrument to address the global issues covered within the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Since then, GEF has financed strategies, action plans and significant investments targeted at mitigating global climate change, promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, protecting international waters, and phasing-out ozone depleting substances. Furthermore, GEF and its partner agencies have taken strides at mainstreaming global environmental issues into national dialogue and development decision-making.

Visit - www.gefweb.org

YES WEBSITE EXCITES!!!

This website has many exiting new features such as online registration, an easily accessible database of the Global Alliance members, a global calendar of youth events, and the complete Summit Agenda. In addition new Toolkits are being added all the time as well as news on current youth employment efforts. YES Country Network web pages will be launched in April. The Country pages will enable all the YES Country Networks to have their own page, on which they will be able to upload local information about their activities, events and projects. This is a powerful addition to the YES campaign toolbox.

Upcoming Event

Celebrate Global Youth Service Day on April 26-28, 2002. YES is proud to endorse this annual global event led by Youth Service America and the Global Youth Action Network as its key partner. To find out more about GYSD visit <http://www.gysd.net>.

In the News

A European Youth Dialogue 2002 was held in Croatia March 24-25 2002, cosponsored by YES, the Croatian NYC, and WAY. The Dialogue published a set of recommendations, the most exciting of which is the initiative to establish a World Youth bank as a financing mechanism for youth-led projects.

A Southern NGO Summit was held on March 16-17, 2002 in Algeria, over 200 NGOs including YES gathered in to prepare for the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. To read the Algiers Declaration, visit www.southngosummit.org.

YES Country Networks

If you want to join or form a YES Country Network in your country, contact Dumisani Nyoni, YES Youth Coordinator at dumisani@youthemploymentsummit.org Also check the YES website to download the Toolkit ‘How to Launch a YES Country Network.’

www.youthemploymentsummit.org/gkr/tk.html

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