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**YES USA Network Launched**

**Washington, DC. February 18, 2005**

On February 18 2005 - the YES USA Country Network was launched in Washington, DC joining the 70 member global community of YES Country Networks. YES Country Networks bring together diverse stakeholders to map out national action plans within which to promote youth employment. These country plans are the building blocks of the Decade Campaign of Action for Youth Employment.

This was indeed a moment to rejoice – various US stakeholders came together to empower the youth of America to take on a leading role in developing partnerships with youth from other countries for domestic and international development.

The consultation was attended by YouthBuild USA, Education Development Center, Sustain US, Development Gateway Foundation, Youth Service America, International Association for Human Values, National Youth Employment Coalition, Job Corps, and the Department of Labor.

All present agreed to the following **YES USA Objectives:**

1. Convening stakeholders in the US on the issue of youth employment on the domestic and global front.
2. Sharing effective practices from the US to the global YES Country Networks and vice-versa
3. Launching a YES USA WebPage, a discussion list and a newsletter for all members
4. Engaging marginalized youth in domestic and global employment issues.
5. Increasing awareness among US youth on global issues.
6. Building partnerships among young people in the YES USA and members of the YES Country Networks in other countries. For building trust between US youth and young people in other countries and fostering peer-mentoring
7. Fostering leadership skills within US young people – today's leaders
8. Organizing a US delegation for YES 2006

The YES USA webpage is currently under construction, but for more information contact Nicole Tiano at the above-listed coordinates.

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