

## President of Kenya Launches the roadmap to YES Kenya 2006

Marking the official launch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> global Youth Employment Summit **YES Kenya 2006**, H.E. Mwai Kibaki, President of Kenya received the Summit Torch from Ms. Poonam Ahluwalia, Executive Director, YES Campaign, Education Development Center, Inc, USA. This torch is a symbol of hope, a mini replica of the Library of Alexandria where the Campaign was launched in 2002. It traveled from Alexandria to Mexico and from Mexico to Kenya.



HE Kibaki, President of Kenya receives Summit Torch from Ms. Ahluwalia

*Officially launching the preparations for the YES Kenya 2006, at a glittering function at the Kenyatta International Conference Center, Nairobi on 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2006, the President, said, "job creation remained the Government's top priority. It is because of the importance that my Government attaches to new employment generation for youth that Kenya offered to host the 3rd Global Youth Employment Summit in Nairobi".*

He also launched the new Ministry of Youth Affairs and urged the Ministry to expedite efforts to bring together relevant line ministries, civil society organizations, development partners and the youth themselves, to develop comprehensive and coherent action plans in the priority areas affecting the youth, particularly, unemployment.

Ms. Poonam Ahluwalia, while briefing the gathering on the forthcoming global summit, "YES Kenya 2006", said; the agenda at the summit would discuss rural entrepreneurship through the 'Bottom of the Pyramid' model, attracting Foreign Direct Investment, building core competencies for trade, and capacity building of youth. Innovative policies, best practices and ideas will be shared drawn from all parts of the world and will be used to develop future collaborative action for employment generation. She also highlighted the need to identify and invest in commercially viable and sustainable entrepreneurial ideas of young people, by trusting in their creativity and investing in their ideas. The YES Country Networks spread across over 70 countries today facilitates an infrastructure for this. She added, "What we need to do is to strengthen these Networks, to bridge the gaps in their countries, and raise adequate resources for seeding entrepreneurs in all countries". She mentioned the amazing leadership that Gathecha Kamau, YES Kenya Coordinator had exhibited in bringing the Summit to Kenya.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon. Dr. Mohamed Abdi Kuti, Minister of State for Youth Affairs proclaimed that the summit, set for September 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> in Nairobi, would bring together about 2,000 delegates from 120 countries to discuss how youth can be provided opportunities for entrepreneurship. He reiterated the responsibility of the government for providing all the necessary support required to enable the youth develop in body, mind and character, and to endow them to be competent in the new information society. The first step towards this goal was the setting up of a new Ministry of Youth Affairs, he added. He did emphasize the upcoming youth policy and the establishment of the National Youth Council, which will be a youth-owned and youth-led body that will articulate youth issues.

Nairobi  
March 15, 2006