



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT
VERACRUZ MEXICO 4-7 OCTOBER 2004

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Youth forging a future for themselves at global summit

From October 4-7, the picturesque city of Veracruz hosted the global YES Mexico Summit 2004, bringing together 1,500 participants from youth organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), ministries and the private sector to discuss the achievements and future of youth employment creation in sixty-nine countries where YES Country Networks have been established. Participants from 105 countries attended.

The agenda included eleven thematic sessions on the six sectors of focus for the YES Campaign (Renewable Energy, Water & Sanitation, Information & Communications Technology, On-farm and Off-farm Development, HIV/AIDS and Post-Conflict Resolution), parallel sessions by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The World Bank, The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), as well as four skill building workshops.

"The energy and passion of youth at this summit was amazing" says Poonam Ahluwalia, Executive Director of the YES Campaign. "These youth are incredibly committed to making a difference in youth employment in their countries, and forging a shared future of social and economic stability with their governments." She adds, "The youth are the lifeblood of this campaign and their achievements thus far are unprecedented. I look forward to further progress in our mission of creating equitable work for youth in countries around the world."

Among the highlights and key achievements of this summit were over forty donor meetings that were held, the release of the "State of the YES Campaign" report, United Nations International Development Organization's (UNIDO's) announcement of a renewable energy entrepreneurship project in Mexico, and the launch of the "green room" to create environmentally sustainable businesses.

The Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign is a global campaign focused on placing the issue of youth employment on the government agenda and creating training projects and programs to help youth develop employment for themselves as well as financial independence. The YES Campaign headquarters is located at Education Development Center (EDC), an internationally renowned educational research and development organization in Boston, Massachusetts.

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