

YES Insider # 10

July 15, 2003

Editor's note: YES Insider is a monthly e-newsletter designed for YES 2002 delegates, members of the YES Global Alliance, YES Country Networks, and friends and supporters of the Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign. Our goal is to provide you with timely information regarding the YES Campaign as well as share effective practices.

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1. International Youth Day on August 12, Theme for 2003 is Youth Employment

August 12, 2003 - International Youth Day - has youth employment as its special theme. This year's theme is a reflection of the growing seriousness of the youth employment crisis. Governments and international institutions are slowly beginning to focus energy and resources on the livelihood needs of hundreds of millions of youth.

Indications of the growing attention include:

- YES Country Networks are receiving support from many governments;
- The resolution on youth employment adopted in January 2003 by the UN General Assembly;
- UN Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network doing outstanding work;
- The UN Commission for Social Development's proposal for the General Assembly to convene a special plenary session on youth in 2005.

Mr. Dumisani Nyoni, the YES Campaign's Network Coordinator, believes the issue of youth employment is approaching a time when it can no longer be ignored. "All indicators point to a rising tide of concern in the world. The numbers of youth without productive work is an urgent crisis now."

To read about activities planned for International Youth Day, visit the UN website, <http://www.un.org/youth>

2. YES Azerbaijan Wins Grant for Youth Employment Center

A Youth Employment Center is now operating in Azerbaijan with assistance from local government. The project provides training in small business skills to young adults. Targeting 150 youth in its first months of operation, the Center is a partnership between YES Azerbaijan, local NGOs and the City Council of Baku.

Youth pay the equivalent of \$10 US dollars to enroll in the training course, which lasts for two months. During that time trainees receive instruction in business plan development, how to access credit and grant facilities, and comparison of successful case studies of local small businesses operated by youth.

YES Azerbaijan Coordinator, Mr. Samir Tagiyev says the project serves an urgent need for local youth.

"Most youth in Azerbaijan need these services, but unfortunately we cannot reach youth in other regions of the country. However, with this start in the capital city we can begin to develop our expertise at delivering these kinds of programs, and begin to expand to other towns in the near future - with luck!"

Visit the YES Azerbaijan page for more information, <http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Azerbaijan>

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3. Southern Africa Regional Youth Employment Project Begins

In South Africa the Youth Development Network (YDN) announced a Regional Consultation Workshop on Youth Employment to be held in Johannesburg on 12-14 August 2003. This workshop forms part of the activities of the Regional Support Plan (RSP), funded by the Dutch Government, and implemented by the Youth Development Network (YDN). This plan seeks to promote and stimulate youth employment in the region through various targeted initiatives. The main aim of the workshop will be to win collective support on the implementation of the plan. YES Networks from Southern Africa will be participating in the workshop.

The workshop's aims are to:

- Provide an opportunity for all Southern African YES Country Networks to engage with the RSP in depth. A report of the Regional needs-analysis process will be presented. This process involves a thorough analysis of relevant stakeholder needs in 7 Southern African Development Countries (SADC) using the existing YES Country Networks as a point of entry. The report is important, as it will inform what capacity building initiatives are undertaken as part of the RSP as it unfolds.
- Present the YES Country Network reports on activities since the Alexandria Summit in 2002. Two delegates will represent each Country Network.
- Gain support for the RSP, project coordinator Hlanga Mqushulu has traveled to four countries in the SADC region: Zimbabwe, Malawi, Swaziland and Mauritius.

"For all the visits the YES Country Networks have been used as a point of entry. The support for this process from the YES Country Networks has been tremendous. They have undertaken the responsibility of securing meetings with the relevant stakeholders" said Ms. Mqushulu in praising the efforts of YES Network coordinators in facilitating the visits

Visit the YES South Africa page for more information, <http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-RSA>

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3. YES Panama Launched in June

YES Panama launched with a national consultation on youth employment on June 27, 2003 in Panama City. YES Panama Coordinator Ms. Albis Mariela led the effort to gather representatives of Panamanian youth organizations, foundations and development agencies. Twenty-eight people attended, with speakers including Ms. Amelia De Perez, an official from UNDP and Ms. Dacil Acevedo, YES Argentina coordinator.

The meeting, hosted by the Cooperative for Savings and Credit, in collaboration with the Foundation of the Leadership Movement for Panamanian Youth and the National Youth Council, focused on the following issues:

- Education in Panama prepares kids for jobs, but not for self employment and entrepreneurship
- The importance of lobbying for public policies that promote education to enhance employability.
- Concerns were raised about protecting human rights in the workplace.
- Concern was expressed over the target age of youth; many organizations support youth in the age group between 15-24 years while the average age of school dropout is 11-12 years old.
- Ms. Amelia De Perez, a representative of UNDP, spoke about the Millennium Development Goals of the UN, in particular those that related to youth employment, and the fact that Panama may have a great opportunity with the UN's Report on Human Development 2004 that focuses on youth development.

Ms. Dacil Acevedo felt the meeting set a sound platform for coordinated work on youth employment issues.

"My opinion of the event is very good. We have already formed an e-group, which has circulated the final report of the event in addition to the PowerPoint presentations, and shortly we will begin to create a structure of various work committees for YES Panama. It appears to me that the process has begun very well and with the endorsement of important institutions from the business sector, and from youth organizations and international entities such as UNDP and UNFPA."

Visit the YES Panama website for more information, <http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Panama>

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4. YES Argentine receives support for a Self-Employment

A community cooperative selling soy based food products has been launched in a poor neighborhood of Buenos Aires. YES Argentina is offering technical assistance to the project, which aims to provide a self-employment option for local residents. Operating in the Barrio San José Obrero, in La Matanza, the Solidarity Soy Project provides employment and a source of inexpensive nutrition in an area of chronically high unemployment. Surplus food from the cooperative is donated to local food banks in the area.

Estacion Esperanza (Hope Station) is the local NGO implementing the project, which has received funding from Spanish Foundation, Fundacion Baskonia. YES Argentina Coordinator Ms. Dacil Acevedo says she's excited to share the lessons from the project with other youth involved in the YES Campaign.

"We've collaborated in the project design, we provide permanent technical assistance and we assist them to evaluate the projects impact. This is a self-sustained community project - and we hope to share its first impact evaluation at the YES Mexico Summit in 2004."

Visit the YES Argentina page to learn more, <http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Argentina>

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5. YES Hyderabad Network Opens Registration Regional Forum in Hyderabad

The YES Hyderabad Network (a member of YES India) is delighted to open registration for the YES Regional Forum 2003. The Forum, kindly hosted by the Hon. Chandra Babu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh State, will be held in Hyderabad, 14-18 December 2003.

Twenty-two south Asian countries are invited to attend in December, including four special invitees: Afghanistan, East Timor, Fiji and Iran. Country delegations will be a mix of youth leaders, government officials, NGO, business leaders and international institutions.

The online registration form includes a quick survey of applicants to help the YES Campaign improve the design and content of the campaign. The registration form is available at the YES website, <http://www.yesweb.org/hyderabad/register.html>

6. YES Iran organizes the Teheran Regional Session - September 3-4, 2003

The Tehran YES Regional Session 2003 will be a regional meeting for Middle East & North Africa, hosted by the Iran YES Country Network in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the National Youth Organization and some non governmental organizations.

In Iran, with a population of 60 million, 18 million (28%) are aged between 15-29 years old (the Iranian definition of youth). This is expected to rise over the next 20 years to more than 30%. 75 per cent of Iranian youth are unemployed, according to statistics in a report published by YES Iran, and average youth income is between \$80-120 per month.

Organizers expect about 150 people to attend the session from around the region. Coordinator Ms. Hamideh Tabatabaie says the importance of the issue cannot be underestimated in Iran. "Within the next three years the numbers of youth entering the job market will peak and reach crisis proportions."

Visit the YES Iran website for more information, <http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Iran>

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7. Global Youth Policy Council Meets in Vienna

The International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP) will hold its Annual Meeting in Vienna, July 24-25, 2003. Mr. Bremley Lyngdoh, YES Program Manager, will represent the YES Campaign. The issue of how youth employment fits into national youth policy development will be among the many topics discussed.

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The agenda of the meeting includes the following topics:

1. Information collection and dissemination of national youth policies and trends
2. Research and policy analysis
3. Convening of an international expert group on national youth policy
4. Organizing regional training seminars in national youth policy

For more information on the ICNYP visit the website, <http://www.icnyp.net/>

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8. UN Youth Employment Network Newsletter Available

The Secretary General's Youth Employment Network has two documents available regarding its work. Both are available at the UN website.

a. YEN newsletter

http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/exrel/partners/youth/news/newsletter_2003_1.pdf

b. YEN Update

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/>

**** If you have a story, event or project which you think is of interest to YES Global Alliance members please email the details of your news to info@yesweb.org ****

For a history of discussion on the YES Email List please visit the archive:

Discussion Group Archive

<http://www.edc.org/hypermall/yes/>