

YES Insider # 12

September 15, 2003

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1. YES Campaign Celebrates First Anniversary

Messages of congratulations and inspiration poured in from around the globe last week for the YES Campaign's first birthday. Mr. Carlos Magarinos, Director General of UNIDO, led a highly distinguished group of leaders who praised the leadership of YES, particularly the leadership of youth in the Country Networks who creating change where it matters.

"We at UNIDO understand the critical role that youth can play in industrial development - productive work for youth is an integral part of our overall strategy for sustainable development. The YES Campaign and our Country Networks are providing a wonderful and sustainable infrastructure for youth leadership to fulfill the MDG goals. I want to encourage all of you to help build the capacity of our young partners to lead their countries out of poverty", Mr. Magarinos said last week.

Joining Mr. Magarinos were messages from Maria Helena Henriques-Mueller from UNESCO, Hanns-Michael Hoelz from Deutsche Bank, and most critically, many messages of support and commitment from youth leaders working hard to make the YES Campaign a reality at grass roots level. To view these message visit the YES list archive at, <http://www.edc.org/hypermail/yes/>

2. President of India Confirmed for Hyderabad Regional Forum

His Excellency, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, President of India has graciously accepted the invitation of Hon. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to inaugurate the YES Regional Forum in Hyderabad in December 2003.

Dr. Kalam will speak to more than six hundred delegates from twenty-two Asian countries on the evening of Sunday, December 14 in Hyderabad. The President of India is a highly distinguished engineer, with a long career leading India's efforts to build satellite and missile launch capabilities. As President, Dr. Kalam is focusing much of his energy on youth issues. Below is an excerpt from the President's speech to the national parliament upon assuming office, July 25, 2002.

"When I travel across our nation, when I hear the sound of waves of the three seas around the shores of my country, when I experience the breeze of wind from the mighty Himalayas, when I see the bio-diversity of North-East and our islands and when I feel the warmth from the western desert, I hear the voice of the youth.

"When can I sing the song of India? What can be the answer? I have so far interacted with over 50,000 school children during the past one year. I would like to share with you my answer to the urge of these children. If youth have to sing the song of India, India should become a developed country, which is free from poverty, illiteracy and unemployment and is buoyant with economic prosperity, national security and internal harmony.

To create this transformation we all have to resolve ourselves to work and sweat for the national development. I would like to share the song of youth, which I normally recite with the school children, here at this juncture. I am very happy to see the children present here representing the future generation. Through them I would like to convey the song of youth to all children of our country and the people. As a young citizen of India, armed with technology, knowledge and love for my nation, I realize, to aim small is a crime."

President of India's website, <http://presidentofindia.nic.in/S/index.htm>

3. YES Iran organizes Teheran Session - Sets National Agenda for Youth Employment

The YES-Iran event in Tehran in early September proved to be a big success in terms of engaging important leaders in the debates around youth employment issues, and in generating creative ideas for all participants to initiate. The event provided an opportunity for YES Iran members from rural areas to outline their current activities and ongoing needs before a national audience in the capital.

Major themes were renewable energy, transition to work, the role of government in generating employment, micro-credit, entrepreneurship, international relationships for Iranian NGOs, and information and communications technologies (ICTs). Great many dynamic and powerful ideas emerged from the panel sessions on each of these topics. YES Iran has detailed the outcomes of the three-day session in a report available at, <http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Iran>

The role of the private sector dominated many of the panel discussions in Tehran, with business leaders in the ICT and wind energy industries urging stakeholders to invest in strategic technologies, such as software developers and alternative energy sources. Representatives from YES Afghanistan, YES Togo, and the YES Campaign Office in Boston also attended.

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4. World Youth Congress in Morocco Highlights Youth Employment

YES Network members Mr. Rana Bilal Ahmed, Mr. Ziga Vavpotic, Mr. Mir Hassan Masood and Ms. Yara Kassem represented the YES Campaign at Peace Child's World Youth Congress in Morocco in late August 2003.

Mr. Ahmed, from Pakistan reports that 50 youth delegates (all under the age of 18) learnt of the YES Campaign's activities in a well-attended presentation at the Congress.

"As there was a big gathering of young people who attended the congress as delegates, and for many of them it was their first-ever international conference, they were anxious and excited to hear about the YES activities and Campaign details. At the end of the meeting I asked the participants to give suggestions to make YES campaign more effective. Nadja Freeman from Canada came with an idea to mark a day every year around the world to publicize the activities of YES Country Networks either any International recognized day and she also said that this campaign should also target the students and make strategies to also involve them in the campaign."

To read about the outcomes of the Congress visit this website, <http://www.peacechild.org/>

5. Southern Africa Regional Plan Gathers Steam

As part of the activities of the YES Regional Support Plan a Regional Consultation was held on the 12th – 14th of August 2003 in Johannesburg, organized by the Youth Development Network (YDN). Twenty-two YES members from eleven Southern African Development Community countries (SADC) participated in the consultation. Coordinator Hlanga Mqushulu says the program went very well.

"The programme was structured in a way that would ensure that the workshop objectives were met. Riyad Hansa presented the global context of the YES Campaign. The YDN presented the Regional Project. All the Country Networks presented what activities have been undertaken since the launch of the Campaign. A report of the Regional Needs Analysis was also presented. This was the culmination of visits by the YDN to seven countries in the Region. The participants also had the opportunity to deliberate on what a long-term strategy on Youth Employment in the Region would look like."

Organizers identified the following outcomes of the consultation:

- * Presentation of the Regional Needs Analysis Report.
- * Development of a framework on a long term Strategy for YES in the Region. This helped to identify common priority areas.
- * Identified priorities for capacity building amongst Youth Employment stakeholders.
- * Workshop delegates generated new ideas on promoting Youth Employment.

* Specific roles for the YDN and Country Networks were identified.

Kondwani Munthali, Coordinator of YES Malawi reports the workshop was a successful example of regional collaboration. "We salute Clayton, Hlanga and Luvuyo and the whole Youth Development Network for a good and focused workshop. Southern Africa can make it happen. Say YES now and join us to change the youth employment situation."

To read more about the Regional Support Plan for Youth Employment contact Plan Coordinator, Hlanga Mqushulu, hlanga@ydn.org.za

6. YES Burundi Launches Peace Building Campaign

An eight-month program of leadership training and public awareness activities is underway in the Central African country of Burundi. YES Coordinator Prosper Ndabishuriye. Funded by the US Embassy in Bujumbura, the \$9,000 project is managed by YES member organization, Youth in Reconstruction of the World in Destruction (YRWD).

Mr. Ndabishuriye says the project will focus on building the capacity of youth to engage in peace building activities in Burundi.

"The objectives of this project are to help promote democracy, reconciliation and improve the environment in Burundian communities. We want to show Burundians a new way of living, behaving and acting to achieve peace and stability. To do this, we are engaging thirty young men and women in the program."

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7. UN Youth Employment Network (YEN) Launches National Network in Indonesia

A new network to examine youth employment issues has launched in Indonesia. The International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Manpower in Indonesia report that I-YEN began operating in May 2003. Leading the network are Mr. Widjanarko, Secretary to the Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs and Mr. Tjepyo Aloewie, Secretary General of the Ministry of Manpower, as Chairman and Vice Chair respectively.

According to the ILO website, the main goal of the I-YEN in 2003 is to develop a national action plan on youth employment by year's end. The aim of the action plan is to (1) enhance the employability of young people through better education and relevant training for work; (2) give young women the same employment opportunities as young men through gender sensitive policies; (3) encourage youth entrepreneurship through making it easier to start and run a business; and (4) generate more employment opportunities for young people through a growth-oriented "pro-job" macroeconomic strategy.

I-YEN is supported by a technical team inside the Ministry of Manpower. To read more about the formation and activities of the I-YEN visit the ILO website.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/events/intyouthday.htm>

8. Summary of YES Network Projects and Events Available

Be inspired by your peers! Visit the YES website Media Page to view the latest summary of selected projects and events of YES Country Networks. See the achievements of young leaders from around the world.

http://www.yesweb.org/media_room/index.html

**** 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>](mailto:info@yesweb.org) ****

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

Discussion Group Archive

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