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October 15, 2003

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1. YES Peru Invited to Regional World Bank Consultation

Ms. Ursula Carrascal, YES Peru Coordinator has been nominated to attend a World Bank Regional Consultation on behalf of the YES Campaign to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October 21 to 23. The meeting, held under the theme of "Regional Integration and Social Equity" is a consultation between the World Bank and civil society organizations focusing on economic integration in the Latin American region.

The organizers learned about Ms. Carrascal through her work with YES and have asked that she be present at the meeting as a representative of the YES Campaign. Ms. Carrascal says she expects to present the views of YES Peru members on a number of development issues, and make a presentation on the YES Campaign during the event.

The YES Network Coordinator, Dumisani Nyoni welcomes YES Peru's participation at the regional level event. "This demonstrates the legitimacy of the work carried out by YES Country Networks. Ursula and the team in Peru have worked hard for the past two years and this is an example of what has come of their hard work. Attending an event like this is not an end in itself, but it's a good sign that major institutions like the World Bank are paying attention to youth participation, and to the role the YES Campaign is playing."

Visit the World Bank at, <http://www.bancomundial.org/sociedadcivil>

Contact: Mónica Peñuela, <mpenuelajaramill@worldbank.org>

To learn more about YES Peru go to, <http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Peru>

Contact: Ursula Carrascal, <ucarrascal@yahoo.es>

2. Public Debate on Youth Employment Law in Paraguay

On November 12, 2003, YES Paraguay will host a debate about the future of Paraguay's "First Time Job" law, *la Ley de Primer Empleo* in Spanish. Mirian Nunez, YES Paraguay Coordinator welcomes debate on the law, observing that the law may not suit Paraguayan conditions.

"It's designed to help youth access the labor market for the first time, but the law is based on employment practices of more industrialized countries, making it impossible to implement in Paraguay. The law calls for such measures as tax breaks for employers and a national registry for all youth workers, but the Paraguayan Ministry of Interior and the Ministry Labor does not have the infrastructure required for the actions set forth by the law."

After the debate, YES Paraguay members plan a complete analysis of the existing law. The result will be a report incorporating recommendations from economic and labor experts as well as youth representatives. YES Paraguay plans to introduce an alternative law to the Paraguayan Senate by the end of 2003, Nunez says.

Meanwhile, Nunez reports that members of the YES Paraguay National Committee are drafting a set of internal regulations for the operation and coordination of the Paraguay YES Network in order to harmonize the initiatives and facilitate continuing development and expansion of the Network.

See more at the YES Paraguay web page, <http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Paraguay>

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3. Balkans Regional Youth Employment Program Underway

Balkan youth are meeting this week in Skopje, Macedonia to participate in a regional initiative to identify effective youth employment programs and policies. This week's gathering, which draws youth from Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania, aims to build the capacity of participants to improve the employment prospects of the region's disadvantaged youth.

The German Education and Training company (GET) and YES are collaborating to ensure youth participation in the GTZ-funded project. YES Network members from all four countries are expected to attend. YES Romania Coordinator, Ms. Rodica Pop says she is excited to be working with counterparts from neighboring countries.

"We look forward to learning about the initiatives underway in other countries, and explaining our projects to others. We expect to learn a lot this week."

The three-day program focuses on the characteristics of effective practices and strategies to bring youth employment to the fore in development planning. GET is hosting an open project page where it welcomes feedback on the Country Reports it has published. Read the reports and give feedback at this site, <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/employget>

Visit the GET website to learn more about its projects.
http://www.icon-institute.de/en/p_get/about_get_1.2_.htm

4. Arts and Culture Emphasized in Swaziland / Zimbabwe YES Meeting

A fifty-nine strong delegation of Swazi youth visited Zimbabwe for three days of skills workshops, site visits and cultural exchange in early October. Organized by the respective YES Country Networks, the event marks a turning point in peer-to-peer exchange between the two countries.

The theme for the visit, according to Zimbabwe Coordinator Memezi Nyoni, was 'culture as a youth employment tool'. A number of successful artists facilitated skills workshops, imparting their experience of making a living as an artist. Hosted by the Organization of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP), participants from both networks enjoyed traditional dances and songs from the cultures of both countries.

"The point of departure for any young African striving to be economically self sustaining is a rootedness to one's culture", said Mrs. Sithembiso Nyoni, President of ORAP and a YES Campaign Committee member.

The cultural exchange provided an opportunity for ORAP to announce that it will be the lead institution supporting the YES Network in Zimbabwe. ORAP staff members also presented local initiatives in ICT and HIV / AIDS. To read the full report, including photographs, visit the YES Zimbabwe web page.

<http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Zimbabwe>

Contact: Memezi Nyoni, <mmemezi@yahoo.com>

5. National Youth Policies Under the Microscope in Ethiopia

Youth and experts from fourteen countries met in Addis Ababa, September 24-26 to focus on youth policy skills in East Africa. The three-day meeting focused on building the capacity of participants to contribute to national policy processes. Ms. Hope Muli, from YES Kenya attended the training workshop.

Ms. Muli noted that each of the countries present had a different youth policy story to tell. "Ethiopia has her policy in draft form, Uganda is currently preparing for the adoption of their national strategic action plan, and monitoring and evaluation respectively, while Kenya has its policy in draft cabinet form and will soon disseminate the draft national strategic action plan on the same."

After three days of intensive training with young people from across East Africa Ms. Muli says she feels a greater recognition of what national youth policies should aim to achieve. "The principle should be based on the expansion of assets to and capacity of young people to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable the institutions that affect their lives, thus leading to the holistic development of young people."

The ICNYP and UNDP organized workshop in Ethiopia made use of a National Youth Policy Training Manual available at the ICNYP website, <http://www.icnyp.net/www/eng/meetings.html>
Hope Muli's report can be read at the YES Kenya web page,

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<http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Kenya>

6. YES E-list Influences Proposal Writing Skills

YES Network members are reporting success with the skills they learn from the YES global discussion list. According to list moderator Tony Mathur frequent peer-to-peer guidance takes place after individuals request help through the list. Francesco Giotta, of YES Romania, recently acknowledged the usefulness of the list in enhancing his proposal writing skills.

"I found extremely interesting Pawan Singh's contributions on the YES list. I used his ideas extensively on how to create a proposal. I used his ideas for our World Bank proposal, and we followed it point by point. Another thing that came through the YES list was a set of ideas for 'tourism for the poor', low budget tourism for families working for a small income, say less than \$3 a day."

Mr Giotta is currently honing a proposal to bring much-needed entrepreneurial skills to the investment starved Tara Hateg region of Romania. He says he soon expects to present a project proposal to the World Bank office in Romania. The YES E-list archive is available at,

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

Contact: Francesco Giotta <fgiotta@hotmail.com>

7. Peace-Building Booklet Published in Burundi

'Is it Possible to Live Together?' is the title of a new education guide published by Youth in Reconstruction of the World in Destruction (YRWD), a YES Global Alliance member in the central African nation of Burundi.

Written in French, the booklet is funded by the US Embassy in Bujumbura. Author of the guide, Prosper Ndabishuriye says the guide will be used in workshops nationwide. "We're very excited with the uses we can make of this tool. It includes advice for young people about what to do in case of violence, and explanations of the rationale for respecting one's neighbors."

Access the French language booklet on the internet at,

<http://www.peace.ca/BIRASHOBOKA.M.P.1.doc>

Contact: Prosper Ndabishuriye, <ndapros@yahoo.fr>

8. YES Somalia Secures Half Scholarships to USA University

YES Coordinator Faiza Abdi Nor reports that Southern New Hampshire University in the United States is offering four half scholarships to YES Network members in Somalia. The scholarships cover half of the tuition cost of a typical four-year degree at the university in the US north-east.

Ms. Abdi Nor says the offer is very generous but the network faces a challenge to raise the balance of the tuition costs. "The University pledged to provide half of scholarship cost, and asked YES Somalia to seek funds for the remaining scholarship cost."

Ms. Nor is searching for sponsors to ensure that "Somali youths get access to education opportunities and become effective future leaders for their countries. Two generations have lacked education opportunities and became armed militia sparking conflict, and hampering establishment of government."

Contact: Ms. Faiza Abdi Nor, <faiza_abdi@hotmail.com>

9. YES Network Leads School Reconstruction Effort in Georgia

Green Earth, a member of the YES Georgia Country Network reports a successful community intervention to reconstruct a school in the country's Khoni region.

The project involved rehabilitating the schoolyard and buildings at Number Three School, and initiating new curriculum in ecology and energy use for students. YES Coordinator Mr. Nugzar Meladze describes a dramatic turnaround for the school.

"The whole territory of the school was cleaned up and new trees were planted.

In this action 35 pupils and inhabitants of the region actively took part. 400 trees were planted. The school was totally broken down. Previously, pupils and teachers had to have lessons in unbearable conditions."

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Meladze says the Japanese funded project employed 65 people in cleaning up the school, and it represents a triumph of community involvement. "Today the school offers ecological education. A governor of the region and the administration of the school actively supported the project. Also, it has been a success for the YES Network in the region."

Contact: Mr. Nugzar Meladze, <Nugzar@yesweb.org>

10. Employment Opportunity and Bangladesh's National Youth Policy

A day long seminar on the 'Employment Opportunities in the National Youth Policy' was held at the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM), Dhaka on 5th October 2003. The seminar was organized jointly with BIAM, YES Bangladesh and a number of other youth organizations.

YES Coordinator Dulal Biswas reports the seminar was organized to examine the recently launched Bangladesh's National Youth Policy. He says the seminar allowed a large number of youth to scrutinize the new policy. According to Biswas, the main topics of the seminar included: 1. what is youth employment? 2. What are the barriers to youth employment in the country? 3. What are the scopes and opportunities in the National Youth Policy which provide sustainable employment for youth?

Read more at the YES Bangladesh website,
<http://project.yesweb.org/YES-Bangladesh>

11. International Symposium on Street Children & Youth in Kenya

GTZ Kenya and YES Kenya are collaborating to host a three-day symposium on at-risk youth, October 22-25, 2003.

Thirty youth leaders and a group of international experts will meet in Kenya to share practical working approaches, including methods to improve basic living situations. Countries represented include Uganda, Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania, Gambia and Zimbabwe.

YES Kenya Coordinator Gathecha Kamau says youth in African cities are suffering. "In many countries a growing number of children and youths have to live in the streets. They have to maintain themselves without shelter, are confronted with violence and abuse, being corrupted and in constant fear for their lives."

However, Kamau believes that by bringing together innovative youth from across Africa young leaders can find solutions. "Though the magnitude of the street work scares us and shies Governments, the YOUTH have many ideas for them already – and most are already involved in initiatives that have been set up as the most suitable projects. We have little knowledge of some of them – rehabilitating a building in a run-down town center; laying the foundations of a new school-room in a small village; committed individual youths in the rural areas. These are big steps that require to be acknowledged."

For more information contact Gathecha Kamau and consult the YES Kenya web page.

<http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Kenya>

Contact: Gathecha Kamau, yeskenya@37.com

12. Alexandria Declaration Now Available in Swahili

YES Tanzania members have translated the Alexandria Declaration into Swahili. Swahili is the lingua franca of East African countries, including Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. Access the document at the YES Tanzania web page,

<http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Tanzania>

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13. Travel Scholarship Scheme to Regional Forum Reaches Deadline

The YES Campaign Office in Boston has been accepting applications for the past month for ten travel scholarships to attend the YES Regional Forum in Hyderabad, India. This application process is now officially closed, with Wednesday, October 15 the deadline. Over one hundred applications have been received from all the twenty two countries participating in the Regional Forum. Successful applicants will be announced in the first week of November, 2003. YES is unable to contact all applicants in person.

Applicants who are unsuccessful in winning full travel scholarships may be offered half-scholarships, comprising room and board in Hyderabad for five nights. YES will announce details in November.

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For information about the terms and conditions of the travel scholarships visit the YES website at, <http://www.yesweb.org/hyderabad/schol.html>

If you have a story which you'd like considered for inclusion in the YES Insider, please send it to the Editor, <info@yesweb.org>

Check out the YES e-group archive for a full history of discussions, www.edc.org/hypermail/yes
