

YES Insider # 14

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1. Senate of Nigeria Supports YES Nigeria Network

A motion supporting the aims of the YES Nigeria Network passed the Nigerian Senate in early August 2003. The motion recognized the extent of the youth employment crisis in Nigeria and took note of national and international efforts on the issue.

"...it is common knowledge that our tertiary educational institutions have an annual turnover of about 300,000 graduates into the labor market without commensurate employment opportunities for them. This does not even include the products of secondary educational institutions and those not fortunate to have formal Western education."

The Senate motion called on the administration of President Obasanjo to add its support to the work of YES Nigeria, in conjunction with existing government programs and the Youth Employment Network of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

Specifically, the motion calls on the government to "localize the gains of the Alexandria Summit; create awareness of the menace of youth unemployment; and galvanize the stakeholders, particularly the youth to participate in the job creation process."

YES Nigeria, the National Directorate of Employment and the local office of the International Labor Organization (ILO) will jointly host a national consultation in Abuja, November 18-21, to be inaugurated by the Senate President and the Minister of Youth.

Contact: James Olawale Ajani, < youthresearch@yahoo.com >

2. Pakistan YES Member Wins United Nations NGO of the Year Award

AMAL Human Development Network is one of two NGOs in Pakistan presented with a Recognition Award by the United Nations system in Pakistan. AMAL and the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) were presented with the award at a ceremony in Islamabad, October 27, according to the UN's weekly newsletter in Pakistan.

Mr. Pervaiz Tufail, a founding member of the YES Pakistan Network, reports that the award is tremendously gratifying for his organization, but that so much work remains to be done. "We're excited and proud of the achievement, but our first ten years is the tip of the iceberg. I'm looking forward to the next ten years, to see what we can achieve for children's rights in Pakistan."

AMAL achievements include improving the conditions of commercial sex workers in Lahore, where the efforts of AMAL has led to significant increase in the use of contraceptives.

Contact: Pervaiz Tufail <pervaiz22@yahoo.ca>

3. Country Delegations to Hyderabad Forum Get Energized!

As the countdown to the YES Regional Forum reaches 30 days, YES Network organizers are busily arranging country delegations to travel to India. Over 1,000 applications have been received online from 22 Asian countries. A large number from outside Asia have also been received.

In Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh YES Network delegations are preparing to travel overland in a bid to increase participation of members.

Ministers from fifteen countries are confirmed, with applications and confirmations arriving each day. Rajendra Prasad, a key organizer in the YES Hyderabad Office, says he's impressed by the response. "We're sending out hundreds of letters to people everywhere, and we're working 'til all hours to get it done. It's going to be exciting."

Register for the Forum online at: <http://www.yesweb.org/hyderabad/register.html>

4. Mexico: National Organizing Committee Plans YES 2004

Plans for YES 2004 moved forward considerably at a National Organizing Committee meeting in Mexico City, October 23 2003. "Defining the Value of YES 2004", sponsored by the Mexican Institute of Youth and the YES Mexico Network, was the latest in a series to thrash out the details of next year's marquee YES Campaign event.

Mr. Esteban Gonzalez, YES Campaign co-chair, says the event was a valuable planning session for activities in 2004. "Our major objectives in 2004 are to establish regional YES Networks in all of Mexico's provinces and to prepare for YES 2004.

We had an excellent workshop with 50 participants from all sectors. During the workshop we had a great discussion about how YES creates value for our country in relation to national strategies to promote youth employment and how can we be the best hostess for YES2004. So, now the YES México Network is bigger and we have more support from very different organizations", Mr. Gonzalez said this week.

Prominent members of the YES 2004 Organizing Committee in attendance included Mr. Cristian Castano, Director of the Institute of Youth, Ms. Martha Juy, a presidential advisor and Mr. Ary Kahan, President of Kahan Automotive.

Contact: Juan Jeron Gonzalez, <juan@fundacione.org>

5. Opportunity for Youth Organizations To Participate in Entrepreneurship Program

The Dutch National Youth Council (www.jeugdraad.nl) is seeking interest from countries with an historic, or other clear link to the Netherlands for a youth entrepreneurship and mentoring program in 2004.

Youth Employment Spark (YES*) is a new program funded by the National Commission for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO) in Holland. Initially, four youth organizations will be invited to Amsterdam, Holland in January, 2004 to design a two-year program. Travel and accommodation costs will be paid for by the Dutch National Youth Council.

To express interest Leontien Peeters <leontienpeeters@jeugdraad.nl>

6. YES Pakistan Forms Cultural Wing

In an effort to reach audiences through entertainment, YES Pakistan announces the formation of an ongoing cultural program. Activities include street theatre in poor districts combined with free medical services and books for children.

Coordinator Ali Raza Khan says Professor Sallmaan Raffiq, Deputy Director of the Islamabad Arts Council will direct the program in its initial stages. Professor Raffiq will bring his substantial experience, creativity and industry contacts to the program.

“The objectives are to educate people on various social issues like child labor, child marriage, and importance of education, health, environment, women’s rights and the evils of dowry. We’ll also organize Free Medical Camps where the local populace will get free medical services. We are focusing on both marginalized and developed communities. Free distribution of books will also be arranged on the spot for school going kids”, Khan said this week.

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7. Macedonia Hosts Balkans Regional Youth Employment Workshop

Ms. Rodica Pop, YES Romania Coordinator reports the Balkan youth employment meeting in mid-October met its objectives of increasing regional knowledge and relationships.

Youth development professionals from Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Romania met in Skopje, Macedonia to participate in a regional GTZ-sponsored initiative to identify regional effective youth employment programs and policies. The workshop was organized by German Education & Training (GET).

Ms. Pop says the three-day workshop enabled many young people to learn about the YES Campaign for the first time, and to become aware of youth programs from throughout the region. “We presented the YES Networks Guideline Agreement to all the participants. The Bulgarian and Macedonian participants were particularly interested and want to start a YES Network.”

Check out the GET’s regional initiative online:

<http://projects.takingitglobal.org/employget>

You can see photos of the workshop: <http://irina.50megs.com/photo.html>

Contact: Rodica Pop, cplanet@rdslink.ro

8. Creating Common Wealth Forum Convenes in Australia

Hundreds of delegates from Commonwealth nations gathered in Brisbane, Australia, November 10-13, 2003. The official website states that the objectives of the “Creating Common Wealth Forum” are “to facilitate exchange of expertise in the different ways of establishing enterprises and nurturing entrepreneurship in young people in Commonwealth countries.”

The launch of the Enterprise Network for Young Australians (ENYA), a A\$52,000 Australian Government initiative, was the centerpiece of the event, organizers said. The new Network’s business plan states that “it is essential that an organization be created to provide support and mentoring so that young people can make their newly formed or ongoing business a success.” Check out ENYA at <http://www.enya.org.au/>

Small business case studies of Forum delegates can be found on the YES Australia website.

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

Find out more about the Creating Common Wealth Forum:

http://www.thesource.gov.au/creating_common_wealth/

9. YES Canada Launches Website

Ms. Nikki Whaites, YES Canada Coordinator, reports that the fledgling network has launched its website. Check it out at www.yescanada.org

Ms Whaites says the major objective of YES Canada is to connect Canadian youth with opportunities to assist youth in other countries. “We’re looking for enthusiastic Canadian youth who want to link up with an organization or agency overseas (we do the linking part for you) and help them meet their goals!”

The website offers Canadian youth a range of resources, including employment-related events in Canada, links to major youth development organizations in Canada, and all-important bridge between Canadian youth and their peers in many other countries.

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10. Asian Summit on Youth Entrepreneurship Held in India

The Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST) and Youth Business International hosted a two-day Asian Summit on Youth Entrepreneurship in New Delhi, India, October 29-30, 2003.

Hundreds of delegates attended panel discussions on youth employment, and a number of field visits were made to BYST businesses in and around Delhi. Delegates came from many countries in Asia, including China, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mauritius, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister of India launched YBI's Asian Regional Centre based within BYST, to provide support and training for all existing and potential YB programmes in the region.

Check out YBI at: <http://www.youth-business.org>

11. Hyderabad Cultural Program Hots Up!

A full schedule of music, dance, poetry and song awaits delegates to the YES Regional Forum. Outside the formal agenda organizers have arranged programs on almost every evening of the five day event in December.

Highlights include "Beats of India" featuring Shivmani on Percussion on Day 2, and a martial arts display and Bollywood film on Day 3. Each cultural event is accompanied by dinners hosted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and other organizations in Hyderabad.

Check out the full program: http://www.yesweb.org/media_room/docs/culturalprogram.doc or http://www.yesweb.org/media_room/docs/culturalprogram.pdf

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