

YES Insider # 17

April 15, 2004

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1. YES Country Network launched in Maldives

The YES Country Network was recently launched in Maldives, probably the smallest country in the ever-growing YES Family. The news of the launch came within months of the successful conduct of Hyderabad YES Regional Forum 2003, held last year in India.

As a part of country's National Youth Day celebrations, workshops on employment were conducted in the three regions of Maldives. Organized jointly by the Ministry of Youth Development & Sports and Ministry of Employment and Labour and the YES Maldives, the workshops were well attended by youth.

Hon. Dr. Mohamed Zahir Hussein, Minister of Youth Development and Sports inaugurated the first workshop held in mid-south of Maldives or "Laamu Atoll". The workshop concluded in the benign presence of Hon. Mr. Abdulla Rasheed Hussein, Minister of Employment & Labour.

The second workshop was held in the North of Maldives "Haa Alifu Atoll" with 70 youth from 13 islands participating, while the third was held in mid-north of Maldives "Shaviyani Atoll" where 37 youth from 14 islands attended.

YES Maldives has already been invited by the National Association of Youth NGOs to participate in its various regional meetings conducted across the country. "It is a wonderful opportunity to reach-out to youth in remote areas and gather members for the YCN Maldives. After these meetings, I am sure that YES Maldives will have members in all parts of Maldives, which will lead to more success and better information sharing." Said a proud Ahmed Asbaab of YES Maldives

YES Maldives hopes to overcome the numerous barriers and reach out to all remote areas in the tiny islands nation.

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2. YES India launches state-level Network in Meghalaya, India

The Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign launched a local YES Network in the North Eastern state of Meghalaya in India. The YES Meghalaya was launched after a two-day preparatory YES Camp and a state level YES Consultation that was jointly organised by the Meghalaya United Nations Association, Rilum Foundation for Sustainable Development and 3 E Society in collaboration with the State Institute for Rural Development (SIRD) of Meghalaya.

The two-day preparatory YES Camp held on 22nd and 23rd March, at the Kharsati Nature Park, was inaugurated by Mr. W. L. Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner of Ri Bhoi District. The following day, Hon'ble Mr. Paul Lyngdoh, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs inaugurated the YES Consultation which was attended by over 100 multi-stakeholders delegates.

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The YES Meghalaya Network is a diverse group representing students, youth activists, opinion leaders, media persons, corporates, and other members of the civil society. The YES Country Networks have been created in 60 countries, and in India YES State and Local Networks are been created by the youth leaders across the nation with support from their state governments.

NGO representatives from the neighbouring states of Assam and Nagaland who participated in the Consultation returned home with a strong will to start similar YES Networks in their own states.

Read the Report of the YES Camp and the YES Consultation at the YES Country Network page at: <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/YES-India>

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3. YES Mexico officially launched

In the last week of February YES Country Network Mexico or the Red Nacional por el Empleo Juvenil A.C was legally "born".

Ary Kahan, President, KASO Consulting and Marcos Kalach, members of the YES Global Summit 2004 Organizing Committee, chaired the event. Martha Juy Dominguez, Advisor of the Mexican Presidency, attended the event as an honorable witness.

Esteban Gonzalez, youth co-chair of the YES Campaign Committee, introduced Mr. Francisco Lopez Diaz, as the General Director of the YES Mexico.

The YES Mexico 2004 action plan is focused on developing the National Youth Employment Council and development of the YES local networks across the country. The YES Country Network Mexico is also gearing up to be the hosts of the first milestone event of the YES Campaign-the YES Global Summit in Veracruz from October 4- 7, 2004.

Have you registered for the Summit yet? Click here www.yesweb.org/mexico/register.html

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4. Global Youth Service Day celebrations

Preparations for the Global Youth Service Day or GYSD celebrations are in full swing across the world. GYSD is an annual global event led by Youth Service America, in cooperation with Global Youth Action Network, Inc., its key partner, together with a consortium of international organizations and national committees.

On Global Youth Service Day or GYSD, millions of young people will highlight and carry out thousands of community improvement projects. This day will be a way for local, national, and international organizations to: build capacity of an international network of organizations that promotes youth participation, service, and learning; educate public, media, and policy-makers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders around the world; mobilize youth and adults to meet the needs of their communities through volunteering; and learn and share effective practices in youth service, youth voice, and civic engagement in the world today.

Individuals willing to join the GYSD celebrations need to get in touch with the National Lead Agency (NLA) of their respective countries. These agencies will provide all assistance in identifying what role individuals you can play in the celebrations.

Website: <http://www.gysd.net/>

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5. Bangalore, India plays host to a YES Consultation

Bangalore or the Indian Silicon Valley was host a recent YES Consultation recently. Thanks to efforts of Ms. Kamamma, Chairperson of Karnataka Women Development Corporation, Government of Karnataka and Ms. Prabhavathi, CEO of Gramya TS Pvt. Ltd., the consultation was a great success. Participants included women self help group (SHG) representatives, NGO workers, business leaders and state government officials.

Mr. Praveen Kumar Prithvi, Coordinator, YES India introduced the concept of the YES campaign and urged the participants to become actively involved in the Campaign in all possible ways to ensure "Employment for all youth in India" over the next decade.

To give further impetus to the YES Campaign in the Indian state of Karnataka, Mr. Praveen and YES Network local members met Hon'ble Ms. Mottamma, Minister for Women Development and Hon'ble D. Shiva Kumar, Minister for Urban Development, Government of Karnataka and briefed them about the goals and mission of the YES Campaign and solicited their support.

Website: projects.takingitglobal.org/YES-India

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6. South Africa's Youth Development Network (YDN) hosts regional YES training workshop

YES Networks from eleven countries participated in a regional training workshop organized by the YDN of South Africa. The six-day regional workshop held at Mbabane, Swaziland, focused on proposal and report writing, policy analysis and review and partnership building with the private sector.

The YDN is a national network of seven youth development organisations operating all around South Africa. The YDN was formed in 1998 especially to explore ways of scaling up the impact of youth development programmes, sharing information and best practices amongst the member organisations, securing resources to support youth development programmes and to advocate for the interests of young people.

YES Country Coordinator Zambia, Mr. Lubunda Mabwe who attended the workshop was full of admiration for the event. "Here I should say there is work on the ground". He said, "We just launched the Zambian chapter and for us it has been an achievement" he added.

For more information, please get in touch with Clayton Peters, Executive Director at: cpeters@icon.co.za and Sonkho Phiri, Project officer at phiri@sn.apc.org

Website: www.ydn.co.za

7. YES Pakistan organizes oath-taking ceremony in Kasur

The YES Pakistan National Youth Service (PNYS) initiative is marching on from strength to strength in the field of youth empowerment. The latest event by the PNYS was the successful organization of an Oath-Taking ceremony of 500 enthusiastic boys and girls in the historic city of Kasur. The young volunteers pledged to promote education of their future generations under the aegis of Universal Primary Education Programme, which is an initiative of UNICEF and the local government.

Mr. Ali Raza Khan, Country Coordinator YES Pakistan credited his team and thanked the volunteers for their commitment. He said, "It is you, the assembled youth, and the talented members of my team who have proved to be beacon light in the successful realization of this ambitious project.

In a very short time, PNYS has managed to produce some outstanding results, like getting admission of over 3000 under-privileged children in schools and arranging uniforms, books and stationery for them. Remarkably, this has been accomplished without any external help or assistance.

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The oath-taking ceremony was followed by a blood donation camp where the PNYS volunteers donated blood for patients suffering from cancer.

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8. YES Networks in the SAARC region finalize their MoU (available online)

The final version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the YES Country Networks Coordinators of the seven South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries (SAARC) is available online. The seven member countries of this South Asian regional block are India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

The agreement on the MoU is seen as a big achievement of the recently concluded Hyderabad YES Regional Forum 2003 as this was probably the first instance of a regional youth grouping working towards joint development initiatives.

Poonam Ahluwalia, Executive Director of the YES Campaign was delighted to learn about this development." I view the adoption of the SAARC MoU an outstanding achievement. I am sure this regional grouping will set a precedent for other YES Networks to align their synergies and work together for a sustainable livelihood for all."

Read the complete SAARC MoU: projects.takingitglobal.org/YES-India

9. Denmark releases MDG target # 8 Report

Denmark has become the first Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nation to release a country report on United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG). It is interesting to note that this was the first report ever-released by a developed country as all the previous reports have been released by developing nations.

The report released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs based in Copenhagen focuses on Goal 8 which states to "establish a global partnership for development."

The origin of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is found in the United Nations' Millennium Declaration that was adopted on 8 September 2000 by all of the 189 member states (147 of which were represented by their heads of State or Government). These goals were set for the year 2015 with reference to the international situation prevalent in 1990.

In the report, Denmark has pledged to cancel all official bilateral debt and support further debt relief to countries that have been affected by, for example natural disasters and similar events.

Read the full report at http://www.choike.org/documentos/denmark_report.pdf

10. YES Peru launches website in Spanish

An exciting new resource in Spanish is now available. YES Peru has launched dedicated youth employment website in Spanish. The website provides background information about the YES Campaign and Education Development Center (EDC) Inc. and the YES Global Summit 2004 in Mexico.

YES Peru website in Spanish: <http://www.redyesperu.tk>

**** 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/hypermail/yes/>