

YES Insider # 6

March 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 (YCNs) and friends and supporters of the Youth Employment Summit 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. YES Announces a Training Workshop on Green Enterprise Project Design, Chennai, India

The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and the YES Campaign Secretariat (YES) will present the Green Enterprise Project Design Training Workshop, Chennai, India, April 28 - May 5, 2003. The one-week workshop will train twenty selected participants in project design and implementation skills in eco-entrepreneurship.

The workshop is open to YES Network members. All local costs, including ground transport, meals, accommodation and the training course, are sponsored by YES and MSSRF. Airfares are self-funded by participants. The YES Campaign Secretariat is not funding airfares for any participants. Please write to YES Network Coordinators if you would like to apply. YES Network Coordinators contact details are available at the YES website, <http://www.youthemploymentsummit.org/campaign/countries.html>

2. Funding Approval for YES Honduras AIDS Project

The YES Network in Honduras has launched an US\$80,000 project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). YES Network member organization Center for Health and Family Assistance (CEPROSAF) was awarded the grant on behalf of YES-Honduras to work with persons infected with HIV/AIDS, the majority being youths under the age of 35. The project focuses on building the capacity of people living with, or affected by HIV/AIDS. The focus is on youth creating productive and sustainable livelihoods, in line with the goals of the YES Campaign. Activities include vocational and technical training in a wide variety of skills. The 15 month project will also include local authorities, churches, health workers, communities and families of people living with HIV/AIDS.

In March, the initial baseline study will be done as well as several occupational workshops where participants will learn how to make cards out of recycled paper, as well as products such as scented candles. Profits made from the sales of these products will benefit youth living with HIV/AIDS and their families. USAID is providing 70% of these funds and CEPROSAF the remaining 30%.

For more information, visit <http://projects.youthemploymentsummit.org/YES-Honduras> or contact YES-Honduras Coordinator Norma Elvira Carías via email, <normae@psinet.hn>

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3. Primary Research Project in Pakistan Underway

YES Pakistan, in partnership with the Punjab University's Social Work Department, is midway through a primary research project aimed at eliciting the employment realities facing Pakistani youth in an urban environment. The sample group is 100 households in a poor neighborhood of Lahore. YES Coordinator Mr. Ali Raza Khan reports the data collection stage is complete and the project is now in the data processing and analysis stage.

Mr. Khan believes the analysis from the research will be of great value.

"The findings of the survey will be very helpful for us to design viable and needs based youth employment projects. The objectives of the study are to determine the socio-economic profile & personal attributes of youth, to assess the magnitude of unemployment and underemployment, to explore factors influencing the employment status of Youth (social, cultural, political and economical), to study the effects of unemployment, to explore job preferences among youth, to record the views of youth regarding their future aspirations, and to explore what measures should be adopted by the public and private sectors to improve the present status of youth with regard to employment."

To read more about this project, please contact Mr. Ali Raza Khan, <aliaccessed@hotmail.com>, or visit the YES Pakistan website, <http://projects.youthemploymentsummit.org/YES-Pakistan>

4. Nationwide Training Workshop Series Launch in Australia

YES Australia lead agency, the International Young Professionals Foundation, and local partner Y-Biz Hothouse, announce a series of seven regional workshops in April, 2003. The National Workshop and Case Study Series will take place in seven Australian cities to coincide with Global Youth Service Day and Australia's National Youth Week, April 7-13, 2003. The workshops will:

- i) Recognize and promote enterprising young people in Australian communities.
- ii) Develop, catalyze and enhance enterprise skills and support networks amongst Australian young people to assist them in turning ideas into action.
- iii) Produce case studies of successful young Australian social, environmental and business entrepreneurs.

The workshops are funded by the Foundation for Young Australians and UNESCO Australia as a project of YES Australia. For more information visit YES Australia's website, and contact Cameron Neil <cameronneil@iypf.org> <http://projects.youthemploymentsummit.org/YES-Australia>

5. Indonesian YES 2002 Delegate Launches Twin Projects for Jobless and Street Youth

An English and Mandarin language program targeted at unemployed youth launched in February, 2003 in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia. Language courses are provided at a lower-than-market rate, subsidized by the Javanese church which also provides the venue for classes, Gereja Kristen Jawa. YES 2002 delegate and organizer of the program, Ms. Francisca Aldo Maharani says language skills are highly valued by employers.

"We chose English and Mandarin because the employment market here in Indonesia requests those languages as a necessity. And it will be easier for youth to enter the labor market if they can speak those languages fluently. Also, the cost of language courses generally is very expensive, and the government schools here don't provide those languages intensively. So if students like to learn English and Mandarin intensively, they have to pay a lot of extra money. Many youth can't pay language course fees, so by joining this language program, they can pay a much-reduced amount, because the church will partially subsidize the cost."

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Ms. Maharani's church has also opened a homeless shelter for street youth aged 12-18 which, besides keeping young adults off the streets, provides them with socialization skills and employment skills training. The shelter organizes work experience opportunities for homeless youth with local businesses. Ms. Maharani plans to extend the range of services provided by the shelter, which is funded by the Mitayani Foundation. "What I am thinking now, in addition to the Live-In Services, is to create opportunities for Street Youth to provide for their own future through self-employment activities. The idea is to make a Street Youth Home-based industry."

For more information please contact Ms. Francisca Aldo Maharani, Fransisca@si.id.sony.com.sg

6. YES Egypt Registers as Official NGO

The YES Egypt Network announces it has successfully registered itself as a legal entity. Its registered name is the Association of Sustainable Development, based in Alexandria, Egypt. YES Coordinator, Mr. Abdallah Sobeih expressed satisfaction and excitement after winning official registration. "This is wonderful news for the YES Egypt Network. It wasn't easy to be registered, but after six months of intense lobbying efforts with the Ministry of Social Affairs we are now able to present project proposals and organize national dialogues on a legally recognized platform. I'm very excited about the future."

Mr. Sobeih joined the YES Campaign Secretariat team in February, 2003 as the YES Regional Coordinator for North Africa and the Middle East.

YES Egypt is the second YES Network to declare its official status, joining YES Pakistan as the second local NGO to emerge from the YES Campaign. Visit the YES Egypt website to learn more and contact Abdallah Sobeih, <abdallah@youthemploymentsummit.org>, <http://projects.youthemploymentsummit.org/YES-Egypt>

7. Feedback from Hye-Jin Lee, YES 2002 delegate

"Now as for the feedback on YES....it seems like it was ages ago...I think overall the Summit achieved all its objectives and beyond. I left with the strong feeling that we all were there for a purpose, and to make a step forward towards better conditions for future youth. The summit itself, along with the participants made me realize that the voices of youth aren't as powerless as I had thought them to be. It was merely the fact that the youth don't realize that if they speak up, they will be heard, maybe not by a million people but there's always an audience if you work towards it. I feel that I have contributed to accomplishing something that has never been addressed as it was at the summit. And at a personal level, the summit has only confirmed my hope to possibly work in the area of social development/humanitarian aid as a career." Hye-Jin Lee, THIMUN Youth Network delegate.

8. Burundi Youth Benefit from YES 2002 Partnership with Dutch Companies

Youth in Reconstruction of World in Destruction (DRWD), the lead YES agency in Burundi, teamed up with Dutch YES 2002 delegate, Ms. Renate Schepen, from Foundation Zero-Kap, to fund a micro-credit scheme for Burundian families. 35 families received 100 Euros each to begin micro-enterprise activities in late 2002.

In addition, a shipment of school materials arrived in Burundi from Europe in late 2002. The shipment, consisting of basic classroom items such as notebooks and pens, was donated by HEMA, a Dutch department store, a leading pharmaceutical company, and Villa Zebra, a children's art museum.

Ms. Schepen plans to extend existing partnerships between Dutch private firms and youth groups in Burundi and other countries. "The only problem after securing the donated products was paying for the transport, as I did not find any company willing to pay shipment costs. I'm looking for a more structural way to do it, including approaching airline companies."

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Please contact Ms. Renate Schepen at Foundation Zero-Kap for more information, <renhert@planet.nl>

9. Russian Language Resources Available on YES Website

After a heroic translation effort by Mr. Nabi Ragimov, YES Azerbaijan, over the past five months, a number of excellent resources are now available in Russian. The YES Campaign Secretariat would like to express its heartfelt thanks to Mr. Ragimov for his very effective contribution. The following documents can be accessed in Russian as Word documents at the YES website:

Alexandria Declaration:

<http://www.youthemploymentsummit.org/summit/vfa.html>

Five Pathways to Action:

<http://www.youthemploymentsummit.org/campaign/cnetworks.html>

Collaborating Institutions:

<http://www.youthemploymentsummit.org/about/partners.html>

Campaign Committee:

<http://www.youthemploymentsummit.org/about/partners.html>

People Behind the Summit:

<http://www.youthemploymentsummit.org/about/summit.html>

10. YES Ghana Coordinator Elected to United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Youth Council

Emmanuel Edudzie, YES Ghana Coordinator was elected as the African representative to the UNEP Youth Advisory Council, now officially known as the "Tunza Youth Advisory Council." UNEP gives 12 young people (2 per region) the responsibility of representing youth in UNEP related inter-governmental and international environmental negotiations. The Advisors also advise UNEP and its regional offices on better ways of incorporating youth in UNEP's activities.

Other YES Global Alliance members present at the UNEP Youth Retreat include Tay Kudzo from Cote D'Ivoire, Lokwa Narcisse from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Amir Farmanesh from Iran and several members from YES Kenya.

Full reports of the UNEP Youth Retreat are available at,

www.unep.org/children_youth/gyr2003/gyr-news-update.htm

11. YES Kenya Strengthens Organizational Structure

The YES Kenya Network met with YES Youth Coordinator, Dumisani Nyoni, February 2, 2003 to elaborate on its national strategy and progress as a Network. Twenty five participants representing ten organizations focused on the need to strengthen the structure of YES-Kenya as well as outline some clear goals and targets, particularly the establishment of a National Steering Committee.

Representatives from GTZ Kenya, the Nation Newspaper and other key institutions and organizations were present for the meeting that lasted throughout the day. Dumisani Nyoni reports that "the energy, passion and commitment of YES Kenya is contagious. After spending some time working with the Network on programmatic details and putting together a workable approach to promoting youth employment in Kenya, including a strategy to partner with the new government, I am very excited about the possibilities that exist and I'm looking forward to interesting results over the coming year."

Dumisani was in Kenya to participate in the Governing Council session of the United Nations Environment Programme and the UNEP Youth Retreat.

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For updates on YES Kenya, go to <http://projects.youthemploymentsummit.org/YES-Kenya> or contact YES Kenya Coordinator Gathecha Kamau on yeskenya@37.com

12. Global Entrepreneurship Review Published for 2002

Read the fourth annual Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM), a unique resource published by a partnership between researchers at Babson College, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and the London Business School.

"GEM is a unique, unprecedented effort to describe and analyze entrepreneurial processes within a wide range of nations. By so doing, GEM focuses on one of the most fundamental forces driving and carrying economic change, one that has hitherto remained elusive for researchers and policy-makers due to lack of reliable, internationally comparable data. Even though many influential economists have, for well over a century, maintained that entrepreneurship is one of the most important dynamic forces shaping the economic landscape, the causes and impacts of the phenomenon are still only poorly understood. Consequently, policy-makers have lacked the means of shaping effective and appropriate policies to nurture this phenomenon for national economic benefit."

Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2002

<http://www.gemconsortium.org/>

13. YES Campaign A Popular Success at THIMUN Annual Session, The Hague

In late January, 2002, THIMUN delegates applauded a presentation of the YES Campaign by YES Executive Director, Ms. Poonam Ahluwalia. The presentation outlined the goals of the YES Campaign and detailed the achievements of YES Networks in many countries. Deputy Director-General of THIMUN, Mr. Adam Barth said the YES Campaign's participation at THIMUN 2003 was a great success.

"The presentation managed to address another principle issue left by the end of the conference: What has been happening since the Alexandria conference? The YES Networks are off to a great start, and it was inspiring to hear some of the initiatives that have already begun. We were pleased to see the enthusiasm of the delegates, which manifested itself in their signing up in the Youth Employment Policy Group, of the THIMUN Youth Network."

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

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

Mailing List Archive

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