

YES Insider # 7

April 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. UNIDO Hosts YES Campaign Committee Annual Meeting

In Vienna, Austria, April 8-9 2003, the YES Campaign Committee held its first meeting since the launch of the YES Campaign in Alexandria last September. The meeting's agenda included issues of strategy and operations for 2003. Host of the meeting, Sr. Carlos Magarinos, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), called on members of the YES Global Alliance to leverage all available resources to meet the challenge of the youth employment crisis.

"Now is our chance to build on the launch of this campaign. Many participants in the campaign are already reporting exciting results, but we must do more. All of us have a responsibility to be creative in our planning, to maximize what we have in our collective power to achieve," Sr. Magarinos told the meeting.

"UNIDO is committed to the YES Campaign, and I call on leaders at every level to contribute to meeting this challenge. We must seize this opportunity, for it may not come again."

Joining Executive Director, Ms. Poonam Ahluwalia at the meeting, other Campaign Committee members present included Sr. Jose Maria Figueres, Managing Director of the World Economic Forum and former president of Costa Rica, Ms. Hafsat Abiola, founder of the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy, Ms. Jennifer Corriero, founder of TakingITGlobal, Mrs. Sithsembiso Nyoni, Minister of Small Enterprise Development, Zimbabwe, and Ms. Janet Whitla, President of Education Development Center, Inc.

2. Renewable Energy Seed Grant Winners Announced

The YES Campaign is delighted to announce the five winners of the *YES Renewable Energy Fellowships 2003*. The *Fellowships*, being offered as part of a Global Environment Facility/World Bank grant, are designed to provide technical assistance and seed funding for promising small enterprises in the renewable energy sector. The Global Youth Action Network partnered with the YES Campaign in coordinating the application process.

The 2003 Renewable Energy Fellows are:

(1) Michelle Chawla, India

This application proposes to supply tribal village households and indigenous fisher-folk with solar lanterns and solar cookers, and to supply solar fruit dryers to the local orchard industry in Maharashtra State.

(2) Emmanuel Korbla Edudzie, Ghana

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This application intends to install micro-hydro power generating equipment in mountainous off-grid areas, and to train local youth in their operation.

(3) Levan Kobakhidze, Georgia

This application plans to sell portable photovoltaic (solar) panels to small businesses alongside a public awareness campaign about climate change and alternatives sources of energy.

(4) Jane Tawina Kopa, Malawi

This application plans to introduce wind powered technology to power a well pump to provide water for a community vegetable farm. Alongside will be a training program for rural youth in how to utilize alternative energy sources in other rural activities, and management skills to operate a commercial vegetable garden.

(5) Ursula Carrascal Vizarrata, Peru

This application foresees application of biomass gas power generation in semi-urban areas, and to introduce solar kitchens into areas of Peru with year-round radiation.

Read more about the YES Renewable Energy Fellowships at the YES website, www.yesweb.org/projects/renewable.html

3. Research Reports Commissioned in 10 Countries

The YES Campaign has commissioned Country Reports from ten YES Networks for presentation at the YES Regional Forum, Hyderabad, 14-18 December, 2003. Each report will present an overview of the youth employment scenario in each country, combining the latest available data with policy analysis. The purpose of these reports is to improve collective knowledge of the youth employment landscape in ten countries, and to contribute to the National Action Plans of YES Networks.

In the Philippines, the YES Network is collaborating with the International Labor Organization to prepare a national research paper for the National Convention on Youth Employment, to be held in June, 2003. YES Coordinator Catherine Kamping says the ILO is a key partner for the network. "The ILO funded report will provide most of the necessary research required for the YES Country Report to be presented in Hyderabad. We're expecting it to identify what youth need in the Philippines and lead to improvements in policy and programming. It'll be an important document for us."

4. Registration Open for Regional Forum in Hyderabad

The YES Hyderabad Network is delighted to open registration for the YES Regional Forum 2003. The Forum, kindly hosted by the Hon. Chandra Baba Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh State, will be held in Hyderabad, 14-18 December, 2003.

The Forum is a regional forum. Twenty-two south Asian countries are invited to attend in December, including four special invitees: Afghanistan, East Timor, Fiji and Iran. Country delegations will be a mix of youth leaders, government officials, NGO, business leaders and international institutions.

The online registration form includes a quick survey of applicants to help the YES Campaign improve the design and content of the campaign. The registration form is available at the YES website, <http://www.yesweb.org/hyderabad/register.html>

5. YES Regional Forum in the Indian Press

The YES Campaign's biggest event in 2003, the Regional Forum in Hyderabad in December, is beginning to attract national press in India. National dailies like the Hindu Times and the Times of India have already included pieces on the upcoming event, contributing to wider awareness and a sense of anticipation. Read the Hindu Times article at the following address,

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<http://www.hinduonnet.com/2003/03/24/stories/2003032403280400.htm>

6. YES Azerbaijan Launches Workshop Series

On January 21, 2003, the Azerbaijan Youth Employment & Training Center organized a workshop on "Transition from School to Work" for 50 school students in the northern region of Azerbaijan. The main topics were: career building, decision making procedures, leadership skills, role of the volunteerism and social activists, transition from school to universities and community colleges and job opportunities.

YES Azerbaijan Coordinator, Samir Tagiyev, says the response was excellent. "Most of the students are interested in YES activities. We gave them information about YES and the global campaign and the YES- Azerbaijan Country Network. At the end of the workshop we decided to organize monthly workshops for students in all regions of Azerbaijan, to offer skills training and promote the YES Campaign in Azerbaijan. During this week's training we came to the important conclusion that students at schools in Azerbaijan do not have access to career counselors. They receive no advice on choosing a career at all in school."

7. YES Benin Coordinates National Dialogue

March 22, 2003, Cotonou, Benin. The Network in Benin made a presentation of its National Action Plan to a gathering of government officials and NGOs, March 18 2003. The Plan steps out a process of national dialogue on youth employment issues with the aim of identifying a number of key policy interventions. The Coordinator of YES Benin, Mr. Honvou Toussaint, says he is pleased at the level of cooperation the network is seeing from government.

"The highlight since returning from Alexandria is the Government's decision to assign tasks to three Ministries to work on youth employment issues. I'm happy to note that YES-Benin has succeeded in establishing a working relationship with the Government. It has designated a number of Ministry representatives to work with YES-Benin. The Government was represented at the Summit in Alexandria by the Minister of Youth, who continues to support the work of YES-Benin."

8. YES Pakistan Designs Distinctive Logo

A graceful new logo combining the global YES design with the national flag of Pakistan is now on view at the YES Pakistan web page. YES Pakistan's efforts to strengthen focus on youth employment are now expressed through the global-national linkage of the new YES Pakistan logo. View it at, <http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Pakistan>

For information on the YES Campaign's policy for use of the official logo write to Mr. Fred Clark, Communications Manager, fred@yesweb.org

9. YES Somalia Initiates National Dialogue

The network in Somalia is based in Bosaso, in the northern Puntland region. Government authority is restricted to clan-based local areas such as Puntland, and travel and commerce between districts is often difficult. However, YES Somalia has begun its activities in March 2003 with the encouraging ability to draw participants from other regions into a national dialogue on youth development issues. Coordinator Faiza Abdi Noor reports attendance from all regions of Somalia at the March 15-17 YES Consultation and network launch.

"We hosted 62 participants, some coming from as far away as the southern Kenyan border region - which requires a long journey. Representatives from private businesses, local government, development agencies and a wide range of NGOs joined the YES dialogue, demonstrating our convening power. We have to build on this good start."

Visit the YES Somalia web page at, <http://projects.yesweb.org/YES-Somalia>

10. YES South Africa Wins two-year Grant

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The Youth Development Network (YDN), YES South Africa's lead agency, will implement a youth employment regional program in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) group of countries in 2003/4. The regional program, officially titled "YES Regional Support Plan ", is funded by the Government of the Netherlands.

The grant includes the following elements targeted at youth in the SADC region:

1. Generating a knowledge base of youth livelihoods in Southern Africa, focusing on primary research
2. Capacity building activities for young social entrepreneurs in Southern Africa
3. Intensive case study analysis of successful youth employment initiatives in Southern Africa
4. Entrepreneurship educational development, featuring a pilot scheme introducing entrepreneurship curricula into high schools, and development of education policy advocacy tools
5. Pilot a Mentoring Program, an initiative in partnership with private sector firms

The outcomes of the Dutch-funded grant will be presented at YES 2004 in Mexico. It is hoped the Southern African experience will serve as a regional model in the scaling up of the YES Campaign. A primary focus of the regional grant is to build the capacity of YES Networks in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) group of countries, comprised of fourteen southern African members.

The YES Insider will continue to bring you updates of the progress and highlights of this program. Also, check out the Youth Development Network website for updates,

<http://www.ydn.org.za/>

11. YES Swaziland to Open Youth Technology Center

A center equipped with 40 computers and Internet access will open in a rural Swaziland town in May, 2003. Swaziland Post and Telecommunications Corporation is sponsoring the project, proposed by YES SWAZILAND.

The center is designed to provide ICT training and a critical communications access point to rural youth. It is projected to train 1,000 young people in its first year in basic skills as the foundation for further IT education. To learn more about this project, contact Dlamini Sizwe, YES Coordinator in Swaziland. Email. revrobza@yahoo.com

Visit YES Swaziland's web page at,

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

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>](mailto:info@yesweb.org)
