



DECENT WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Youth Employment Network



Youth Employment Network (YEN) Newsletter, September 2003

Recent Activities

Revamped and Updated YEN website launched, 5 September, 2003

<http://www.ilo.org/yen>

The Site contains the following sections:

The global challenge: The social and economic implications of youth unemployment with current ILO statistics

YEN objectives: The history of the YEN and information on its aims and objectives

The Network: Those involved in the YEN, including youth organisations, and their roles

Lead Countries: A listing of countries who have stepped forward to champion the YEN and information on specific activities taking place in those countries.

Events calendar: A listing of Youth Employment events, both past historic and upcoming

Resources: Practical information on youth employment including, key documents relating to the ongoing political and technical activities of the YEN, public information and advocacy materials on the YEN, press releases, speeches and media coverage of the YEN and links to other useful resources.

Projects: A Sample of projects on Youth Employment that the YEN core partners are undertaking.

Best practice database. An interactive database and portal on Youth Employment built with the kind support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). We encourage you to sign up and input your examples of best practice on youth employment helping to build a

comprehensive information project database on youth employment.

We welcome any comments that you may have and any submissions for Events and Resources section of the site.



YEN highlighted in International Youth Day celebrations, August 12, 2003

The theme of this year's celebrations was **youth employment**. A major focus of the Day was on practical action to encourage the empowerment and participation of youth in the processes and decisions that affect their lives and give a clear message that unemployment is the problem, and youth are the solution.

In previous years the Day has focused on Sustainable Development (2002), and on HIV/AIDS (2001).

As well as the UN Secretary General delivering his [traditional message](#), the [YEN](#)

[Core Partners](#) and a number UN county offices used the Day to raise awareness about the challenge of youth employment and in particular highlight the work of the YEN:

The UN distributed the Secretary-General's statement to the press and to its field offices around the world as well as hosting a [web site](#) on the Day that suggested ways in which people could celebrate and offering a list of resources and useful links.

The World Bank used the occasion to highlight its role in the YEN as well its own activities on the issue of youth employment through a [major article](#) released by its media centre.

The ILO, as the Secretariat for the YEN, produced an [electronic information pack](#) in advance of the Day. This pack contains introductory information on the YEN, basic press materials and some of core documents relating to political activities of the YEN.

This pack enabled UN, World Bank and ILO regional and field offices to respond to or support any interest from the press or the public on the Day. This information is also providing offices with background to ongoing work of YEN allowing them to respond appropriately to requests for support from countries in the development of [National Action Plans on Youth Employment](#).

Country level activities on International Youth Day.

Indonesia

Indonesia chose International Youth Day 2003 to launch the [Indonesia Youth Employment Network. \(I-YEN\)](#)

I-YEN was officially launched in during ceremony in Jakarta by the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs before an audience which included members of the I-YEN, representatives of UNDP, World Bank and ILO, members of the Indonesian Youth Parliament, representatives from business, trade unions, community and youth organizations, and students from local high

schools. For more information on these activities please [click here](#).

Vietnam

International Youth Day activities in Vietnam included:

- An [article on Youth Employment](#) that the ILO Office in Hanoi published in the Vietnam Investment Review.
- A media campaign on youth employment being implemented by Vietnam TV (VTV) with support from ILO Hanoi. Including a live dialogue broadcast at prime time on the Day. Panellists included the Director of the ILO Hanoi office, the head of Viet Nam's Youth Committee and the Director of Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Department.
- A [joint UN agency press release](#) drafted by the UN Country Team working group on youth.

Tanzania

The Tanzania Youth Vision Association (TYVA) and Youth of United Nations Association (YUNA) organized an event on the Day, with ILO support. Activities running throughout the day included a youth rally (see photo below) and public dialogue on the challenges and opportunities that



globalization presents for youth employment.

At a public event attended by representatives from the Tanzanian government, the social partners, civil society and youth groups, UN specialised agencies and about 200 young

people, the Director of the ILO Dar-es-Salaam office delivered the Secretary-General's statement in his capacity as acting UN Resident Coordinator. The guest of honour, Hon. Prof. Kapuya, Minister for Labour and Youth Development made a key-note speech with other intervention being made by the ILO, representatives of youth groups and the social partners.

2nd Meeting of The Secretary-General's High Level Panel, June 30 – July 1, 2003

Building on the political success of the [UN General Assembly Resolution 57/165](#) on Promoting Youth Employment the objective of this meeting was to outline and agree on the [Next 5 Steps](#) in the implementation of the Youth Employment Network's strategy. ([Click here for the full meeting agenda](#))

The first session, in the afternoon of June 30, *Building on Achievements*, gave the Panel and other participants the opportunity to be updated on activities carried out over the past two years, and included progress reports on the political process since July 2001, catalysed by the Recommendations of the High Level Panel, youth organisations' activities to promote youth employment and on successful government policies for youth employment and new initiatives by pilot countries.

After an [introduction](#) by the **ILO Director General Juan Somavia**, the **Secretary-General** attended for one hour of this session during which time he heard a progress report of the work of his Network, which included interventions from High Level Panellists, government delegations and youth organisations. ([Click here for the full report](#)).

The Secretary General then responded and challenged the YEN "to move from the

excellent policy work that has been done to a new phase of action at the country level"

[Audio-clip of the Secretary-General's remarks](#)

The second session, in the morning of July 1, *Mapping an Action Plan*, focused on the strategy for the Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network, and on the role of the High Level Panel. This session discussed the [consolidated report](#) of the High Level Panels [Working Groups](#), and highlighted how these recommendations will be translated into the implementation of National Action Plans on youth employment.

Dr. Mamphela Ramphele, World Bank Managing Director attended this session,

supporting the YEN's shift from a policy-based phase to a more action-orientated phase.



During a luncheon on July 1, **Ms. Eveline Herfkens, the Director of the Millennium Development**

[Campaign](#), presented her views on the momentum needed to successfully implement the Millennium Development Goals, and on the role of youth employment in those goals.

The third session, *Actors and their Roles*, in the afternoon of July 1, was devoted to a discussion on the future role of the Network's different actors, including the High Level Panel, in the implementation of the next five steps and on the communications strategy required to give the HLP/YEN more visibility and impact.

Finally there was a session on the conclusions of the meeting and an agreement on next steps.

[Youth representatives](#) and other [partners](#) with practical experience on youth

employment were invited to all three sessions.

Le Quotidien, Senegal, August 13, 2003

Other news

As requested by the UN General Assembly in [UN Resolution 57/165](#) on Promoting Youth Employment, the UN Secretary-General has produced a report on the implementation of the resolution, including on the progress achieved by the Youth Employment Network. This report will be tabled at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly this Fall. [Full report.](#)

Media Sampler

Press from the 2nd Meeting of The Secretary-General's High Level Panel:

UN labour agency launches initiative to create a billion jobs for youth world-wide.
UN News Centre, 3 July 2003

One billion jobs.
The Vanguard, Lagos, Nigeria, 8 July 2003

ILO, UN, World Bank move to stem global unemployment
Business World, The Philippines, 7 July 2003

[Full Press Report](#)

Press from International Youth Day:

Indonesian Gov't Launches Youth Employment Network.
Asia Pulse, Indonesia, August 13 2003

Journée internationale des jeunes : Kofi Annan veut combattre leur chômage

Spotlight on Youth:

Raquel Cuentas from Peru is the President of the Instituto de Apoyo al Movimiento Autonomo de Mujeres Campesinas (IAMAMC), an organization that works with indigenous women assisting them in legal issues, productivity, entrepreneurship and women's rights. As a social worker and activist, she has worked for the Ministry of Health, NGOs and participated in national and international conferences. These include the XIX Annual Conference on Latin America organized by the Institute of Latin American Studies Student Association of the University of Texas, the Workshop on Gender organized by the World University Service of Canada, the Seminar on Culture and Globalization and the Virtual Forum on Rural Youth organized by the Latin American Network of Rural Youth. She was chosen to participate by the IDB in the Youth Leadership Seminar, from among a number of other youth in Peru.

U.N. chief calls for jobs for 74 million unemployed young people on International Youth Day
Chinapost, Tawian, August 13, 2003

Youth's Unemployment Global Problem - Kofi Annan
ARMINFO News, Yerevan, Armenia, August 11, 2003

[Full Press Report](#)

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We welcome both feedback and contributions. We would like to hear from you at monticone@ilo.org and encourage you to share this Newsletter with colleagues and friends.