



✓ *In Today's Bulletin:*

<u>KENYA</u> : Govt To Fund Program To Attract More Youth To Agribusiness	<u>AZERBAIJAIN</u> : Project On Eco-Tourism Held For Young People In Ganja
<u>MALAWI</u> : Malawi Youth Group In Clean-Up Campaign	<u>IRELAND</u> : Call For €30m To Tackle 20% Youth Jobless Rate
<u>NAMIBIA</u> : Deaf Youth Benefit From HIV And AIDS Training	<u>KOSOVO</u> : Empowering Youth Through The Dignity Of Work
<u>RWANDA</u> : Lawmakers Pin Ministers over Youth Unemployment	<u>LUXEMBOURG</u> : The Changing Face Of Youth In Luxembourg
<u>UGANDA</u> : Legislators Urge Govt To Tackle Youth Problems	<u>SLOVENIA</u> : Youth Warn Of Persisting Problems On Intl Day
<u>BAHAMAS</u> : RBC Sponsors \$10,000 To 2016 Biff Youth Film Workshop	<u>AUTRALIA</u> : Former Indigenous Youth Detainee Calls For Cultural Exchange
<u>BARBADOS</u> : Greater Focus Needed On Youth Issues	<u>FIJI</u> : Miss FNU's All About Youth Empowerment
<u>CANADA</u> : Canada Seeking Youth For Accessibility Forum	<u>NEW ZEALAND</u> : Maori Youth Set To Fill 60,000 Currently Vacant ICT Jobs By 2020
<u>DOMINICA</u> : National Youth Policy under Review	<u>SOLOMON ISLANDS</u> : Report Reveals Worrying Trend Amongst Youths
<u>JAMAICA</u> : Farm Up Pushing Youth Into Agriculture	<u>VANUATU</u> : Engaging Youth In Organic Farming
<u>BANGLADESH</u> : Ensure Youths' Participation In Policy making	
<u>CAMBODIA</u> : Students Need To Be Equipped With Both Soft And Hard Skills	
<u>INDIA</u> : Indian Youth Congress Launches Legal Aid Centre For Poor	
<u>OMAN</u> : HBT Conducts Event To Promote Entrepreneurship Among Youth	
<u>THAILAND</u> : Bosch Thailand, University Help Hilltribe Youth	



✓ *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2016*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
5 September 2016	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	Melaka, Malaysia
8 September 2016	International Youth Day	Melaka, Malaysia
15 September 2016	World Humanitarian Day	Melaka, Malaysia
21 September 2016	International Youth Forum	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ KENYA: GOVT TO FUND PROGRAM TO ATTRACT MORE YOUTH TO AGRIBUSINESS

Nairobi, 3 August 2016 - CABINET will reconvene on Thursday to decide on how to speed-up payment of debts owed to youth, women and disabled government suppliers after a special meeting chaired by President Uhuru Kenyatta on Monday.

The Cabinet received a report from Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich and also examined

proposals from all ministries on how to make the payments owed to the suppliers under the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO).

The program, initiated through President Kenyatta's directive in 2013, requires that 30 per cent of all government tenders be given to the youth, women and disabled.

In addition, the Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Willy Bett also presented proposals on how to attract more youth in agribusiness.

The government resolved to fund a program to get more youth involved in agricultural enterprise.

The topic of how to make agriculture more attractive to the youth will be one of the major discussions at the

5th Africa Green Revolution Forum that will be held in Nairobi in September.

The Africa Green Revolution Forum is the largest forum on agriculture in Africa and focuses on how to advance policies and secure investments in the agricultural sector.

[Daily Nation]

✓ MALAWI: MALAWI YOUTH GROUP IN CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

Lilongwe, 4 August 2016 - A BLANTYRE based youth group known as BYG has organised a campaign for young people from the city and surrounding areas to clean Blantyre market.

The event, according to the Chairman of the grouping Billy Makombola will take place this August 2016.

Makombola said the grouping is a not-for-profit youth group registered with

the registrar of youth organisations and they are working in several areas such as human rights, gender equality, environmental conservation, education and health.

Billy Makombola has confirmed of the exercise.

He said as a group their aim in cleaning the city's market is to complement government's efforts and the city of Blantyre in

making sure that the city is clean and green.

Speaking on the same, Publicity Secretary for the group Denilson Chimwala said this is a time young people in this country should wake up and break the silence by engaging themselves in volunteer work to help in developing their communities.

The event according to Chimwala has been fi-

nanced by the members through their monthly contributions and with help of one well-wisher who is also a trustee for the group.

Chimwala has since called on all young people from the city of Blantyre to join them on Saturday as they will be converging at Blantyre market. Kumbukan Namanja is the trustee of the grouping.

[Malawi 24]

✓ NAMIBIA: DEAF YOUTH BENEFIT FROM HIV AND AIDS TRAINING

Windhoek, 3 August 2016 - THE Namibian National Association of the Deaf (NNAD) held a five-day training course on HIV and AIDS and gender-based violence (GBV) for deaf children in the Ohangwena Region last week.

According to NNAD director Paul Nanyeni: "Deaf youth, especially those in the rural areas, are suffering in silence due to lack of resources and knowledge where to access the resources. Many are left behind in quality education due to lack of assistive materials and skilled teachers.

"They don't have access to information, as there are no sign-language materials and they are also excluded from the mainstream society in many instances due to the language barriers."

Some participants narrated the ordeals they have to deal with without support from professional assistance, such as social workers and psychologists, to ease their plight.

Nanyeni, who is a teacher by profession, says he is not convinced that the country has achieved inclusive education and insists on the empowerment of the deaf.

"I challenge you to take one deaf learner and take her to a well performing school. They will tell you, 'We are not ready for this type of learner.' What inclusivity is there then?" he asked.

He says deaf learners need quality education through well-trained teachers who can deliver education in Namibian sign language.

"The inclusive norm is that the deaf should be assisted by sign language interpreters, but at the moment we do not have those interpreters who are capable to handle the

increasing demand for their services.

"Deaf Education can be transformed by offering further training to existing teachers, equipping classes with modern equipment, such as fast internet, bigger screens, computers to make teaching and learning easier and connected," Nanyeni adds.

He says with the financial help of Sanlam Namibia they were able to involve a larger number of deaf youth than initially expected.



“A gathering of 38 young deaf, including some younger mothers and hostel matrons and caregivers,

learned the message through the beautiful Namibian sign language.

We challenge other corporate entities to follow follow suit and use their social responsibility

mandates to bring about change,” Nanyeni remarked.

[New Era]

✓ RWANDA: LAW MAKERS PIN MINISTERS OVER YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Kigali, 5 August 2016 - LAWMAKERS have accused four ministries handling youth-related activities of failure to come up with practical strategies to tackle unemployment.

During a parliament-government consultative meeting on youth empowerment strategies four cabinet ministers came under fire as the lawmakers pinned them for offering old presentations that have not responded to the growing problem of youth unemployment for the years.

The four ministers are Jean Philbert Nseingimana (Youth and ICT), Francois Kanimba (Trade and Industry), Judith Uwizeye (Public Service and Labor) and Dr Papias Musafiri (Education).

Opening the meeting, Donatille Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Lower House, said that youth empowerment must be the government's priority to ensure a brighter future for the country.

She called for concerted efforts in finding solutions to problems facing young people.

"The problem of unemployment among the youth concerns everyone.

The wellbeing of the youth and their good future is a responsibility for all of us.

Youths need to be

empowered with adequate skills for productive work," she said.

Young people aged between 16 and 28 years constitute over 28% of the 11.8 million Rwandan population and 78.7% are aged above 35 years.

Minister Uwizeye said that the National Employment Programme (NEP) has offered entrepreneurial skills to 10,699 people in two years through short courses but legislators questioned that number, calling it insignificant compared to over 200,000 unemployed young people.

MP Veneranda Nyirahirwa said ministers should have a clear picture of the unemployment rate, the reasons behind it and the progress report on finding solutions

"I have not heard about progress in finding employment and no data showing the root cause of the issue of unemployment.

We need to see your planning, implementation and evaluation on youth employment," MP Nyirahirwa challenged ministers.

Minister Nseingimana pointed out available opportunities including the country's growing economy, infrastructure development and government programmes aimed to poverty alleviation.

"Our country's economy is

growing fast and this is a good opportunity for the youth to get jobs or be self-employed in all sectors," he said.

Minister Kanimba talked of the business development fund (BDF) which helps the youth with collateral for bank loans. He said that over 6,000 projects have so far received the BDF funding to a tune of Rwf5 billion.

MP Theobald Mporanyi said the start-up capital for job creation is the problem among the youth and banks require a loan seeker to have some money in addition to BDF support.

"Creating a job requires knowledge and start-up capital.

Have you ever come together to try and solve this issue with each one of you offering solutions that would be used as a bridge to address youth unemployment?" he challenged the ministers.

Minister Musafiri said the government has put more emphasis on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in a bid to produce graduates with abilities to create jobs.

However, lawmakers challenged him saying that the quality of education is still low, leaving the gap for foreigners to dominate technical labour market while Rwandan graduates remain jobless.

Statistics indicate that unemployment rate among active youth (aged 16-30) stands at 3.3 per cent at the national level and 12 per cent in urban areas, while it stands at 13.5 per cent among university graduates.

The government targets to create 200,000 off-farm jobs every year by 2018 but the latest report indicated that only 146,000 off-farm jobs having been created in the country annually since 2011.

[Rwanda Focus]



✓ UGANDA: LEGISLATORS URGE GOVT TO TACKLE YOUTH PROBLEMS

Kampala, 4 August 2016 - YOUTH MPs have asked government to fast-track and effectively implement all the programmes that are aimed at solving youth unemployment.

Addressing journalists yesterday in recognition of the forth-coming International Youth Day celebrations and youth week activities, western and northern Uganda youth MPs said failure to do will only worsen the recurring youth unemployment problem.

Some of the projects the youth want fast-tracked and effectively implemented include the national youth service and internship programme, the green jobs project under the ministry of Gender and skilling Uganda programme.

"This should be incorporated with other interventions such as reducing the cost of executing business and access to financial services," said Mr Oscar Omony Otema, the northern youth MP.

The youth also want President Museveni to deliver on his promises of providing sanitary pads to primary school girls, especially in rural areas, and building a high altitude sports facility in Kapchorwa District.

"At least three out of 10 girls in Uganda drop out of school due to pregnancy-related issues and lack of sanitary towels to save them during menstrual periods.

We look forward to the

President fulfilling his pledge of providing the sanitary pads," Mr Otema said.

The youth day celebrations will be held on Friday in Kiboko District in West Nile at Charles Lwanga College under the theme: "The road to 2030: eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable production and consumption."

The western youth MP, Mr Mwine Mpaka, asked government to hasten the review of the national youth policy which has been under review for the last five years.

[The Monitor]

NEWS



✓ BAHAMAS: RBC SPONSORS \$10,000 TO 2016 BIFF YOUTH FILM WORKSHOP

Nassau, 11 August 2016 - "RBC ROYAL Bank is pleased to co-sponsor the 2016 Youth Film Workshop, (YFW) a program designed to introduce local students to the world of filmmaking," said Deborah Zonicle, Market Manager, Products, Marketing & Channels, RBC Royal Bank.

"We are proud to support BIFF's mission in raising awareness of the film industry, which is very important to our local economy.

It also gives young Bahamians access to expert knowledge on film making and cinematography from industry professionals from around the world"

Leslie Vander pool,

Founder, YFW, and Executive Director, The Bahamas International Film Festival, explained that this year's workshop will feature a three-week-long series of the pre, production and post film making tutorials.

Each session aims to further the knowledge and skill of amateur and novice filmmakers.

Every tutorial and discussion will be led by an industry professional, on topics such as; the history of filmmaking, selecting movie themes, film script writing, casting and character selection, the elements of cinematography and Film editing and presentation, thus giving attendees working insight and expertise.

Additionally, students will produce their own film throughout the duration of the program and the short films will be shown during the 2016 BIFF, December 5 – 8 in Harbour Island and December 8-11 in Nassau.

"The Bahamas International Film Festival believes in the importance of creating unique opportunities within our community, to promote education, which will translate in a better future for The Bahamas.

Through its youth programs and annual events, BIFF has not only expanded the film industry in our country, but it has also introduced The Islands of The Bahamas as a highly desirable location for cinema production and as a cultural destination", added Ms. Vander pool.

"We believe that our youth are indeed the future of The Bahamas.

What a wonderful opportunity to expose our students to new careers and opportunities in the film industry.

We congratulate The Bahamas International Film Festival for creating a unique platform for youth to express themselves through film creation and look forward to their perspectives and new films," concluded Mrs. Zonicle.

[thebahamasweekly.com]

✓ BARBADOS: GREATER FOCUS NEEDED ON YOUTH ISSUES

Bridgetown, 9 August 2016 - IT was back in 2012 that the current CARICOM Secretary-General re-affirmed his commitment to the region's youth.

Since then, the people of Barbados, and those in the region, have heard numerous Heads of Government, including Prime Minister Freundel Stuart, voicing their support and encouragement for the implementation of youth programmes and providing adequate spaces for the young people of the region.

These national leaders all say that the youth must thrive while becoming empowered socially, politically, and financially. Who would disagree?

As this writer traverses the

country, and particularly in the rural districts of St John, it is evident that there is a fairly high level of discontent among the youth.

Our young people have been robbed of several opportunities, particularly over the last five years.

While they are eager to become involved in several nation-building and personal development activities, the youth are frustrated due to a lack of genuine involvement at decision-making levels.

The disconnect between the youth and civic leaders is pronounced as drop-out rates continue to baffle programme managers in the areas of education, sports, and even community projects

The persistence of lawlessness has become both a rural and urban phenomenon, and persons in Barbados consistently say that they feel less safe today than a decade ago.

Parents, teachers, Government, and the private sector have all been challenged to commit greater efforts for helping to eliminate poverty and joblessness as a means of encouraging the youth into wholesome activities.

It is my contention that the key platform for this nation's social transformation must be built on prioritising our youth, within the scope of sustainable national development programmes. There should be greater focus on attracting

investments and finance, specifically with a vital commitment to create lots more jobs to make high unemployment among the youth a thing of the past.

Barbados' youth must get work.

Those young persons who have been feeling the pains of writing application after application without even getting acknowledgements must be given real chances.

New opportunities will surely enrich the lives of our young people.



In addition, the country has to take a firm grip on the services that are created to support our youth, while demonstrating the responsibility and goodwill necessary to have the youth involved in the decisions

that will have direct implications on their livelihoods. We have to find and/or develop avenues to utilise and maximise the skills that our youth possess.

In months to come, the fruits of our labour ought not to be in vain.

There should be no dejection for reinstating free education and giving the young people of this

country voice, visibility, and a chance to develop and succeed.

[Barbados Today]

✓ CANADA: CANADA SEEKING YOUTH FOR ACCESSIBILITY FORUM

Ottawa, 7 August 2016 - THE Government of Canada is looking for youth that understand disabilities and inclusion to take part in the National Youth Forum in Ottawa come November.

Canada's first Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, Carla Qualtrough, will host the event focusing on promoting accessibility and inclusion for people with

disabilities.

To participate you must be a Canadian citizen between 15 and 30 years of age with experience related to disabilities.

The deadline to apply is September 15, 2016. To apply visit here.

[VOCM]

✓ DOMINICA: NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY UNDER REVIEW

Roseau, 19 August 2016 - THE Ministry of Youth and the Youth Development Division met Wednesday, August 17th to officially launch the Dominica National Youth Policy Review.

At the launch, Youth Officer Gregory Riviere explained, "In April 2004, the current Youth Policy was tabled in Parliament.

Twelve years later, many of the people in the policy world would argue that that much of the content was outdated and required fresh ideas that would truly represent the youth of 2016 and beyond," Riviere said.

He continued, "Besides, we need a policy that can fall in line with the line with the sustainable development goals as articulated by the United Nations.

We need a policy that will be ready to inform a CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan 2017-2022.

"Most of all, we need a policy that is youth-driven; one that will allow the

young people of this country to reach their full potential so that they may contribute profoundly to the development of this lovely island."

Review notes that this policy will be a working document.

He explained that the policy came from a recommendation that youth work in Dominica should supplement the efforts of schools and formal trainings to prepare young people for their lives as adults.

The policy originated to cater for all young people including those out of school, the unemployed and underemployed, young women, urban and rural youth, youth with disabilities and uneducated youth.

Roach added that, "The aim of the National Youth Policy Review is to develop a new National Youth Policy that is evidence-based and fit for purpose in 2016 and beyond.

The process will also

include a review of the Youth Ministry's capacity, identification of gaps and recommendations for the establishment of necessary frameworks, systems and processes which will improve the administration, coordination and delivery of youth development services in Dominica."

Stakeholders at the launch included youth officers, youth organizations and Government officials.

President of the National Youth Council, Senator Jahisiah Benoit wants the new youth policy to be both effective and current.

He said, "Dominica can feel proud that we have implemented the major provisions of our existing youth policy. From this review, we want to see an upgrade in our approach to effective policy implementation."

He says a successful process will not just depend on Cabinet but the youth groups across the country who will "breathe life into this policy and make sure that it is something relevant

to our young persons."

Hon. Minister for Youth, Justina Charles was represented by the Minister for Information, Science, Telecommunications and Technology, Hon. Kelver Darroux.

He said, "Any review of any policy has to be practical. We can come up with nice terms and surveys but at the end of the day, the practicality of the policy, I believe, is most important."

Henry Charles is Consultant on the six month project, he highlighted the main aspects of the policy to stakeholders.

"UNESCO in 2014 described a youth policy as an overarching vision for youth programming and they say it is a multi-faceted instrument. It covers issues of education, economics, youth participation, culture, well-being, innovation," he listed.

[GIS Dominica]



✓ JAMAICA: FARM UP PUSHING YOUTH INTO AGRICULTURE

Kingston, 3 August 2016 - FARM Up Jamaica Limited (FUJL) has implemented a 'Young Soldiers for Food Security' (YSFS) programme aimed at encouraging more of the country's youth to get involved in agriculture.

Farm Up is a non-profit organisation, established in 2013 to assist local farmers in the cultivation of organic produce. It is comprised of Jamaicans living in the diaspora.

Executive Director of FUJL, Neil Curtis, said YSFS is a "deliberate push" to engage the youth in farming, after realising that the majority of the persons in the sector are over 50 years old.

"Students from several agriculture schools get the opportunity to gain practical farming experience by working on our organic farms every weekend, and this helps them to consider farming as an alternative career path," he explained.

Mr. Curtis, who was addressing a recent JIS Think Tank, said that in addition to the experience, the youngsters receive a stipend, transportation, room and boarding.

"We understand that farming is not the most attractive profession, so we do all that we can to encourage them and advise them to look beyond the dirt to see the unlimited potential and also for the growth in their country's economy," Mr Curtis said.

He explained that students who do well in the YSFS

programme are offered job placement at FUJL, with profit-sharing and entrepreneurship opportunities.

They are assigned one-acre farms, business plans, technical support and assistance in accessing markets.

"We are creating a generation of farmers, and these are students who will carry the torch and help safeguard food security," he noted.

Mr. Curtis said the project will help to ensure continuity in the sector.

"It will positively impact the aging farming communities while preparing them (the youth) to transition into Jamaica's next generation of environmentally conscious farmers," he said.

*[Jamaica
Information Service]*

NEWS



✓ BANGLADESH: ENSURE YOUTHS' PARTICIPATION IN POLICYMAKING

Dhaka, 5 August 2016 - YOUTHS of different educational institutions demanded that their participation in the government's policymaking process be ensured.

The state should provide opportunities to the youth to raise their voices on social and national issues and strengthen their leadership capacities, they told the

launch of a youth platform "Young Change Makers Coalition in Bangladesh," organised by 12 national and international rights groups in the capital's Cirdap auditorium Wednesday.

The 12 organisations are: Plan International Bangladesh, Youth for Change, Save the Children, SERAC Bangladesh, World Vision, Youth Alliance

International, Sightsavers, VSO International, ADD International Bangladesh, National Children Task Force, The Hunger Project, and SNV Netherlands Development Organisation.

"We demand that the government seriously consider us while formulating policies," said Faez Belal, a student of University of Liberal Arts

Bangladesh. Youths are the future leaders, so their voice should get priority in policymaking, said Education Minister Nurul Nahid, the chief guest.

[The Daily Star]

✓ CAMBODIA: STUDENTS NEED TO BE EQUIPPED WITH BOTH SOFT AND HARD SKILLS

Phnom Penh, 10 August - SOFT skills are very important and a part of building youth's capacity.

Youth should be equipped with these skills at the same time as they acquire hard skills, according to You Sokunpanha, president-elect of the Fulbright and Undergraduate State Alumni Association of Cambodia (FUSAAC).

At a press conference of the graduation ceremony of the Youth Management Training program last week organized by FUSAAC and life insurance company Prudential, Mr. Sokunpanha said that if youth do not have soft skills they will face problems in their work.

"Two doctors might be very experienced, but one might not know how to communicate, while the other doctor has good communication skills.

The doctor who has both soft and hard skills will have more success," Mr. Sokunpanha said as an example.

"If we have hard skills without soft skills our work will not be a success because people compete with each other," Mr. Sokunpanha said.

Soft skills are needed to communicate and collaborate with others. Cambodia is part of an economic community under

Asean, so if people really want their work to succeed they should build their capacity in soft skills.

Mr. Sokunpanha added that both skill types can help youth progress at work, but soft skills should come first.

Thirty students will be offered internships at Prudential to develop leadership, management, communication and sales/marketing skills for six months under the Youth Management Training program.

Thai Sievny, who recently finished a six-month internship with Prudential, said soft skills are acquired when you are working

directly with the community and people in society.

Mr. Sievny, 21, a student at the Institute of Foreign languages, said, "I think youth in Cambodia should build their soft skills first, because if they have both, they will be more confident and stronger."

He added that soft skills needed by youth include leadership, communication, and critical thinking to make the most of their experience.

[Khmer Times]

✓ INDIA: INDIAN YOUTH CONGRESS LAUNCHES LEGAL AID CENTRE FOR POOR

New Delhi, 7 August 2016 - A LEGAL aid centre, Adhikar, was launched today by the Indian Youth Congress to help the poor in need of legal help.

"Adhikar is a free initiative for the poor and needy of our society who cannot afford legal advice," the organisation said in a statement.

IYCs Legal Aid Clinic has formed a team of around 100 advocates and they will be providing free legal aid to those in need, it said.

The programme was chaired by Rajya Sabha MP K T S Tulsi, former cabinet minister and Lok Sabha member Salman Khurshid and IYC national in-charge Suraj MN Hegde.

A helpline number 01123329636 has also been launched for providing legal assistance over the phone. PTI AKV SMN

[India Today]



✓ OMAN: HBT CONDUCTS EVENT TO PROMOTE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG YOUTH

Muscat, 7 August 2016 - MORE than 100 participants from different backgrounds, including students, entrepreneurs and sales professionals, took part in an event organised by Hadhab Bowsher Trading and Contracting Co (HBT) aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship among the youth in the country.

HBT primarily sells products through Vantage International's portfolio in the country, mostly through direct sales channels.

Vantage International has a wide range of beauty and

healthcare products along with apparel in its portfolio and is sold under brands such as Kamiseta and M&Co.

Rupesh Yashvant, managing director, HBT, said, "We are honoured to organise this special event together with more than 300 Vantage independent distributors.

Our commitment is to actively promote the true value of entrepreneurship with every budding entrepreneur.

It is our humble task to provide practical

programmes, step-by-step assistance and business opportunists through Vantage products and services."

HBT has stated that it welcomes distributors of Vantage International who will be authorised to market the products through direct marketing.

Distributors or registered members will have the opportunity to earn profits through discounts, bonuses and other incentives.

HBT will provide the resources to start their own business with a small

capital.

Maria Josephine, head of operations, HBT's lifestyle division, said, "Vantage International defines business and lifestyle.

It offers innovative ways to build one's own network, providing quality business ventures, bringing together like-minded individuals, offering many unique benefits and promoting entrepreneurship."

[Muscat Daily]

✓ THAILAND: BOSCH THAILAND, UNIVERSITY HELP HILLTRIBE YOUTH

Bangkok, 6 August 2016 - BOSCH Thailand has taken an initiative to work closely with the fine arts faculty at Chiang Mai University to enhance vocational skills for hill-tribe students under the patronage of the Skills for Life Foundation.

To ensure project continuity, Bosch donated sets of tools to both the university and the foundation.

The idea was to train the trainers in which both volunteer students from the fine arts faculty and underprivileged youth from the foundation were trained in how to use the tools properly.

The workshop also incorporated product-design concepts and marketing lectures into the course.

This integrative approach was aimed to ensure marketability of future

products and allow young entrepreneurs to gain more confidence in business at a later stage.

Joseph Hong, managing director of Bosch in Thailand, commented on Bosch's furthering its support of the Chiang Mai-based Skills for Life Foundation: "We at Bosch remain firmly committed to doing everything we can to further the education and technical vocation training opportunities for deserving youngsters.

The continuity of the project was made possible with involvement of lecturers and volunteer students at the fine arts faculty who will pass on coaching skills to the next batch of students.

"As Bosch moves forward, there is a good chance for underprivileged students to become financially independent and help

support the continuity of this project."

[The Nation]



✓ AZERBAIJAIN: PROJECT ON ECO-TOURISM HELD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN GANJA

Baku, 1 August 2016 - GANJA's Hajikand has hosted the project 'Youth participation in development of ecological tourism'.

On July 24-29, 2016, the project called 'Youth participation in development of ecological tourism' was held in the area of Hajikand, in one of the most picturesque places of Azerbaijan, Ganja, which was elected the European Youth Capital for 2016.

The project was implemented by the Youth Tourism Public Union with

the financial support of the Youth Foundation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Chairman of the Youth Tourism Public Union Ulviyya Gahramanly expressed her views about the project and set her recommendations to young people in her opening speech.

The main purpose of the project was to enhance propaganda of eco-tourism and raise awareness in the sphere of environment.

The main importance of the

camp was the propaganda of the idea of preservation of environment and natural wealth for the future generations and advocating ecological enlightenment, education and humanist approach to nature.

As part of the project held in a specially arranged camp, the young people stayed in the residential tents, set in the open air and took part in theoretical and practical trainings on different spheres of tourism (especially, ecological tourism) held by environmental specialists.

During the eco-camps the participants also attended theoretical and practical classes about rules of setting a camp.

Such activities as horse-riding, archery, shooting, tracking, various sporting games, and extreme overnight stop were arranged for the young people as part of the project.

[News.Az]

✓ IRELAND: CALL FOR €30M TO TACKLE 20% YOUTH JOBLESS RATE

Dublin, 16 August 2016 - THE National Youth Council of Ireland has called for a €30 million package to tackle the high rate of youth unemployment after EU figures showed almost a fifth of young Irish people are not in education, work or training.

The NYCI, which represents youth organisations working with more than 380,000 young people nationwide, cited the latest data from the EU's statistics agency, Eurostat, which shows the percentage of young people in Ireland aged 20 to 24 who are exclusively in employment in 2015 has plummeted from 54.6% in 2006 to 37.8% last year.

The figures also show that the number of young people not in education, employment or training was almost a fifth at 19.7% compared to 11.9% in 2006.

As part of its pre-budget submission published

yesterday, the NYCI urged the Government to incentivise education, training and work experience for young people by reversing the cuts in payments to people on these schemes.

"While youth unemployment has declined from the crisis levels of the 2009 to 2013 period, the most recent figures indicate that we have almost 40,000 young people on the live register of whom 16,000 have been on the register for one year or more," NYCI deputy director, James Doorley, said. He called for a €30m investment in a new Youth Guarantee scheme to tackle the problem: "First, we are calling on the Government to review, reboot and invest in the Youth Guarantee.

In 2014, the government committed to the introduction of the guarantee of an education, training or work experience place for any young person

who is unemployed for four months or more. To date the implementation of this has been found wanting."

He said the money should be focused on the more than 16,000 young people on the live register for 12 months or more, and with the overall aim of getting the rate of youth unemployment down to 8-9% by the end of 2017.

He also called for a reverse in funding cuts for those on training and work experience.

"The training allowance for young people participating on VTOS, Youth reach, Community Training Centre Programmes and other SOLAS training has been reduced from €188 per week to €160 per week," he said.

"From January 2014, the payment to those participating on the Back to Education Allowance Programme has been cut to

€160 per week. Job Bridge interns who were on €100 prior to participation receive €152.50 per week while working between 35 to 40. As a first step to reversing all the welfare cuts on young people, we are proposing that those on education, training and work experience programmes currently on reduced rates should have their payments set at the minimum adult rate of €188 per week."

He said NYCI's proposals would reduce the rates of financial hardship facing young jobseekers and would also provide an additional incentive for them to participate in education, training and work experience opportunities.

"Without action and further investment it is unlikely that these numbers will reduce significantly," he said.

[Irish Examiner]



✓ KOSOVO: EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH THE DIGNITY OF WORK

Pristina, 11 August 2016 - AUGUST 12th marks the 16th celebration of International Youth Day, a milestone designed to shine a light on the needs of the more than 1.8 billion young people, as well as to generate calls to action.

According to the United Nations, a majority of the 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10 to 24 live in the 48 least developed countries in the world. Diseases such as HIV/AIDS only further confound the challenges affecting the youth population in developing countries, as well as a lack of economic opportunity for them and their parents.

Interconnected to the challenges facing youth today are practices such as child brides, sexual exploitation, and human-trafficking.

Celebrating International Youth Day means highlighting dynamics that reduce the aforementioned challenges, many of which relate to young persons' or their parents' ability to afford to stay in school, put food on the table, and secure adequate healthcare. While the challenges are significant, so are the opportunities to address them. **TO THE MARKET**

chooses to do so through the dignity of work. In some instances, to the market works directly with co-operatives employing young women in an effort to reduce their vulnerability to exploitation or expand their educational horizons.

For example, Flora Stationery, a to the market partner working in Kosovo, recognizes that some 40 percent of women are unemployed in Kosovo, yet a woman with a college degree is 28 times more likely to be gainfully employed.

In turn, Flora Stationery sells Kosovaren-designed paper products that fund college scholarships for the country's young women.

Moving west to Africa, two of to the market's partners, Mariemae and No. 41, have joined forces in Rwanda to empower young artisans (many of No. 41's artisans were orphaned by the Rwandan Genocide) by equipping the young artisans with business training from Marie Mae.

Skills include key fundamentals behind entrepreneurship, contract negotiations, and marketing.

In addition to enterprise

skills, No. 41 has sent more than 19 young, female artisans to college and is currently working to ensure free hot lunches for all school-aged children in their local community.

Focusing on the parents of youth has a meaningful impact as well, as economic empowerment (particularly for women in the developing world, who invest 90 cents to the dollar they earn in their community) can have a multi-generational ripple effect.

Some of our artisan co-op partners in Haiti, like Papillon and Vi Bella, explicitly say they are in the business of "orphan prevention," citing that if mothers are economically empowered, they are more likely to ensure their children remain in school, have enough food on the table, and gain access to critical medical care (all the major boxes checked).

The parents win, the youth win, but so does the broader community.

Job creation and sustainment can have a positive cultural effect, as well. The ability for parents, and particularly mothers, to earn an income through the

dignity of work creates role models for children (particularly girls) to emulate, a stark contrast to a life of exploitation.

For example, one of the market partner Sari Bari's first hires was a woman named Samiya (her name has been changed to protect her identity).

A survivor of human trafficking, Samiya is now Sari Bari's workshop manager and provides psycho-social support to Sari Bari's newest employees, many of which are also survivors.

Whether engaging youth or their parents with income generating opportunities, we recognize that neither is a silver bullet to addressing the challenges faced by so many young people this International Youth Day.

Yet, we believe facilitating market access for those in our artisan network is making the world a little better for them and their children and for these efforts, we choose to celebrate.

[Huffington Post]

✓ LUXEMBOURG: THE CHANGING FACE OF YOUTH IN LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg City, 11 August 2016 - THE proportion of under 25s living in Luxembourg is shrinking, new figures published to mark International Youth Day (August 12) have revealed.

According to Luxembourg data analysts STATEC, the

proportion of young people (aged 10 to 24) in the country's population fell from 29.4 percent in 2011 to 28.4 percent at the beginning of the year.

The shrinking effect was most marked in the proportion of international young people resident in the

country, which fell from 1.7 percent over five years (29 percent to 27.3 percent over the same period).

Last year alone, 3,493 foreign nationals' people aged under 25 left the country.

The study author does not propose reasons for the phenomenon but one can speculate that for the older people in the age bracket it may reflect a choice to study abroad or in their country of origin.



Equally, international young people may be driven to find work abroad if they do not possess the specific skillsets and languages demanded by the main employment sectors in Luxembourg.

Perhaps because of this mobility, Luxembourg's rate of youth unemployment is

among the lowest in Europe at 17.3 percent compared to the European average of 20.4 percent, the report said.

And it would seem that young people have little to complain about in Luxembourg, which counts the largest proportion of satisfied youngsters in Europe.

The report found that seven out of ten young people aged 16 to 24 were happy with their lives, seven out of ten were content with their financial situations and eight out of ten were satisfied with their personal relations.

In all areas, youth satisfaction levels in Luxembourg

were higher than their peers across Europe.

Furthermore over eight in ten 16 to 24-year-olds had felt happy in the past four weeks compared with seven out of ten young people across Europe.

[Luxemburger Wort]

✓ SLOVENIA: YOUTH WARN OF PERSISTING PROBLEMS ON INTL DAY

Ljubljana, 12 August 2016 - SEVERAL Slovenian organisations marked International Youth Day on Friday by pointing to the persisting problems of youth unemployment, precarious forms of jobs and lack of prospects for youths.

[STA - Slovenska Tiskovna Agencija]

NEWS



✓ AUSTRALIA: FORMER INDIGENOUS YOUTH DETAINEE CALLS FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Canberra, 28 August 2016 - AN Indigenous man who spent time in the Northern Territory's youth detention system as a teenager is concerned Australia does not know enough about Aboriginal culture and the nation's history.

Lance Corporal Colin Rogan Junior, a relation of Kenny Rogan who was seen in the ABC's Four Corners investigation into abuse at Don Dale, now works for the Australian Defence Force and owns two businesses.

LC Rogan said it was important for young Aboriginal people to get an education and a job, but he was concerned the dialogue around change in Australia was one-sided.

"It'd be good if the rest of Australia could be more involved with some of the great things happening in Aboriginal Australia, especially for them to see some of the kids out in the middle of the desert country and their culture and how they're living and what they're doing and all the great things they've got," he said.

LC Rogan attended the 50th anniversary of the Wave Hill walk-off at Kalkarindji, 800 kilometres south of Darwin. He said that was the perfect opportunity to learn more about the history of Australia's first peoples.

"We really need to start utilising events like that, I mean I don't think I saw any tour groups of school students there or any tour groups there at all," he said.

"I know it's a long way to come but if just a couple set something up and then they pass it on, then it sinks in a little bit with the kids in cities to see that these Aboriginal kids have actually got a lot out on there on country.

"If we have more of an exchange then non-Indigenous people might learn a few things and then that plants that seed within them and then it's also planting a seed with the Aboriginal kids and then the sharing grows from there." LC Rogan is a part of the North-West Mobile Force (NORFORCE), and went to Kalkarindji as a role model for young Gurindji men.

"It didn't really hit me until I was driving out there that only 50 years ago something massive happened there that shook Australia to its core, and echoed around the world," he said.

"Then 50 years later we were going back in, working for the government, and the military at that, and being paid because of what happened 50 years ago. "Now I want to build up confidence of the future younger generations, because if they too see the older group coming through that have potentially been through law and have a little bit of say within their own community and are doing well, then we will keep building that confidence." LC Rogan was concerned the lack of value placed on Aboriginal culture was not good for the next generations.

"I've seen certain locations that you know it's a lot of the elders taking the lead and the young'uns are falling off so maybe it's time they need to get back in before they do fall away." "There's stuff you pick up in your own community like

tracking, hunting and knowledge that you can pass on and by using certain individuals from certain communities then there's so much information there to be used.

"And it's two-way, we then learn skills that we can take into other jobs and keep building Australia as a whole, together." The Wave Hill walk-off anniversary event at Kalkarindji was organised by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

"You could just see the event organisers working with the locals and how smooth everything went because of that," LC Rogan said.

"It's funny how evolution works, the most adaptable will survive I mean you can't live here for 40 to 60 thousand years without being adaptable, and that's something we should all celebrate and embrace now."

[The Guardian]

✓ FIJI: MISS FNU'S ALL ABOUT YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Suva, 2 August 2016 - MISS Fiji National University, Rejieli Vueti, wants to use the Vodafone Hibiscus platform to advocate the importance of empowering and educating our youths.

The queen contestant said it was an honour to represent FNU at the 2016 Vodafone Hibiscus and advocate on

the importance of youths and the future.

"I can relate to the difference that happens in our lives as in many of the youths and I believe in young people that is why I have embraced this opportunity to make the difference," Ms Vueti said. "It can be a roller coaster of emotions with an unstable

sense of self-esteem, insecurity, loneliness and disguised vulnerability.

"We search for love but being young also carried endless possibilities, creativity, curiosity, energy, and impatience. I vowed at a young age to be difference and promised myself to change things for the younger generation."

She believes every young person deserves an opportunity to discover who they are and what they want to be.

[Fiji Sun Online]



✓ NEW ZEALAND: MAORI YOUTH SET TO FILL 60,000 CURRENTLY VACANT ICT JOBS BY 2020

Wellington, 15 August 2016 - HIGH Tech Youth, a New Zealand after-school cyber learning programs for young people in underserved communities, has set its sights on filling 60,000 currently vacant technology and ICT jobs by 2020.

The not-for-profit organisation is bringing together more than 70 schools, community groups and leaders from New Zealand technology firms to an Indigenous Innovation Hui (Maori Assembly) at the end of August in Auckland.

"Technology is shattering traditional economic norms, where before people made money through an individual competitive advantage, in the new digital world it is the willingness to share and collaborate that gives you the advantage," Sam Chapman, Chairperson of High Tech Youth, said.

"This way of thinking and doing is not unfamiliar to indigenous people. Technology and culture together have the potential to radically transform New Zealand's so-called underserved communities

for good".

High Tech Youth states that globally the ICT and technology sector has an appalling record for its lack of diversity and gender equity in its workforce.

"The facts are clear, only 1% of Maori are studying ICT at tertiary level, yet the technology export sector is worth over NZD 7 billion (USD 5.0 billion) to our country," Mike Usmar, the Chief Executive Officer of High Tech Youth, said.

"With just 2.5% of the Maori workforce employed

in the ICT sector, we have to ask ourselves why? And more importantly, what would New Zealand look like socially and economically, if the thousands of young people we see turning up each day at our High Tech Youth Studio's had the full backing to transform the future of this country the struggle with housing, health, unemployment, gone. High Tech Youth as a network recognises the goal of 60,000 ICT jobs filled is an ambitious task."

[Radio New Zealand]

✓ SOLOMON ISLAND: REPORT REVEALS WORRYING TREND AMONGST YOUTH

Honiara, 9 August 2016 - OVER three-quarters of young people in the Solomon Islands reported that their use of alcohol had caused relationship or social problems in the previous year, and around 60 percent of both males and females agreed "there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten", according to a new joint report by Save the Children and the Burnet Institute.

The startling findings are part of a first-of-its-kind study, funded by the Australian Government, investigating alcohol and other substance use, and related harms, in the Pacific nation.

The research comprised an expansive survey of 400 young people aged 15 to 24 from four different provinces of the Solomon Islands, as well as in-depth focus group sessions with young people and service providers.

Among the key findings: - 60 per cent of males and 59 percent of females agreed "there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten". Almost two-thirds reported consuming alcohol in the previous four weeks, while 58 per cent of drinkers said they'd become violent or aggressive during a drinking session in the past 12 months.

Respondents who drank store-bought alcohol reported drinking a median of 12 cans of store-bought beer in a typical session.

88 per cent of respondents admitted using betel nut in the previous four weeks.

"This report paints a concerning picture about gender-based violence and substance use among youth, which may be indicative of larger issues in the wider community.

It highlights the importance of intervening early with targeted education programs to prevent violence and harmful practices," Save the Children's Solomon Islands Country Director Shiv Nair said.

"The point of this study is not to criticise young people, but to find ways to reduce risky and often violent behavior, which can have a detrimental effect on their health and wellbeing, and that of those around them.

"The data collected is really helpful for organisations like Save the Children who are working to address many of the issues identified.

In particular, it shows the need for greater effort in creating education and employment opportunities for young people.

It also highlights how a failure to address these social and public health

challenges may impede economic development region."

Save the Children is also calling for the development of national guidelines for alcohol consumption, enhanced education of staff at relevant services and organisations, and increased investment in sexual health education and condom provision. "In order to really create change, many of these issues need to be addressed on a range of levels from a household and community level to provincial and federal governments, as well as across the Pacific," Mr Nair said.

"If we can influence young people at a time when they are most impressionable, we can have a really positive impact on their long term futures and communities across the Solomon Islands."

[Solomon Times Online]



✓ VANUATU: ENGAGING YOUTH IN ORGANIC FARMING

Port Vila, 10 August 2016 -

A TWO year project aimed at reviving organic agriculture in the Saivou District of Ra will be launched in Rakiraki next week on Wednesday 17th August at Nabalabala Village.

The Project Launch will be hosted by the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development.

With this “Farm to Table” project FRIEND will work with six villages in the Saivou District to promote Agriculture as a viable career option.

Farm to Table is about establishing systems where people can buy food directly from growers.

Farmers benefit by being able to reap more profit from their goods than they can earn at the market, and consumers enjoy knowing how their food is grown and delivered to their tables.

The focus on Organic Agriculture as the production method will also address climate change issues that sustain the health of soils, ecosystems and people.

Project interventions revive traditional methods of farming, harvesting, and storing food to ensure supply of healthy meals even during extreme climate conditions.

These traditional practices have sustained past generations before the advent of food processing, manufacturing, and trade.

The project will promote co benefits including improved livelihood though

value chain development and healthier food options.

The Farm to Table Project is funded by UN Sustainable Development Fund and works through SPC to engage youth in Fiji and Vanuatu in Organic Farming.

[The Jet Newspaper]

NEWS

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World Assembly of Youth
World Youth Complex
Jalan Lebu Ayer Keroh
Ayer Keroh 75450
Melaka, MALAYSIA

Phone: +606 2322711/1871
Fax: +606 2327271
E-mail: office@way.org.my
Website: <http://www.way.org.my>