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✓ **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JUNE 2016**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
5 June 2016	<b>World Environment Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
17 June 2016	<b>World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
20 June 2016	<b>World Refugee Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
26 June 2016	<b>International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
26–30 June 2016	<b>16th Melaka International Youth Dialogue</b>	Melaka, Malaysia



### ✓ BOTSWANA: ASSOCIATION EXTENDS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**Lerala, 5 May 2016** - TSWAPONG Regional Football Association recently extended its youth development to villages in Tswapong area where over 200 boys and girls from both primary schools and junior school attended.

In an interview, Tswapong Region Youth Development chairperson, Brown Kgobe said the main purpose of the initiative was to nurture and identify talented football

players at an early stage.

He said it was important to scout young players who can fit into the national team setup which is the under 15, 17 and 20.

Kgobe said the sessions were conducted by Stanley Mwanga and he was optimistic that with the vast football experience that he has, the children were in good hands.

He said the children learnt the right techniques and tactics to prepare them for professional career in football. He also said teachers and coaches were trained on how to work with young players.

Kgobe thanked young players for coming in large numbers and for their cooperation throughout the sessions. He also thanked the teachers for their support.

Kgobe further said Lerala is not the only village that would benefit from such development and next will be Moshopha village.

He said they intend to hold different under 15, 17 and 19 youth leagues in Tswapong area to continue with their initiative of youth development.

*[Botswana Daily News]*

### ✓ GAMBIA: EMPRETEC WOOS NBR YOUTH INTO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**Banjul, 3 May 2016** - BUDDING and potentials entrepreneurs in North Bank Region recently benefited from a six-day Entrepreneurship Training Workshop (ETW) to garner knowledge and skills on the day-to-day operation of businesses.

The training in Farafenni, North Bank Region was organised by the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), through the UNDP-supported EMPRETEC project.

Yusupha Keita, training manager at GIEPA, said the workshop was to inculcate

positive behavioural modification that could unleash the growth potential of entrepreneurs.

Since the commencement of the Emptretec project, 31 entrepreneur training workshops and agric business farmers' trainings were organised.

Deputy Governor of North Bank Region, Mustapha Saïdy, said the government and partners like the UNDP are committed to building the capacity of small businesses to boost economic growth.

Ousei Kwaku Agekum of EMPRETEC Foundation

of Ghana and the lead trainer said capacity development of entrepreneurs would allow economy growth, create employment and contributes to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

He expressed satisfaction on high level of women participation on taking entrepreneurship as a source of meeting household needs and maintenance of peace.

Mr Agekum lauded Vision 2020 roadmap in identifying and building the capacity of small businesses to boost economic growth and contribute to reduction of dependency syndrome.

Haruna Kuyateh, secretary to NBR EMPRETEC FAMILY FORUM, informed the participants of a six-month business advisory service provided to entrepreneurs.

The advisory service is to provide the much needed support on effective operationalisation of business to enhance income.

EMPRETEC Family Forum was established to support and bridge the gaps between service providers.

*[The Point]*

### ✓ KENYA: CONTRACTS WILL GO TO YOUTHS – KABOGO

**Nairobi, 3 May 2016** - KIAMBU Governor William Kabogo has said he will force contractors who get contracts to hire graduates of the county technical training programme.

"I will direct from today, and those who say I have made a roadside directive may take me wherever they want, [for] all contracts

being undertaken in the county, we must force the contractors to take up these people," he said. Kabogo spoke during the graduation ceremony at Kiambu Institute of Science and Technology.

More than 400 youth from Kiambu graduated after training in carpentry, masonry, electrical work, plumbing and roofing.

Kabogo said there is no way the county will give out contracts yet its skilled youth lack jobs.

"If there are laws to be amended, they must be rectified as we cannot be living in Kiambu and there are jobs being done and the youth of Kiambu are not involved," he said.

Kabogo said he has come under pressure for being strict. "If I'm not strict, we will not have a county. I'm not thinking about elections and I do not give a damn as I will make sure the youth are empowered," he said.



Sports and Youth Affairs executive Machel Waikenda said 1,000 young people have graduated from the programme started by the Youth department.

"The youth department started the technical skills training to help the youth get empowered.

Immediately after training

they are sensitised on Biashara Fund so they can start their own businesses," he said.

*[The Star, Kenya]*

### ✓ MALAWI: MALAWI YOUTH URGED TO INVEST TIME IN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

**Lilongwe, 6 May 2016 -** THE youth in Malawi have been tipped to establish businesses in software development through the use of the Heroku Platform as a solution to the high unemployment rate in the country.

Heroku is a cloud platform based on a managed container system, with integrated data services for running modern applications.

This comes at a time owners of the platform have

organised a workshop at the Polytechnic innovations hub on the 6th of May to orient the youth, entrepreneurs and software developers on how the platform can transform their lives.

The development comes against a background of the youth raising concern over the prevailing scarcity of jobs which critics have attributed to the rising crime rate.

Heroku platform's Architect told Capital FM that the platform provides an

opportunity to young Malawians to establish businesses without the need for huge financial capital.

David Baliles said: "The primary objective is to share some of the current possibilities, we want to simply expose people to what is possible now, how quickly can I begin, how inexpensively can I begin and what then can I do."

"The workshop is going to focus on first the sign up process, how quickly they can get started and the

second is how to develop it on a Keepod device." He added.

The initiative has been organised by the Heroku team in association with Malawi's Source IT Solutions. They are known for introducing Keepod devices to Malawi.

The computers will be used to demonstrate how individuals can develop applications using Keepod.

*[Capital Radio Malawi]*

### ✓ UGANDA: GOVERNMENT ADVISED ON YOUTH FUND

**Kampala, 10 May 2016 -** GOVERNMENT has been advised to embrace credit guarantees to curb the misuse and mismanagement of youth funds.

Mr David Sempala, the chief executive officer of Royal Way Media Limited, one of the leading marketing and advertising companies in Uganda, said credit assurances would compel recipients to work hard in order to refund the money.

On Tuesday, MPs approved Shs26 trillion Budgets for the 2016/2017 fiscal year where Shs138.25b is allocated to women and youth.

A credit guarantee represents a promise of full and timely debt service payment up to a fixed

amount.

Credit surety has incentives friendly to both guarantor and creditor as they require the guaranteed loan to be either collateral free or warranty-deficient.

"We have read stories where youth funds have been swindled by individuals. This is because they regard the funds as take-home donations.

Such challenges can be addressed by partnering with financial institutions to establish credit guarantees at district levels," Mr Sempala said.

Mr Sempala made the remarks while addressing the media about the forthcoming banking, financing and insurance annual expo scheduled for

May 25 to May 26 at Golf Course Hotel in Kampala.

*[The Monitor]*



### ✓ **BARBADOS: SUPPORT YOUTH INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE**

**Bridgetown, 9 May 2016** - CHIEF Executive Officer of the Barbados Agricultural Society (BAS), James Paul, wants to see more support given to those young men and women who partake in the Youth in Agriculture Programme.

He said that the objectives of the programme are absolutely integral to the future success of agriculture in this country.

These include: providing food for Barbadians, which is of a high quality and also at affordable prices; creating bonds within the farming community; and developing the skills of co-operation so that the concept of co-operatives may emerge.

Yesterday, Phase 9 of the programme, hosted by the Office of the Advisor on Poverty Eradication and the Millennium Development Goals, got underway at the Grazettes Community Centre, Grazettes, St. Michael.

“Do not belittle the programme; do not misunderstand what it is trying to do recognise that it is giving life coping skills, which are very important,” he stressed, while acknowledging that the

participants, ages 17 to 35, have indicated their interest in becoming employed in the field of agriculture.

He therefore encouraged them to embrace entrepreneurship. “See yourself as an employer or an investor, very often these programmes offer you the start towards doing so.

Recognise the opportunities available through this programme, to be able to develop and use it at the same it to provide yourself with an employment opportunity, which otherwise will not be available to you.

“Also, I try to encourage young people who enter agriculture programmes to continue their education.

Today, when you enter the agriculture field, you have to be able to measure, you have to be able to read, and very often these fundamental things we want to ignore are all part of the programme.”

Undene Whittaker, Advisor on Poverty Eradication and the Millennium Development Goals, said the programme ensures that the agriculture sector continues to be replete with skilled and knowledgeable

youth, who will carry on the noble industry in Barbados.

She further revealed that apart from the knowledge being impacted by officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, participants will gain significant life skills from experienced counsellors.

“They will utilise every opportunity to ensure that our participants are placed on a growth path that can only redound to their self-development.

A significant section of the Youth in Agriculture Programme speaks to the importance of mentoring the youth in areas such as anger management and conflict resolution.”

Giving insight into the work accomplished by the programme over the years, Whittaker revealed that participants have been harvesting and marketing the short-term crops they have planted.

She said that lettuce, eggplant, squash, Chinese cabbage, okras, hot and sweet peppers, have been sold at Carlton & A-One Supermarkets, Popular Supermarket, as well as small farmers and food vendors.

In addition, the programme has also become an outlet where students from the Samuel Jackman Polytechnic (SJPP) have been taught skills and techniques in both crop and animal management.

“The participants also travel to both Government and private farms across the island, so as to learn from other aspects of the industry,” she disclosed.

“We must continue to empower the youth in their quest to become the next generation of the nation’s farmers Greenhouse technologies, hydroponics, aquaponics, horticulture are skill sets which become part of the landscape for these youth.

We must seek ways and means of helping them cope with their many challenges.

*[Barbados Advocate]*

### ✓ **CANADA: CREATING JOBS AND INVESTMENT FOR CANADIAN YOUTH**

**Manitoba, 6 May 2016** - THE Honourable MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour today encouraged youth and employers to take advantage of Budget 2016 enhancements which will help young Canadians get the skills and experience

they need to transition to the workplace.

The Government of Canada is investing over \$165 million in the Youth Employment Strategy (YES) starting this year through Budget 2016.

The new investment will

help create thousands of new green jobs, more summer employment, participation in the Skills Link program and employment in the heritage sector.

The investments will help support young Canadians, including vulnerable youth,

such as Indigenous Canadians, immigrants, youth with disabilities, single parents, those who have not completed high school and others.



Investing in youth jobs and opportunities is part of the government's plan to help the middle class and those seeking to join it.

Minister Mihychuk made the announcement at The Barbara Mitchell Family Resource Centre in Winnipeg.

The Centre recently received over \$170,000 in Skills Link funding to help break down barriers to youth employment and provide needed training and job support.

Under this project, local youth will participate in a

10-week work placement to gain hands-on experience. Skills Link is part of the Youth Employment Strategy.

Each year, the government invests more than \$330 million in YES.

Today's announcement is on top of the previously announced \$339 million investment over three years under the Canada Summer Jobs program.

The government will nearly double the number of job opportunities supported by the program to 70,000.

Additionally, Budget 2016 announced the creation of the Prime Minister's Youth Advisory Council to provide advice on key issues such as employment and education, building stronger communities as well as climate change and clean growth.

Budget 2016 also announced \$105 million over five years, starting in 2016 – 17, and \$25 million per year thereafter in support youth service.

Finally, a new Expert Panel on Youth Employment will advise the government on

innovative ways to strengthen labour market outcomes and create employment opportunities for vulnerable youth.

"Investing in youth jobs is an investment in Canada's future. We want to help Canada's youth find jobs, and get the best start possible to their careers," said The Honourable MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour.

[Merco Press]

### ✓ JAMAICA: JAMAICA WORKING WITH IDB TO BOOST YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

**Kingston, 4 May 2016** - THE Government is seeking to strengthen its partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on programmes aimed at boosting employment and training for young people.

State Minister for Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Floyd Green, said the National Youth Service (NYS) is working with the IDB to develop a "comprehensive approach" to address youth unemployment through interventions such as apprenticeship and internship.

The initiative involves collaboration with Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ).

Mr. Green was speaking at the IDB's Public Lecture on the theme: 'The 4th Revolution – The Global Race to Reinvent the State', at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston, on Monday, May 2.

Mr. Green said the IDB has been a "fundamental partner" of the Government over the years, noting that the institution's support in various sectors has been pivotal in "advancing the

causes of the Jamaican people."

He said that the IDB has been a key partner in the establishment of Youth Information Centres (YICs) across the island.

The YICs provide space for young people to work in a comfortable, safe environment, and to readily access information on training, job opportunities, scholarships and student loans.

The facilities also provide avenues for youth counselling, youth

empowerment, family-life management, leadership training, as well as lifestyle and self-development.

"I...have to say thank you...to the IDB for all it has done for Jamaica, thus far...and for their continued support," Mr. Green said. "We look forward to the strengthening of our partnership, especially in the areas of education and youth," he added.

[Jamaica Gleaner]

### ✓ PANAMA: WORRYING EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

**Panama City, 4 May 2016** - NOWADAYS, some 250,000 young Panamanians neither work nor study, a worrying situation because three out of five job-seekers are between 15 and 29 years old according to recent statistics.

The data also indicate that

young people only get one of every 16 new jobs included in the national economy, as they are increasingly with less professional training to meet the requirements of the workplace.

Given the situation, parliamentarian Ivan Picota, from the Democratic

Revolutionary Party, is drafting a bill that seeks to create the Secretaria Nacional de la Juventud.

According to economist and professor Juan Jovane, this bill will have no effect because the State has enough agencies to handle this situation, and also that the solution is to allocate

resources to solve the problem or rather create a strategy to attract young people, because the problem partly may be the lack of opportunities.



Meanwhile, Picota, highlighted the need to create the Secretaria Nacional de la Juventud to combine all governmental currents and actions related to youth.

union leader Yadira Pino pointed out the need to pay more attention to this social phenomenon, since it generates various problems such as gangs, drugs and crime.

Olmedo Garcia, young people are not prepared or trained to meet the challenges of working life in Panama, as 58 percent of them are not motivated to keep on studying.

that annually more than 88,000 young people from 15 to 29 years old, finish some kind of training program, although 50 percent of students do not complete high school.

On this subject, teachers'

According to sociologist

Official statistics indicate

[Prensa Latina]

## ✓ TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: ARTISANS FOR CHANGE TARGETS YOUTHS

**Port of Spain, 14 May 2016** - FOUNDER of Poetic Vibes Arts Foundation, Rachael Collymore is hoping that the use of art and culture can bring about positive change in the youth of Trinidad and Tobago (TT).

Collymore was speaking on Monday at the launch of 'Artisans for Change TT Festival', at the National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS), Corner of Hart and Abercromby Street Port-of-Spain.

In collaboration with Population Services International (PSI) Caribbean and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Collymore said the programme will take the form of a fellowship for young creators to link various artforms with social issues.

"Our theme 'In us change must begin' is using the Arts to promote social change," Collymore said.

Population Services International (PSI) Marketing and Communication manger Kevon Foderingham said the programme will teach the youth about communication skills, how to deal with anger, how to

know violence and how to prevent violence in their lives.

"It was good to partner with the Poetic Vibes Foundation on this festival because they are also trying to transform youth, but through using Arts and Culture, to get the message out," he said. Also speaking at the launch, National Coordinator for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Omar Mohammed said their involvement is geared towards increasing the participation of young people in the arts in TT, but specifically to create some sort of positive social change "Culture is a huge part of what we do, and especially learning through the arts as part of our culture.

This is our drive to a more holistic education, we see this as a way to get successful artists in TT and hopefully allow them to impart what they have learnt to the younger artists," Mohammed said.

He said they are not targeting students who are doing arts in schools, but those who are doing Science, and studies on Humanity who wants to get involved in the arts.

"We want to show them you could do art in so many

different ways and they can all impart positively on society even if it is just communicating on an issue or helping people to understand a particular issue better or even to create a movement.

We are just trying to create a space where people can feel free and express themselves in a way that is positive and beneficial to society," he explained

[Trinidad News]





### ✓ BANGLADESH: YOUTH IN BANGLADESH STEP UP TO BETTER JOBS

**Dhaka, 8 May 2016** - CREATING more and better jobs is crucial to Bangladesh's economic development as 2.1 million youths enter the job market every year.

Both the local and global economies are shifting toward industry and services and demand for skilled manpower is on the rise.

Therefore, the government of Bangladesh has made workforce development a

priority through technical and vocational education training.

The Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP) help youths gain relevant skills to compete on the global job market. To that end, STEP supports public and private training institutions and provides modern equipment, teaching aids and learning materials to improve the quality of technical and vocation training in Bangladesh.

To meet market demand, polytechnic institutions have aligned their curricula to improve jobs opportunities for students.

STEP provides stipends to more than 100,000 poor youths in 93 polytechnics. Notably, universal stipend for girls in STEP-supported public and private polytechnic increased female enrolment from 10% to 15% of all students. And, for the first time, 9,000 informal workers received formal skills

certification through the Recognition of Prior Learning Program, which aims to increase their chances of finding better employment.

STEP also trained 1,200 teachers and filled 95% vacant teaching posts in polytechnic institutions.

*[World Bank Group]*

### ✓ NEPAL: YOUTH SPEAK FORUM TO FOCUS ON SDGS

**Kathmandu, 3 May 2016** - WORLD leaders, at the United Nations Sustainable Summit held in September 2015, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.

With the aim to raise awareness about the SDGs among Nepali Youth, AIESEC Kathmandu, is holding Youth Speak Forum (YSF) at the Trade Tower in Thapathali on May 21.

Sangita Tiwari of the organizing committee said,

"While most young people seem to have an opinion on issues like these, they don't have a suitable platform to discuss it in a constructive manner.

This forum will not only help them voice their challenges and share ideas to make their communities a better place to live in, but will also help them connect with likeminded people." She further added that the forum aims to create an environment where people from diverse backgrounds can generate ideas, share insights and gain new perspectives to create actionable outcomes to push the world forward.

YSF, which is being held

in Nepal for the second time, will revolve around the theme of SDGs this year, with particular focus on no poverty, gender equality, and quality education.

A press release states that YSF enables young people to voice their opinions and take action through workshops, group discussions, ideas sharing and practical learning along with fun and entertaining roll calls.

Key speakers at the forum this year include Takehiko Nakao, president of Asian Development Bank; Anuradha Koirala, president of Maiti Nepal, and a representative of United

Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat).

There will also be the presence of various experts from different organizations, celebrities and other national and international delegates.

Youth Speak Forum is a global youth movement powered by AIESEC, a non-governmental not-for-profit organization that provides young people with leadership development and cross-cultural global internship and volunteer exchange experiences across the globe.

*[Republica]*

### ✓ OMAN: BP OMAN CONDUCTS BAISA PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH

**Muscat, 10 May 2016** - TACKLING the need for greater financial awareness among Omani youth, BP Oman is conducting Baisa Programme for students of higher education across Oman.

Baisa Programme is one of the national initiatives

supported by BP Oman's Social Investment Programme and implemented by Youth Vision, an Omani institute centered on capability development, stated a press release.

Inspiring financial prudence and a greater understanding

of investments, Baisa Programme's workshops have to date reached over 400 students through events in Muscat, Buraimi, Nizwa, Ibri, Sur, Sohar, Salalah and Rustaq.

With the support of BP Oman's Social Investment Programme, Youth Vision's

most recent workshops were held at Salalah College of Technology, Salalah College of Applied Sciences and Dhofar University.



On Tuesday, a workshop will be held at ITRI College of Technology.

“Financial literacy should be a core value of our youth’s education, because as we all know, managing

finances in the modern world is an essential everyday task with a variety of significant impacts,” Shabib al Maamari, communications and external affairs manager at BP Oman was quoted as

saying in the release.

[Muscat Daily]

### ✓ PAKISTAN: PRESIDENT URGES YOUTH TO GET PREPARED FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES

**Islamabad, 12 May 2016** - PRESIDENT Mamnoon Hussain Wednesday said the country was making remarkable progress in all areas, with improved economy and urged the youth to get prepared for the challenges ahead.

Addressing the 15th Convocation of the Bahria University at the Convention Centre, the president said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be a game changer and usher in an era of progress and prosperity in the country.

He pointed that in the past corruption had eroded country's progress and created economic and social problems. However, he was optimistic that the country now had embarked on a positive trajectory and things were moving in the right direction.

The president asked the youth to cut off all social

contacts with the corrupt as they were the cause of all ills.

He said in this regard, everyone needed to discourage the corrupt elements while working with honesty, dedication and commitment to take the country forward.

He said earlier politics had dominance over economy, and it was thought that a country with stronger And more powerful.

However, over the past 35 to 40 years, this trend has changed and now it was the considered opinion that a country with stronger economy .

In this regard, he mentioned the Chinese economy, which in the past 35 years had brought about an economic revolution.

He said the CPEC was of vital importance and with its operationalisation hundreds and thousands of new

job opportunities would spring up, and Pakistan would become the centre of global trade.

He said a number of power projects too were under completion and with their start of production load shedding would end by year 2018.

He said that participation in the Convocation was a matter of pride for him and congratulated the students who had graduated.

He said the new students would be starting a new life that would bring in new challenges and opportunities.

He expressed the hope that with their good education they would be in a better position to move ahead in life.

He was also appreciative of the research and development of the Bahria University and said it was

preparing the new generation for future challenges.

He was also appreciative of the holding of the workshops, seminars, conferences and foreign visits by the University.

He also asked for capacity building of the teachers and said highly qualified staff could play a key role in imparting quality education.

Later, the president handed over degrees amongst the new graduates and presented awards and medals for outstanding performance.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Mohammad Zakaullah presented a shield to mark the event. Earlier, Rector Vice Admiral (R) Tanveer Faiz presented the annual record and highlighted various achievements of the Bahria University.

[The News International]

### ✓ PHILIPPINES: ADB CALLS FOR QUALITY JOBS FOR PH YOUTH

**Manila, 2 May 2016** - THE Philippines’ young population offers the country an opportunity to accelerate its economic growth, but the potential gains of the ‘demographic dividend’ risk being wasted unless government can encourage the creation of more quality jobs for youth, the Asian Development

Bank (ADB) said.

In a report, the Manila based multilateral lender said despite the historically low 5.8 percent unemployment rate in January this year, the jobless rate of young people aged 15 to 24 years old remains much higher at 14.4 percent.

The rate of underemployment is also high at 19.7 percent, it added.

ADB cited a survey that found Filipino college graduates took about a year to find work, and high school graduates took up to three years, which often leads them to acquire

low-quality jobs.

“Many drift into informal work, often part time and poorly paid, or remain unemployed.

One in four young people is neither working nor pursuing education or training,” the report said.



The lender noted the Philippines has a relatively young population, as half of all Filipinos last year were younger than 25 years, and the median age was estimated at 23.

“This offers an opportunity to raise potential economic growth, but the demographic dividend can be realized only if young people are employed in productive jobs,” it said.

ADB pointed out a number of factors that keep youth unemployment high.

“On the demand side, the number of jobs generated each year falls short of what is needed to both absorb new entrants into the labor force and the 2.5 million unemployed, half of them young people,” it said.

For instance, the lender noted that almost 80 percent of new jobs in the past six years have been generated by the service sector, particularly business process outsourcing, tourism, and the retail trade.

Meanwhile, industry contributed about 20 percent of the new jobs, while employment in agriculture declined overall.

ADB said stronger employment generation would require more broad-based growth driven by productivity gains across all sectors.

“Mismatched between the education and skills young people acquire and the needs of the labor market are a constraint,” it said.

The lender recommended improving the relevance and quality of technical and

vocational training programs and strengthening certification frameworks to help overcome the skill mismatches.

It further said that more programs are needed to provide employment services, such as career guidance and coaching for young people when they leave school.

For example, ADB cited the JobStart Philippines program of the government, which aims to provide a full range of employment services to help students who have at least completed high school become job ready and find decent employment.

“These services include life skills and technical training, career guidance, and on the job training or internship.

Other measures cover improving the quality of labor market databases to reduce job search costs and enable students and jobseekers to make more informed decisions,” it said.

The lender said the effective implementation of these initiatives would require strengthening the capacity of local government employment offices and boosting their budget resources.

Improving policies on the national apprenticeship program, temporary work agencies, and labor dispute resolution will also be needed to help young people gain longer-term and better paying jobs, rather than temporary ones, it concluded.

*[The Manila Times]*

NEWS



### ✓ AZERBAIJAN: NEW PROJECT ON REDUCING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT KICKED OFF

**Baku, 8 May 2016** - THE Azerbaijani Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population and United Nations Development Programme signed a document on new Economic Empowerment for Entrepreneurship and Employment project in Baku on April 28.

This is the next of the series of projects which implemented to facilitate integration of the young generation to the labor market.

The project was under-signed by Salim Muslumov, the Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population and Ghulam M. Isaczai, UNDP resident representative.

It is implemented jointly by the mentioned institutions with the support of USAID.

The total budget of the

project amounts to \$189,000.

Overall, 400 people will benefit from the project.

Economic Empowerment for Entrepreneurship and Employment project aims to support youth employment in Azerbaijan.

It is expected to contribute to further reduction of the unemployment rate and strengthen technology based small and medium enterprises in Azerbaijan.

Currently, the rate of unemployment stands slightly above 5 percent in Azerbaijan, while this figure is 10 percent among young generation, said Salim Muslumov during the signing ceremony of the project.

The Minister added that innovative approaches based on international

practice are applied during arranging active employment events directed at increasing employment rates among youth.

Moreover, the project will support application of the SYSLAB methodology in vocational training centers of Ganja and Masalli cities.

The concept known as "SYSLAB" (Systems Laboratory for Innovation and Employment) includes modern job-seeking methods, entrepreneurship, systematic business, person-to-person networking and office skills, etc.

SYSLAB International has been active in Azerbaijan since 2011 when the first center was inaugurated in Baku.

Within the framework of the project that implemented with the

support of UNDP and Norwegian SYSLAB Company, SYSLAM Training Centers were established in Baku, Sumgayit and Ganja.

In total, 452 young people attended the trainings held by these centers, and 358 or 80 percent of them were provided with relevant jobs in public and private sectors.

The focus group for SI Azerbaijan is unemployed persons with higher degrees in various fields which is important to the development of the country's economy.

In general, by reducing the unemployment, the agency helps to prevent brain drain.

[AzerNews]

### ✓ BULGARIA: PROJECT TO PROMOTE ACTIVITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

**Ruse, 13 May 2016** - BULGARIAN Economy Deputy Minister attended a discussion themed Entrepreneurship Challenges facing Young People, in the town of Ruse.

In her speech during the discussion she announced that the Ministry of Economy would promote innovation activities of young people in Bulgaria through Technostart project.

"This is a project focused entirely on supporting entrepreneurship in universities," the Ministry added.

In her words, the project is oriented towards students to

help them to start their own businesses by providing them, grants for the establishment of technology companies.

The project aims at young people with innovative and viable ideas to realise these ideas and promote their successes.

The project is financed from the budget of the Ministry of Economy and supports start-ups in industry and research and development.

Provided grants are amounting to 90% of the total financing, should not exceed BGN 19,800 for each approved business plan.

The remaining 10% should be provided by the candidates themselves.

"In March, this year completed the implementation of the contracts concluded with beneficiaries start-ups under the first Technostart project of the Ministry of Economy, announced in 2014.

The project funded the creation of 19 start-ups by Bulgarian students," the Deputy Minister said further.

[Focus News]



### ✓ **CYPRUS: FESTIVAL AIMS TO BRING CYPRUS YOUTH TOGETHER**

**Nicosia, 18 May 2016** - ON the occasion of the 'International Day of the Child, The festival 'Peace works', will be held on Saturday 14 May on the grounds in front of the 'Home for Cooperation' opposite Ledra Palace.

The event organised by the Home for Cooperation, UNFICYP, Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR), POST Research Institute, Education for a Culture of Peace (ECP), aims at bringing together children and youngsters from all over the island utilising a

variety of events including music, art and games.

Members of (ECP) said that the fact that children from all the communities in Cyprus would be interacting in the activities, it ensured the respect and dignity of each child irrespective of national, socio-economic, lingual or religious background.

The festival organisers believe that the lack of communication between the two communities is the cause for stereotyping, polarisation, alienation and the negative picture we

have of each other, something that inhibits interaction. They hope that the festival will work towards contributing a necessary backdrop for mutual interaction.

The on-going talks, do not address all the issues associated with the Cyprus problem said Eleni Kotziamani, a member of (ECP).

Thousands of children have grown up afraid of the other community, the future, and change. The ECP, as managed through its programmes and activities

to enable children and youngsters to overcome these issues.

The festival will feature a hip-hop programme and the children will play traditional games. Other activities include storytelling, art, and a children's photographic exhibition.

The festival will conclude with a 'Peace March' by parents and educationalists to both sides of Nicosia.

*[Cyprus Mail]*

### ✓ **ITALY: MELANOMA ON THE RISE AMONG ITALY YOUTH**

**Rome, 25 May 2016** - MELANOMA skin cancer is on the rise among young Italians, the Italian Association of Medical Oncology (AIOM) said Wednesday. In 2015, 20% of new diagnoses or 2,260 cases were made among patients aged 15-39, and

17% of melanoma patients hospitalized in 2001-2008 were aged 31-40.

The incidence of melanoma almost doubled in just over a decade, from under 6,000 new cases in 2004 to 11,300 diagnoses in 2015.

While some people are genetically prone to skin cancer, doctors stressed it's important for everyone to reduce risk by using adequate protection against UV light from the sun as well as lamps in tanning salons.

Prevention is also key, because melanoma is curable in over 90% of cases if caught early. Doctors recommend going to a qualified dermatologist for a skin check-up once a year.

*[ANSA registration]*

### ✓ **SWEDEN: LIGHT ON THE HORIZON FOR SWEDEN'S UNEMPLOYED YOUTH**

**Stockholm, 12 May 2016** - YOUTH unemployment is falling in Sweden, according to figures released on Thursday.

But the jobless rate is still rising steadily among foreign-born citizens.

The number of young people registered as unemployed in Sweden has fallen to 61,000 from 70,000 last year, Sweden's job centre Arbetsförmedlingen noted as it released its April figures.

"We're seeing that the labour market continues to

grow in a positive direction. This is reflected by rising employment and declining unemployment, particularly among young people," said chief analyst Mats Wadman in a statement.

Here's a number-crunching interlude for readers who enjoy their statistics: Overall unemployment fell to 7.5 percent in April (down by 0.2 percentage points in a year), while the rate among young people aged 18-24 was down to 11.6 percent.

Young women in the same age bracket, of whom 9.2 percent were out of a job,

performed the best, compared to their male peers at 13.8 percent.

But the situation for foreign-born citizens remains bleak. In just one year the number of unemployed born outside of Europe has risen by 16,000 people, many of whom have been without a job for a year or more, said Arbetsförmedlingen. "It shows that society as a whole has to continue the work to help newcomers in Sweden get faster access to the job market.

This group has a lot of expertise that is important to make use of, not least in

care and social services where the need for staff is huge," said Wadman.

Sweden's ruling Social Democrat-Green coalition has invested in a number of initiatives designed to help immigrants get jobs in the Nordic country, including state-subsidized internships and short-term contracts to help employers taking on foreign staff members.

The country also offers free Swedish for Immigrants classes for newcomers.

*[The Local.se]*



### ✓ AUSTRALIA: GOVT YOUTH JOBS PATH OFFERS OPPORTUNITY – NFP

**Canberra, 8 May 2016** - NOT for Profit peak body Jobs Australia has welcomed key changes to the employment services announced in the federal budget, including the move away from mandatory Work for the Dole in favour of voluntary participation in a program set in the everyday work environment.

However, Jobs Australia said: “Importantly, only the pre-employment training in the first stage of the Youth Jobs Path program would be mandatory, and internships in stage two would be voluntary for both the job seeker and the employer.”

Jobs Australia CEO David Thompson said the new Youth Jobs Path program provided job seekers under 25 years of age the opportunity to undertake pre-employment training that has been explicitly designed to meet employer needs, and internships consisting of 15 to 25 hours of work for up to 12 weeks.

“Given the risk of exploitation inherent in this program, it’s essential that any participant who feels uncomfortable with their placement can freely walk away, even if an internship is part of their Job Plan,” Thompson said.

“Under current Work for the Dole arrangements, job seekers are penalised for non-participation and can be left without any income support whatsoever.”

Thompson said that further safeguards and close monitoring would be required to ensure that employers did not misuse the program.

“Jobs Australia has been assured by department of employment officials that further safeguards will be included in the program guidelines, and that organisations like ours will be consulted,” Thompson said.

He said Jobs Australia would push for the program

to include additional safeguards such as: a ban on businesses accessing the program if they have recently downsized or laid-off staff close monitoring of job outcome data and discontinuing access if internships are not converting into real job opportunities compulsory work health and safety assessments for each placement random checks to ensure compliance with all program requirements. He said Jobs Australia would propose that internships should be

combined with formal training, and that participant hours should be capped to ensure that job seekers received at least the trainee wage.

“If people are doing real work in real jobs, then it’s only fair that they receive a payment that is equivalent to a real wage, regardless of whether that payment comes from the employer or comes from Centrelink,” he said.

On Friday, Jobs Minister Senator Michaelia Cash confirmed that the first stage of the new youth employment plan would be compulsory.

“The first stage (Prepare) of the Path, which consists of employability skills training, will be compulsory once a job seeker in jobactive aged 15 to 24 years has been in employment services for five months, unless extenuating circumstances exist.

This was clearly set out in the budget papers,” Senator Cash said.

“The employability skills training will ensure that job seekers are well-prepared to take advantage of the second and third stages of the Path, for which they become eligible after six months in employment services.”

*[Pro Bono Australia]*

### ✓ FIJI: WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

**Suva, 7 May 2016** - EIGHTEEN participants from nine Pacific Island countries are part of a four-day workshop that began in Suva yesterday to discuss improved employment opportunities for youths in the region.

Asian Development Bank principal social sector economist urban and public management Pacific Department, Andrew Parker, said the Pacific Youth Consultation Training workshop was hosted by ADB in partnership with the Pacific

Community (SPC) and the Pacific Youth Council.

"With the theme 'Improving Employment Opportunities for Youth in Fragile and/or Conflict-Affected Situations', we want to hear directly from the young people themselves about the situations in their own respective countries," Mr Parker said.

"We have two representatives from each of the nine countries and we want these young people to tell us what sort of challenges they face, what

do they know about the employment situation in their country, especially for young people, what they think we can do to address these and what our government and various sectors can also do.

"In the Pacific it is often hard to get real information and knowledge directly from the grassroots and from the countries themselves, the data are often incomplete so we really have to build up a picture.

"So we use data and as

much analysis as we can from Kiribati Children ‘Campaigners Network representative Rae Bainteiti said the workshop provided the platform to advance the establishment of a body similar to Fiji’s National Employment Centre.

*[The Fiji Times Online]*



### ✓ NEW ZEALAND: WORKSHOP TACKLES YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Wellington, 10 May 2016** -

THE first of three workshops aimed at lifting Gisborne youth employment was a success, say participants. The workshop focused on the perspectives of employers, education providers, government organisations and community organisations, around what barriers they thought existed between youth and employment and what skills young needed, or could foster to gain employment.

The idea is that the information from the three workshops will be used to create an action plan and the

Tairāwhiti Youth Employment Strategy.

The workshop was also about creating positive outcomes for young people across the education, training and employment pathways.

“In solving the issues around youth unemployment we are assisting employers and business owners to meet their labour and skill needs,” said Activate Tairāwhiti economic development project manager Kim Holland.

The workshops are funded through the Todd

Foundation and Work and Income New Zealand and are facilitated by Activate Tairāwhiti, using an independent contractor on behalf of other involved stakeholders, including Gisborne Social Sector Trial and Te Runanganui O Ngati Porou.

The next workshop, Rangatahi Futures, will take place on May 20 as a discussion between young people from throughout the community.

This is to gauge what they want and need and the barriers they are facing in gaining employment, said Ms Holland.

“Looking at what youth think from their perspective and facilitating that is important,” she said.

The third workshop next month will focus on key points from both workshops, to agree actions, to create pathways and opportunities for Tairāwhiti talent, to better connect our young people with the world of work and local employment opportunities.

“That is when the real plan will come together and we will be able to see everyone’s collective thoughts.”

*[Gisborne Herald]*

### ✓ TONGA: YOUNG TONGANS LACK MOTIVATION

**Nukualofa, 18 May 2016** -

A LACK of motivation and attention provided at home was one of the main reasons for school failure and widespread laziness among Tongan youth, believes a prominent youth leader and community social worker, Vanessa Heleta.

Vanessa runs the Talitha Project, a young women’s development organisation.

The Talitha Project provides social support, employment opportunities and workshops to single mums and children aged 10- 25 years.

However, Vanessa stated that one of the biggest challenges faced by her NGO was the lack of drive to succeed among many of its participants.

“Young people become lazy and dependent because they don’t get the support

and encouragement that they need at home they are scared to stand out of the crowd because people will try to cut them down.”

Vanessa said an example was one of her NGO’s past development projects, which was abandoned despite being donor funded and well planned.

“In 2010 we ran a scholarship program for 30 students starting from Class 6 up to Form 7.

The kids were identified from low-income families with single mothers or parents who could not afford to pay for schooling. We covered nearly all the schools in Tonga.”

“The scholarship included school fees for the whole of the year, three sets of school uniforms, school supplies, bus fares if they lived out of town yet only six of the kids

did well at school we had to stop the scholarship because it wasn’t working.”

Vanessa blamed the lack of drive among the children to succeed, citing failures at home.

“The parents at home don’t push them.

They don’t tell their kids to study hard, to be grateful and appreciative that you have people to pay for your education, to motivate them to succeed.

“Very important is the environment where you grow up. No matter how smart you are, if you grow up in an environment that does not motivate, you end up not going anywhere.

If you are not given motivation you are unlikely to succeed...it all comes from home.”

Vanessa also believed that students needed to be well supported and motivated at school, where young people spent most of their time.

“I think we should have two counsellors at school, one female and one male that the students can talk to.

If they can’t get good mentorship at home, then they can get it at school.

*[Matangi Tonga]*



### ✓ VANUATU: CELEBRATING YOUTH WEEK BY GIVING BACK

Port Vila, 25 May 2016 - IN celebration of Youth Week, Westlake Girls' High School and The Peace Foundation will host Youth Talk, an event showcasing youth speaking about how they have given back in some way.

The event is fitting because this year's Youth Week theme is "Giving back is giving forward".

Students from neighbouring schools have also been invited, and they'll be speaking on what contribution they've made on a local, national and global scale.

Some examples include fundraising for charities, volunteer work in the community, social action work in the Himalayas, and sailing to Vanuatu to help after cyclone Pam.

There will be interactive workshops after the presentations where the students discuss, brainstorm and design ways that they can continue to give back.

*[Māori Television]*

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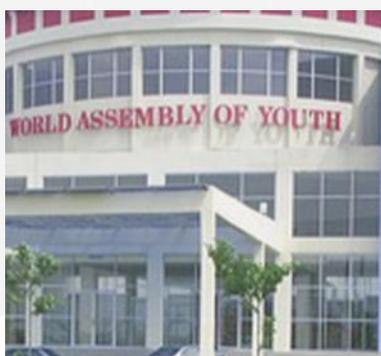
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