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AFRICA

AMERICA

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INFO

✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
5 September 2019	International Day of Charity	Melaka, Malaysia
8 September 2019	International Literacy Day	Melaka, Malaysia
15 September 2019	International Day of Democracy	Melaka, Malaysia
21 September 2019	International Day of Peace	Melaka, Malaysia
26 September 2019	International Day of Sign Language	Melaka, Malaysia
28 September 2019	International Translation Day	Melaka, Malaysia
30 September 2019	International Day of Sign Language	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ BOTSWANA: NEW HIV INFECTIONS REMAIN A CHALLENGE FOR YOUTH

Mmadinare, 13 August 2019 - THE First Lady, Ms Neo Masisi, has urged Mmadinare Senior Secondary School pupils to stay away from sexual relationships.

Ms Masisi told Mmadinare pupils on recently that relationships came with many challenges that young people were not ready to deal with.

Such challenges included sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) and teenage pregnancy.

Ms Masisi said the spread of HIV remained a challenge, which mostly affected young people.

She said 49 per cent of new infections had affected the youth aged between the ages of 15 and 24.

With 60 per cent of the

country's population comprising young people, she said it was worrisome to have 49 per cent of new infections affecting the youth.

She informed them that Anti Retro-viral drugs were costly hence the call for pupils to change their behaviour and focus on education.

She implored them to avoid having relationships with older people who enticed them with money and gifts.

"These people will shutter your dreams. You are a people of high value, have self-love and care. Be kind to yourselves and focus on education," Ms Masisi said.

The First Lady also encouraged pupils to make use of guidance and counselling services at the school.

As a UN AIDS Special Am-

bassador for the Empowerment and Engagement of young people, Ms Masisi informed them that she loved and cared about them, hence embarking on a road show to help young people make wise decisions.

"A decision made today may impact on your future." She said some young people used the social media platforms to insult elderly people, warning them that what they wrote on social media might impact on their future.

Therefore, she requested pupils to commit to end HIV and AIDS by 2030. She said 2030 was near and as such called on young people to instantly change their behaviour to achieve the targeted goal.

Pupils used this meeting as an opportunity to share their experiences.

Some vowed to change their behaviour.

The school head, Ms Josephine Madikwe, informed Ms Masisi that the school was grappling with teenage pregnancy, adding that 19 girls fell pregnant in 2017 whilst in 2017 and 2019 the school recorded 11 and five pregnancies respectively.

She said it was difficult for the school to investigate these pregnancies since girls did not open up to teachers.

"Due to pregnancies and other problems that girls face, girls end up missing lessons hence impacting negatively on their academic performances," she said.

[Botswana Daily News]

✓ MALAWI: YOUTH URGED TO SPEAK UP ON ISSUES

Lilongwe, 1 August 2019 - SOS Children's Village has called on young people to use youth clubs to voice out problems they are facing in their communities.

The organisation said this during a parliamentary session for youth at Chadza in Msozi South Constituency, Lilongwe.

Speaking with Malawi24, SOS children's village Field Officer Aaron Mtakati said that their objective is to teach the youth policy formation and legislative process of the country as well as to provide an opportunity to the youths to improve their public speaking skills.

Mtakati added that there hope that the youths would teach their colleagues how the parliamentary process works.

"This is our first parliamentary session with the youths, we have been conducting vocational trainings with them, some trainings on child protection in order to give them a hint of how they can identify things that affects their lives," he explained.

In his remarks, Youth Parliamentarian Representative Lonjezo Pakinena thanked SOS children's village for supporting the youths saying the program will be a bridge between the youths

and it will go a long way as far as youth empowerment is concerned.

On his part, Lilongwe District Youth Officer Joseph Dalitso welcomed the development and pledged to support the organization in any means. During the session, the youths who came from 10 clubs in the area, highlighted shortage of health personnel in hospital, shortage of boreholes, lack of awareness on family planning methods as some of the things that are affecting them.

SOS children's village is an organization which supports youth, children (streets

children) and the elderly. The organisation has been building houses for vulnerable people in different communities.

[Malawi24]



✓ MOROCCO: WHY THE WORLD NEEDS THE YOUTH REVOLUTION MORE THAN EVER

Rabat, 13 August 2019 - YOUNG people coming together in joint action have served as a major engine of social transformation throughout human history. At key moments, younger generations have repeatedly acted to overthrow and dismantle systems of

oppression, subordination and injustice. Today, youth-led collective action is proving decisive in combating global challenges. From fighting for the environment, to protecting and expanding the rights of women and girls, to demanding

economic justice, young people are at the forefront of change.

To ensure the aspirations of the next generation are met, the World Economic Forum founded the Global Shapers Community a network of inspiring innovators,

activists and entrepreneurs under the age of 30 who play a central role in creating lasting change in their communities and the world.

[World Economic Forum]

✓ NIGERIA: STAKEHOLDERS SEEK BETTER DEAL FOR EDUCATION

Abuja, 12 August 2019 - STAKEHOLDERS have called on the three tiers government to immediately reform public education to serve its function as bedrock of Nigeria's development.

Speaking at an event to mark the 2019 International

Youth Day in Abuja, the stakeholders, comprising civil societies and other players in the sector, called for the protection of the rights of youths.

Osai Ojigho of Amnesty International sought safeguard against violation of the rights of the youth to

freedom, empowerment and education.

Dedicating the event to those whose rights had been violated for speaking out against injustice, she reminded government that there were over 10 million out-of-school children across the federation.

The conflict in the North East, Ojigho pointed out, was an offshoot of government's failure to provide free and qualitative education for kids in the region.

[The Guardian]

✓ ZIMBABWE: YOUTH SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH STRATEGY A SUCCESS

Harare, 6 August 2019 - MULTIPLE complementary interventions scaled up at the national level in Zimbabwe results in improved sexual reproductive health outcomes for young people.

Zimbabwe's national adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) strategy successfully increased rates of HIV testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STI), while reducing the HIV prevalence trajectory for young people in the country over five years.

In an evaluation of their national programme implemented between 2010 and 2015, investigators report a 36.6% increase in HIV testing and a 30.4% increase in treatment of STIs among youth engaged in the entire five-year

programme. The HIV prevalence trajectory was also reduced by 0.7%, but the strategy did not have any significant impact on condom use or STI prevalence rates.

The 2005/2006 Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey (ZDHS) had highlighted poor reproductive health outcomes for young people in the country, with high rates of STIs, low uptake of HIV testing and high-risk sexual activity involving paid sex or sex with an older partner.

Alongside these were barriers to accessing youth-friendly services. The findings sparked the launch of the first ASRH strategy, running from 2010 to 2015.

Through a multi-sectoral

and participatory method involving young people at every stage, the strategy sought to challenge key barriers to sexual and reproductive health for youth in the region.

These included a lack of comprehensive social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) materials; lack of life skills education, inadequate ASRH outreach services and prohibitive transport costs to referral health facilities. Age of consent for HIV testing, poor awareness of ASRH issues among health staff, and no defined strategy for ASRH in the country were also challenges the strategy sought to address.

To analyse the success of the programme, the investigators evaluated the impact on condom use, STI

treatment, HIV testing, HIV prevalence and STI prevalence over the five years. They then disaggregated the data for gender, household wealth and geographic location.

They also looked at the effect of intensity of programmes. Manicaland province received the highest number of interventions and was used as the treatment group, which was then compared to Mashonaland East and Central provinces which received the least number of programmes and was used as the control.



The control consisted of the 25–29 years age group in 2010 that never benefitted from the strategy and were exposed to the business as usual sexual and reproductive health approach. By 2015, this cohort was aged 30–35 and were used as the post-strategy control group.

Significant increases in treatment for STIs and HIV testing were reported. At baseline, only 28.2% of STI infected young people sought treatment, which increased to 51.7% post-strategy.

The proportion of the targeted group who had ever tested for HIV before the strategy was 18.6%, which increase to 76.9% post-intervention.

While HIV prevalence had increased in both control and treatment groups pre- and post-strategy the rate of increase was smaller in the treatment group at a statistically significant 0.7% lower trajectory.

The strategy had a statistically insignificant increase in condom use over the five years, with the overall effect of the ASRH strategy on the treatment group increasing by 9.7%. STI prevalence also increased, but with no significant effect from the ASRH strategy.

In the subgroup analysis, of-note findings were that the ASRH program increased HIV testing for both males and females, but it was more pronounced in females.

HIV testing also went up significantly across wealth status and place of

residence but it was much higher in urban settings than in rural settings.

Further rural/urban divide was highlighted in that the fall in HIV prevalence was significant among urban youth, but there was no significant change among those in rural settings.

STI prevalence also increased among rural youth, with no significant change among urban youth.

The authors had hypothesised that more intensive programming would result in better health outcomes for young people and adolescents, but in their analysis of the Manicaland relative to Mashonaland provinces, they found no evidence of better outcomes for condom use, STI treatment, HIV testing and HIV prevalence.

These specific findings suggest that the key for improving health outcomes in this group lies not in allocating more resources, but in being more specific in the delivery approaches to target HIV hotspots and rural areas.

The fact that the strategy was successful in decreasing the HIV prevalence trajectory and increasing HIV testing, but it did not have any impact on condom use, suggests that other prevention methods were more successful for this group.

These included reducing risk behaviour such as extramarital, commercial and casual sex relationships and increasing comprehensive sexuality education, mass media, church-based prevention

activities and scale-up of HIV testing.

The authors noted that condom promotion was hampered by the fact that they could not distribute condoms to young people in schools by law which lessened the impact of sex education here.

“We recommend better design of interventions and alignment of the strategy to laws to reduce barriers of the strategy’s implementation,” commented the authors in their discussion.

“We also recommend better coordination of the various implementers to facilitate synergies to ensure better results of the strategy.”

[Avert]

NEWS



✓ BERMUDA: ARGUS DONATION TO YOUTH COUNSELLING PROJECT

Hamilton, 19 August 2019

- THE Argus Group has donated \$15,000 to Family Centre in support of its Youth Development Zone counselling programme.

The YDZ is a community initiative launched in 2011 that offers services to the youth population living in North East Hamilton. Family Centre provides YDZ with child and family counselling and, by end of last September, had worked with 77 families.

In addition to counselling, Family Centre helps to coordinate other services for

YDZ children and their families, including collaboration with Bermuda Police Service, Bermuda Economic Development Corporation, Bermuda Coalition, Workforce Development, Salvation Army, Mirrors, Team Street Safe and a local church representative. According to a press release, these efforts help to ensure that social services are more accessible to residents living in the North East Hamilton area.

Martha Dismont, executive director of Family Centre, stated: "I would like to thank Argus for being a

loyal supporter of the Family Centre year after year. For us to be accessible to the communities that we serve, we rely on generous donations from sponsors. Without them, we couldn't have the impact that we do."

Lauren Bell, executive vice-president of Life and Pensions at the Argus Group, and a member of the Argus Group's Charitable Donations Committee, stated: "Our core values include integrity, fairness, excellence, respect, professionalism and

teamwork.

We believe that it is only fair for everyone to have access to professional services like the counselling that Family Centre provides.

"Their YDZ programme involves teamwork with partners throughout the community to ensure families who otherwise would not have access to important services can do so.

[Royal Gazette]

✓ CANADA: ADDS 106,500 JOBS IN APRIL; YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT LOWEST SINCE 1976

Ottawa, 10 August 2019 - EMPLOYMENT in Canada rose by approximately 106,500 in April from March, with notable gains in part-time work for youth, according to seasonally adjusted numbers released today by Statistics Canada.

Canada added approximately 73,000 full-time jobs and 33,600 part-time jobs during April. Total employment exceeded 19.0 million, and the unemployment rate edged down to 5.7% from 5.8% in March.

Among youth aged 15 to 24, overall employment rose by 47,000 in April, driven by a 66,000 increase in part-time work. The youth unemployment rate was 10.3%, the lowest rate since comparable data became available in 1976.

Employment gains for all workers age 15 years and older were spread across several industries: wholesale and retail trade; construction; information, culture and recreation; "other services"; public administration; and

agriculture. At the same time, fewer people were employed in professional, scientific and technical services.

The services-producing sector saw employment increase by 66,900 in April, while jobs in the goods-producing increased by 39,700.

Employment in Ontario rose by 47,100 in April, primarily due to gains in part-time work among people aged 15 to 24.

Youth employment in the province has been trending upward since the beginning of 2019. The unemployment rate in the province edged up to 6.0% from 5.9%.

Employment also increased in Quebec, Alberta and Prince Edward Island; it declined in New Brunswick, and was little changed in the other provinces.

[Staffing Industry Analysts]

✓ GUYANA: YOUTH BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLIMATE AWARENESS

Georgetown, 1 August 2019 - A group of youngsters in the Caribbean who promote environmental protection in the region is on a drive to empower other youth to address some of the big issues facing their generation.

National Coordinator of Caribbean Youth Environment Network

(CYEN), Kiefer Jackson, says the organisation has been working to gather the youth perspective, build capacity at a grassroots level and fill the gaps that would have been missed by government initiatives or plans.

"The Ministry of Presidency's Office of Climate Change has

recognised the work being done by this chapter of CYEN and has asked us to join with them this year in facilitating their climate change awareness in schools around Guyana," Jackson told IPS.

"We believe this partnership to be one step in the direction of ensuring that young people play an active role in climate action and

ensure non-governmental organisation and government partnership for the betterment of our people."



As far as capacity is concerned, last year, CYEN was approved by YOUNGO, the Children and Youth constituency to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to undertake a Conference of Youth in the countries where CYEN operates. CYEN's website reflects a presence in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia, among others.

Jackson added that the activity was used to assist in further building the current participatory environmental awareness programmes for young citizens of Guyana.

"We have also been engaging in a series of panel discussions, in an effort to inform and educate young people on the Sustainable Development Goals," Jackson said.

"The last talk would have been on Goal 13 (Climate Action). Based on the feedback of these activities, we have recognised that young people in Guyana, have robust and innovative ideas and we have been working on creating a platform for them to showcase their ideas or projects that guarantee the strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change in Guyana."

In addition to facilitating larger scale education and awareness, Jackson believes more attention should be given to ensuring adequate and appropriate infrastructure and housing that can withstand, as far as possible, the perils of climate change.

Guyana is plagued by poorly-maintained drainage and sea defence infrastructure.

The low coastal plain which houses the capital Georgetown, and where a large percentage of the population resides, is below sea level and at high risk of flooding.

"With the effects of climate change becoming even more present through intensifying natural disasters, more should be done to prepare this region for what seems to be inevitable," Jackson said.

In addition to being prone to flooding, Guyana is also affected by drought.

[Stabroek News]

✓ JAMAICA: YOUTH TO BENEFIT FROM TRAINING TO BOOST EMPLOYMENT

Kingston, 20 August 2019 - YOUNG people in urban and rural communities across the island are to benefit from training and work experience facilitated under three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) signed by the Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica (CCCJ) and three private sector entities.

Aimed at strengthening opportunities for employment the MoUs were signed between the CCCJ and Jamaica Producers Group, Bureau of Standards Jamaica and Grace Kennedy Limited on Thursday (August 15) at the Terra Nova Hotel in St Andrew.

The initiative is part of the Advance Programme funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Under the programme, community colleges will benefit from support to offer two-to-three-year

technical degree programmes to disadvantaged youth as a viable path towards employment.

Areas of training include agri-business, the creative industries, and health and wellness and tourism.

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Pearnel Charles Jr, in welcoming the collaboration among the partners noted that the opportunities presented by the signing will not only enable numerous disadvantaged Jamaican youth to access higher education but also training in the workplace.

"The signing of the MoUs really represents the strategic collaboration between all of the stakeholders.

From here, what (the community colleges) are

supposed to be doing is going through the interviews based on those students, who have applied to identify persons who are going to be selected to advance towards the associates and bachelors [degree] programmes that they are offering in the specific categories," he said.

[Jamaica Observer]



✓ PERU: UNESCO'S MAB PROGRAMME TO ENGAGE YOUTH IN BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Lima, 27 August 2019 -

UNESCO's MAB Programme started with a project that is the first of its kind to actively engage youth in the MAB Programme and its biosphere reserves.

This project, funded by the Flemish government of Belgium, aims to improve the socio-economic development of young people living in biosphere reserves in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

The main objective of this project is to establish an overall framework to improve the socio-economic development of young people living in UNESCO biosphere reserves.

The project will work closely with the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean region to identify the main challenges they face.

However, the project is fully cognizant of regional, national and local differences, as well as the fact that youth is not a homogeneous group and includes differences in age, religion, gender and education, among others.

The overall framework should, therefore, be viewed as a guideline for use afterwards in other regions to help them identify and address their main challenges.

A call for 5 projects from different countries was made for young people and youth organizations of the Latin America and the

Caribbean (LAC) region, active in biosphere reserves. Otis Jeffers from Saint Mary's Biosphere Reserve in Saint Kitts & Nevis is one of the selected participants to implement his own youth project.

With 'Bee the Buzz of the Reserve', Otis will promote pollinators for crop production and various products of honey bees.

This activity will teach young people in a practical manner how to produce honey, wax and other bi-products by creating a demonstration unit.

It will contribute to the green economy by giving young people the opportunity to be entrepreneurs in bee-keeping, and will provide employment opportunities.

The other selected projects are:

Strengthening capacities to provide ecotourism services for young people in the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta Biosphere Reserve (Colombia).

Integral management of plastic waste generated on the banks of the Napo River through the strengthening of youth groups in the Limoncocha area of Yasuni Biosphere Reserve (Ecuador).

Creation of a radio program to promote effective communication of ecological initiatives and environmental activities oriented towards young people in the Huayabamba river basin (Gran Pajaten

BR - Peru).

The developed local and regional projects by the participants are linked to the core topics of UNESCO's Natural Science Sector. It is important to note that the selected projects are not only on youth, they are also led by young people.

[Devdiscourse]

NEWS



✓ MALAYSIA: GETTING YOUTH ENGAGED IN SOCIETY WILL BENEFIT ALL

Kuala Lumpur, 8 August 2019 - HALF of the world's population is under 30, and these youth comprise the most well-informed and connected generation.

Entering adulthood is never easy. For youth in Malaysia, the challenges are daunting.

But global youth also face unemployment, limited resources for education and training, and the world faces threats to global peace, security and stability.

To overcome these challenges, leaders must better understand, engage and empower youth as partners and future leaders in global development efforts.

By creating programmes and introducing youth to initiatives, it would offer an opportunity for them to engage in society and

reboot the pathways of civic participation, while helping them find new ways to channel their energies and ideas.

Making youth an agent of change requires their participation in society. Therefore, we need to highlight and encourage youth to engage in society and that they have a role to play.

From being aware of developments in the country to taking an interest in solving social issues, to a more active involvement in the nation's agenda, youth civic engagement implies options and possibilities that can be tailor-made to match individual needs, circumstances and aspirations.

The idea of the National

Youth Convention, an initiative by Yayasan Brigid Jingga, aims to address issues and create engagement between youth, leaders, decision-makers and influencers.

The idea is a first attempt at an umbrella framework to guide young people, and reaffirms the message that youth are "an essential asset worth investing in".

Within the strategy, the role of youth is included in the nation sustainability agenda via four pillars: entrepreneurship, employment, sports, and arts and culture.

The strategy aims to provide a blueprint for joint initiatives and implementation of practices.

Youth must acquire a role in

the global decision-making process.

Yayasan Brigid Jingga has set an ambitious goal, and it is up to us to work to make this vision a reality.

Yayasan Brigid Jingga is a non-profitable foundation set up to cater to youth in the red zone.

The foundation seeks to support the development and programmes for youth to engage and empower young people on issues, besides giving them the opportunity to share best practices, networking and learning through people-to-people exchanges.

[New Straits Times Online]

✓ NEPAL: AGRICULTURE SECTOR HAS FAILED TO ATTRACT YOUTH

Kathmandu, 12 August 2019 - AGRICULTURE Minister Chakrapani Khanal has said that the country's agriculture sector has failed to attract youth in the sector.

Addressing the Asian Agriculture Summit and Exhibition (AASE) 2019 today, Minister Khanal said that the skilled youth prefer to go abroad rather than working here.

"Failure to upgrade and commercialise the agriculture sector of the country has deterred the youths of the country from being involved in this sector," he said.

Stating that Nepal's agriculture sector is progressing at a snail's

pace, he said it was no wonder no youth wants to invest their time and money in the sector.

Citing examples of countries like India, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, the minister said that Nepal is still in infancy in terms of modernising the sector.

"But we plan to change this situation in the near future," said Minister Khanal, adding that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) has recently introduced 'Agriculture for Youth' programme.

Under the programme, the ministry will provide agriculture education,

training and a platform for the youth to commence their agriculture business. The government has allocated a total of Rs 500 million for 'Agriculture for Youth' programme for this fiscal. The five-year programme will benefit 500 youths from different districts in the first year.

After the candidates are selected, the ministry will provide them with at least three months of skill training and technical knowledge.

The youths will be given training based on their interest and sent to related agricultural farms, zones and super-zones for practical knowledge. They will then have to frame business plans of their own

area of work.

The programme will be a platform for youths in the learning phase and also those who are already skilled in technical sectors, as per MoALD.

The three-day AASE 2019 is being organised by 4-H Nepal an agriculture-related NGO and supported by MoALD and Ministry of Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives of Province 3.

The event that is concluding on Tuesday is being participated by around 100 participants from Nepal, India, China, Indonesia, among others.

[Himalayan Times]



✓ PAKISTAN: YOUTH ROLE IMPORTANT IN NEW PAKISTAN: CM

Lahore, 11 August 2019 - PUNJAB Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, in his message on the International Youth Day, said the youth had an important role to play in the New Pakistan.

He said the country's major portion was consisted of youth and the PTI would empower them in real sense.

He said Pakistani youth were talented and they had proved their mettle on

several occasions.

The nation has many expectations from them.

He said the objectives of New Pakistan would be achieved by providing them

with opportunities and empowerment.

[UrduPoint News]

✓ SINGAPORE: YOUNG PEOPLE GET SAY IN SHAPING SOMERSET YOUTH HUB

Singapore city, 4 August 2019 - CO-WORKING spaces, car-free days and zones where local entrepreneurs can set up shop.

These were among the suggestions from young people as to how they would like to see the Somerset area spruced up to attract other young Singaporeans.

Thirty-six young people took part in a discussion yesterday about how to improve the "Somerset Belt", after the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) earmarked it as a hub for youth-oriented organisations, businesses and service providers earlier this year.

The MCCY has already communicated with about 14,000 young people to find out what they would like to see in the area - which spans the stretch from *Scape to the junction of Somerset and Killiney roads.

The ministry surveyed and pulled together comments from online conversations, polls and face-to-face sessions held in May and June.

Research so far has shown that young people - defined

by the MCCY as those between 15 and 35 years old - appreciate touches of local culture and heritage in the Somerset area, such as its shop houses and the traditional ice cream carts that operate there.

"Youth appreciate what (the) existing spaces represent and mean to users today, but also hope that they can cater to other youth interests," the ministry said.

More detailed ideas for the area will be developed and showcased in the coming months. A public vote for a master plan for the Somerset Belt will be held in November.

Mr Baey Yam Keng, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Culture, Community and Youth, said that funding will depend on the ideas selected.

He added that the ministry is not averse to reviewing rules and regulations "to make things even more flexible for our young people".

Mr Baey hopes that the process of rejuvenating Somerset and, by extension, Orchard Road, will help the Government understand how to create solutions with the public.

He said the Somerset Belt

project has brought together young people, the Government and the private sector to "tap the richness and diversity of views around us... to help us illustrate a new model of working together with different segments of society (that have) different expertise".

The ministry has convened a working panel comprising company leaders such as Ms Dione Song, chief commercial officer of e-commerce retailer Love, Bonito; Mr Kent Teo, founder and chief executive of events company Invade; and Mr Den Sabari, project director at events company LalooLalang.

University of Manchester architecture undergraduate Jamie Loh, 22, who took part in the discussion, hopes the Somerset Belt will accommodate a wide spectrum of youth interests, from music to sport.

She added that the area should be flexible and able to "change according to needs".

[The Straits Times]



✓ QATAR: WORKSHOP EQUIPS QATARI YOUTH FOR UN CONFERENCE

Doha, 5 August 2019 - TO better equip the young Qatari delegates taking part in the upcoming 24th session of The Youth Assembly, a United Nations-supported global leadership conference that will be held in Washington, DC, this month, the Dean of Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), Dr Ahmed Dallal, gave participants a masterclass in global diplomacy.

The workshop, titled *The Role of Education in Advancing The SDGs: The View from Qatar*, welcomed members of the 24-student delegation for an on-campus training session that covered many of the topics the students will be working on in the conference. It was organised by GU-Q graduate and the first-ever Qatari Youth Assembly Ambassador, Dana Khalid Al Anzy (GU-Q'17).

“At Georgetown, we seek to support innovative activities organized by our graduates, like Dana Al Anzy, who has worked tirelessly to connect Qatari students with opportunities for developing skills in public diplomacy and personal development,” said Dean Dallal.

The dean also stressed the importance of Qataris engaging in public governance on a global scale. “It was a pleasure working with these remarkable emerging leaders, Qatari youth who have an important role to play in informing the public’s understanding of domestic and international issues, and who seek solutions to the vital challenges facing their world today.”

The workshop curriculum explored the links between the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and the Qatar National Vision, and included topics in human development, peace and security, education, the environment, and the steps needed to build a knowledge society.

The workshop also focused on the Qatari perspective on education and cultural heritage, and the impact of cultural diplomacy.

For Dana, Georgetown’s support has been critical to her work and the UN’s youth engagement mission. “Whether offering a venue for delegate recruitment, organizing orientation sessions, or helping connect us to incredible resources on Georgetown’s main campus, GU-Q has supported my Ambassadorship role and efforts every step of the way.”

While in Washington for the conference, which convenes under the theme “New Horizons for Global Youth” August 8-10, the youth delegation will also meet with key figures from Georgetown’s Institute for the Study of Diplomacy (ISD), including ISD Director, Distinguished Professor, and former US Ambassador to Yemen, H. E. Barbara Bodine, and ISD Director of Studies, James SeEVERS.

The Youth Assembly is a platform of the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation (FAF), a nonprofit organization based in the United States and officially affiliated with United Nations Department of Global Communications (UNDGC), holding Special

Consultative Status with ECOSOC and Unesco.

[The Peninsula Qatar]





✓ AZERBAIJAIN: UNESCO'S MAB PROGRAMME TO ENGAGE YOUTH IN BIO SPHERE

Baku, 13 August 2019 - A youth project that is implemented by the Public Association "Supporting Youth Solidarity".

"The fair took place on April 12-13 and it is obvious that it aroused great interest among young people.

Through such events, young people are given a real opportunity to get the necessary and interesting information related to employment," Babayeva said.

The youth project, as part of which the fair was held, is aimed at enhancing the role of the tourism sector in improving the business environment in Azerbaijan, she added.

The fair was held on April 12-13 in the Agro Mall shopping center with the participation of representatives of the Confederation of Entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan, Baku Textile Factory, as well as employees of many travel and consulting companies.

[AzerNews]

She noted that the two-day event was held as part of a

✓ BELGIUM: YOUTH FOR CLIMATE LAUNCHES PLATFORM TO GATHER CITIZEN IDEAS

City of Brussels, 23 August 2019 - THE movement at the root of the so-called pro-climate "school strikes", Youth for Climate, is launching an online platform, intended for compiling citizen ideas to limit global warming.

The solutions proposed will be submitted to the authorities, "the idleness" of which youngsters are denouncing every week in the streets.

Flowing from the demonstration this Thursday, the fourth organised in Brussels by Youth For Climate, the collective has unveiled its new platform. "We will continue our demonstrations until we are sure that we have been heard.

However, we also wish to give people who are not (yet) engaging in climate initiatives, the opportunity to make their voice heard," indicates the collective.

"It is not simply youngsters' ideas any longer, indeed everyone can post suggestions there," states the French-speaking coordinator, Adélaïde Charlier.

The deadline for the submission of ideas is fixed as 31 March 2019.

These will be analysed by a committee which will assess their given feasibility.

Internet surfers will then be able to vote for those which, in their view, must be the priorities for the next parliament.

The most successful ideas will be submitted to the authorities. "We hope that politicians will be inspired by some of these ideas," adds Dries Cornelissens, of Youth for Climate.

On Thursday, some 12,500 youngsters, once again, demonstrated in the streets of the capital demanding significant political measures to fight climate change.

Although less numerous than last week, youngsters nevertheless continued to demonstrate. "The movement is not crumbling as such but it is dispersing," states Adélaïde Charlier.

For example in Liège, more than 15,000 students also walked through the streets.

[The Brussels Times]

✓ BULGARIA: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN BULGARIA

Sofia, 1 August 2019 - UNEMPLOYMENT in Bulgaria was 4.7 per cent in February 2019, down from 5.4 per cent in February 2018 and unchanged from January, according to seasonally-adjusted figures released by European Union statistics agency Eurostat on April 1.

Bulgaria's unemployment rate in February 2019 represented about 157 000 people, down from about 182 000 the same month a year earlier, Eurostat said.

February 2019 was the latest in a succession of months that Bulgaria's unemployment rate was below the EU average, which was 6.5 per cent the lowest across the 28 member states of the EU since the start of the monthly unemployment series in January 2000, the statistics agency said.

In Bulgaria, youth unemployment in February 2019 was 12.4 per cent, down from 12.7 per cent in February 2018. This represented about 18 000 Bulgarian under-25s, compared with 20 000 a year earlier.

[The Sofia Globe]



✓ GERMANY: 'SKILFUL YOUTH CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Berlin, 10 August 2019 - SKILFUL Pakistani youth can take the advantage of business opportunities available in the West, especially in Germany.

This was stated by Chief Operating Officer (CEO) of GoNetwork Germany Zeshan Pasha while addressing an even titled "Innovative Business Models for Youth and Business Opportunities in Germany for Pakistan."

Pasha said that he started his journey in Germany by distributing newspapers but with the passage of time, he started a small business by investing 25,000 euros and now within just 10 years his company is providing jobs to dozens of people in Germany and company is expanding operations to Pakistan.

"To have a successful business, one needs innovative thinking,

courage, determination and commitment. Anybody equipped with these tools with sound technological knowledge has vast opportunities in Germany," he said.

Pasha said that his company wants to expand business in Pakistan especially in real state sector, adding that authorities in Pakistan need to formulate business friendly policies and must encourage those who want to invest.

Many German companies can be convinced to invest in Pakistan if suitable business opportunities are provided as Pakistan is a huge market. Pakistanis in Germany will serve as a bridge in this regard, he said.

[Business Recorder]

✓ ROMANIA: BANCPOST SENDS YOUNG ROMANIAN IT SPECIALISTS

Bucharest, 6 August 2019 - BANCPOST sends the most talented IT specialists from Romania to the competition "Beyond Hackathon" dedicated to young IT specialists (software developer, designer, marketer, business developer), an event to be held between 17-19 March 2017 in Athens.

The Bank supports thus the IT industry, offering young talents real chances to national and international recognition.

The competition aims to promote innovative ideas and projects which can make a difference in the field of financial services and products and can thus influence the future of banking.

Beyond Hackathon is now at its second edition and is organised by Eurobank Group in a partnership with Foundation M.P. and The Cube Workspace M.I.K.E. and with Eurobank Group subsidiaries in the region Bancpost SA (Romania), Eurobank Bulgaria AD and

Eurobank Cyprus Ltd.

This year's novelty is that start-ups may also participate in the competition companies in this field with maximum 5 years' experience.

During three days IT specialists - programmers, software developers, designers and business developers - will participate in workshops held by international leaders in FinTech and will have the opportunity to interact with experts in various fields (business, design, technology and communications).

The final objective is to generate innovative ideas which can materialise in future banking products and services.

First 10 Romanian specialists registered in the competition will benefit from free participation (within the limit of 500 Euro/participant), according to terms and conditions of the campaign „Bancpost sends you to Beyond Hackathon”.

In the end participants will be able to present their ideas before a jury, and the first three projects will be granted money awards (€5,000, €3,000 and €2,000 respectively), as well as the opportunity to implement the projects with Eurobank support.

[The Daily Star]



✓ AUSTRALIA: MISSION AUSTRALIA URGES DUBBO YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN SURVEY

Canberra, 1 August 2019 - A 2018 Mission Australia survey has revealed the top three issues of national significance according to Dubbo youth were mental health, alcohol and drugs and bullying.

Twice the proportion of last years female survey participants from Dubbo

highlighting mental health as an important issue.

Dubbo Mission Australia Area Manager Megan Boshell is asking Dubbo youth aged between 15 to 19-years-old to help them by speaking out about personal concerns and broader issues across Australia. The national

Christian charity is urging participants to complete their online Youth Survey for 2019 before August 16, which will be used to advocate on behalf of Australia's youth.

The annual survey provides a valuable outlook into the issues and concerns of

young Australians and further offers essential insights to Mission Australia and other community groups as well as important government decision-makers.

[Daily Liberal]

✓ FIJI: YOUTHS URGED TO SAY NO TO THE RACE CARD: BALA

Suva, 8 August 2019 - YOUNG men and women are urged to refrain from being engaged to activities that will encourage racial and gender discrimination.

The sentiment was revealed by Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Bala while responding to a post on social media made by Opposition

MP Moses Bilitavu.

Bala says such acts is unbecoming of a public figure that may drive youth onto a wrong direction.

“I urge all young people to reject such statements and by extension ways or behavior for being racist. Say no the race card. Say no to racist comments. And I

say this to all our youths and to all our Fijians”.

He adds that “this foreign behavior is not iTaukei, nor Christian” perspective made by Bilitavu will build a weak foundation for peace, prosperity and harmony in any multiracial society.

“The words and sentiments expressed by Honourable

Bilitavu are designed to extract maximum damage to race relations in Fiji”.

Bala says the statements made by Bilitavu have also attacked the dignity and integrity of all women in Fiji.

[FBC News]

✓ GUAM: FSM TO FUND YOUTH PROGRAMS ON GUAM

Hagåtña, 19 August 2019 - SPEAKER Tina Rose Muña Barnes on Monday received a visit from Speaker Wesley W. Simina of the FSM Congress who shared that the FSM National Congress is cognizant of the issues on Guam with regards to COFA migrants.

As a result of the updates that the National Congress has received through their Consul General on Guam, Ms. Teresa Filepin, the FSM Congress has approved funding to implement programs that would directly benefit the youth of their community on Guam, the Speaker's office announced.

In addition, seed money has been approved by the FSM Congress to fund a youth summit on Guam for the

FSM community who have made Guam their home.

This youth summit focus on seven areas that have been identified as “hotspots” on Guam. They will also be implementing a program called the “7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens.”

Moreover, the Consul General will be working with the youth in her community to adopt certain parks aimed at instilling a sense of ownership.

In an interview with Patti Arroyo on NewsTalk K57, Speaker Muña Barnes said the meeting was very fruitful and the talks focused on issues that affected the FSM community on Guam.

[Pacific News Center]



✓ NEW ZEALAND: AWARDS SHINE LIGHT ON INSPIRING HASTINGS YOUTH

Wellington, 5 August 2019

- AT a special awards evening at Waipatu Marae this week, 24 deserving young people were recognised for their achievements against the odds at the 2019 Youth Potential Awards.

Now in their 13th year, the annual Hastings District Council-run Ngā Tohu Aumangea Youth Potential Awards were instigated as way to acknowledge the efforts of young people who, despite challenging circumstances, were setting and achieving their goals.

Aged between 13 and 19, the awards were in three categories (tane (male), wahine (female) and roopu (group)) and the recipients were nominated by the likes of local services providers, youth groups, marae and schools who could see that this kind of acknowledgement would further encourage them to pursue success.

The evening was made extra special due to the surprise appearance of home-grown international basketball superstar Steven Adams.

His attendance was kept under wraps until the moment the awards were about to be presented when he appeared on stage alongside Hastings Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst and MC for the evening Hastings ambassador and councillor Henare O'Keefe.

After a waiata from the Hastings Intermediate School kapa haka group, the award recipients conducted a quick question and answer session with Adams where the audience learnt one of his role models growing up aside from his Dad was Gordon Ramsay, and that the main things he missed about New Zealand was the culture and the people.

The recipients then went on stage to receive their award

and a specially designed and signed basketball singlet, and to have a photo taken with Adams and the mayor.

One of those to receive an award was Year 9 Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Wānanga Whare Tapere o Takitimu student Pania Paku, aged 13.

She prompted a laugh with Adams on stage, who towered above her when presenting her award, and ahead of the ceremony shared her ambition to one day become a hairdresser like her sister.

Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst said these awards were a highlight event of the council calendar, and that the aim was to support and encourage young people like Pania to reach their potential and achieve their ambitions.

"Some of our other award

recipients want to go on to become surgeons and study languages, which is amazing given the enormous difficulties they have overcome. Sometimes life is not very easy and it takes courage to face the

challenges in front of you these awards are about recognising your attitude of strength in the face of challenging times," she said.

"We are hugely grateful to Steven Adams for taking the time to give back to our young people. He was inspiring in that he has amazing talent but also works incredibly hard."

The celebration ended with more waiata, a group photo with Adams, and a meal.

[Scoop.co.nz]

✓ SAMOA: SAMOA'S YOUTH HONOURED WITH INTERNATIONAL WETLANDS PRIZE

Apia, 20 August 2019 - IN May this year, Samoa's Youth in Climate Action Network (Y.C.A.N.) learned they had won a Ramsar Wetland Conservation award of US\$10,000 (T\$26,609).

President Samantha Kwan, still very much taken aback by the win, travelled to Dubai yesterday to accept the prize.

The group has been hard at work since 2015 replanting and restoring mangroves and rehabilitating coral reefs on Samoa's borders.

"Most of our members live

on the coastline," Ms. Kwan said.

With the Ramsar prize, the group will reach more youth to enable greater action against an unliveable planet. More funding means more training and capacity building, not only for youth to know how to restore mangroves or plant more trees, but understand why, and how to pass on that information on to their communities, Ms. Kwan said.

The Ramsar Conservation is an award for Young Wetlands Champions. Ms. Kwan said it's great to see youth in particular being honoured.

As a conservation officer at the Ministry of Resources and Natural Environment, Ms. Kwan said she used to see the voices of youth ignored in the conservation policy space or brought in as tokenistic gestures.

"But there has definitely been a huge shift since we started Y.C.A.N.," she said. "We're actually a partner to M.N.R.E. to implement the National Environment Sector Plan for 2017-2020 because they see the work we do on the ground."

Y.C.A.N. is a three-year old youth group working on defending Samoa's coastal

areas from pollution, reef degradation, species loss and more.

The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards were established in 1996 to recognise and work to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Ramsar is the oldest of the modern global intergovernmental environmental agreements and was negotiated through the 1960's. It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

[Samoa Observer]

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