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### ✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2020

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
24 January 2020	International Day of Education	Melaka, Malaysia



## ✓ MOZAMBIQUE: YOUTH SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Maputo, 13 December 2019

- OVER 100 children and youth led a summit calling for an end to violence against children in Mozambique.

At what was an entirely child-led event, they questioned decision-makers, including the Ambassador of the European Union to Mozambique, the UNICEF Representative and members of the Police, about existing policies and responses to violence against children.

This morning, a piece of art on the topic of violence was also created and unveiled at the event, sending a strong visual message to decision-makers of the importance of this issue to the country's children and youth.

The summit closed a cycle of child-led events held over the last three months, from Nampula to Maputo, which celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history.

This European Union-supported event focused on Article 19 of the CRC, which establishes the right of every child and young person to be protected from violence.

The topic is of particular relevance in Mozambique, where violence, including gender-based violence is widespread and child marriage rates are among the highest in the world.

In Nampula Province, nearly 62 per cent of girls

marry before the age of 18, way above the already high national average of 48 per cent.

Child marriage deprives children, mostly girls, of their childhood, leads to school dropout and pushes them into childbirth at a dangerously low age, endangering their life and health, and that of the baby.

During the event the European Union Ambassador, Antonio Sánchez Benedito Gaspar, highlighted that "every child has the right to be protected from all forms of violence, whether at home or in the community, at school, online, particularly in social networks, in places of institutional assistance or in judicial institutions.

We recognize the progress made by the Government of Mozambique on the legal framework for the protection of children's rights.

This progress is also recognized by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, which in September made several recommendations for improvements on the implementation of the Convention."

To respond to the pervasiveness of gender-based violence around the world, the European Union and the United Nations in 2017 launched the Spotlight Initiative.

This global programme to end all forms of violence against women and girls is backed by a 500 million

Euro investment from the European Union.

For Mozambique, one of the eight African countries selected for the programme's implementation, 40 million Euro has been allocated and will be disbursed over four years (2019-2022) and benefit approximately six million Mozambicans.

Breaking the cycle of violence in all settings is vital not only for the current wellbeing of the affected children, but also to ensure they grow up as responsible and caring youth and citizens.

This a precondition for any society to prosper.

"A law prohibiting marriage below the age of 18 has now been passed by the national Parliament. UNICEF endorses this move," added Marcoluigi Corsi, UNICEF Representative.

He further added that "while much progress has been made to ensure that the children of Mozambique are protected from violence, we know that we can do so much better. UNICEF will continue to work closely with government and its partners, including the European Union, to ensure that every child, and every girl, lives a life free from all forms of violence."

Every year, commemorations of the CRC (World Children's Day, 20 November) shine a spotlight on Article 12 of the CRC, which guarantees every child has the right to be heard, to participate, and to play a role in the civic

life of their society.

The "CRC at 30" is a moment for bold action to ensure no child is left behind and to support every child to reach their full potential wherever they are.

In Mozambique this year's CRC celebrations included illuminating public buildings in blue and hosting 'kids takeovers' of radio stations, debates, social media and even the Municipal Hall in Maputo.

All these events had one thing in common: children took the lead, and society listened.

The Government of Mozambique ratified the CRC in 1994 and UNICEF continues to stand side by side with the Government in its efforts to address some of the most pressing issues facing children in Mozambique.

[ReliefWeb]



### ✓ NAMIBIA: YOUNG MPS PROMISE RADICAL CHANGE

**Windhoek, 4 December 2019** - THE Landless People's Movement (LPM)'s incoming parliamentarian, Utaara Mootu, says she will be bold and unapologetic in her pursuit of radical change as she takes up her national responsibility next year.

Mootu is among a number of young people below the age of 30 who will be representing their respective political parties in the National Assembly from next year.

The LPM won four seats in the just-concluded National Assembly elections.

She will be one of the LPM members of parliament, alongside former land reform deputy minister Bernadus Swartbooi, LPM's deputy leader Henny Seibeb and Edson Isaack.

Mootu is a business and public management graduate from the University of Namibia.

In an interview with The Namibian, she said people must expect fearless contributions from her during parliamentary debates whilst pushing for

radical change.

“We are also going to be fearless, bold and unapologetic. The way that people perceive us now is the way we are going to be in parliament. We are going to make the biggest noise,” she stated.

One of the topics she would focus on once sworn in as a parliamentarian is mental health.

“We are going to look into mental health, and really advocate mental awareness to the nation because it is really being pushed aside by African traditions. The challenges of mental abuse are not about age, it goes deeper than just societal pressure,” she stressed.

Mootu added: “We are obviously grateful for having to empower four people, but we do, however, feel that we expressed in our earlier statements that we believed the elections were not fair because they were rigged, and we feel that we were ripped off of some of our seats,” she said.

The Popular Democratic Movement (PDM), which won 16 seats in the National Assembly, has four young

MPs.

Twenty-one year old Maximilliant Katjimune will be the youngest parliamentarian in Namibia.

He is the current spokesperson of the University of Namibia's students representative council.

For Katjimune, the outcome of the elections demonstrated that the youth in the country are tired of mediocre leadership, and said they plan to keep the ruling Swapo Party and its president on their toes.

“What is very clear is that from now on, politicians are going to be held accountable. We will make sure that we table motions that are proactive to the issues faced by all facets of Namibian society.

“The vast majority of voters who voted for the PDM can rest assured that we will keep Swapo on its toes, in our bigger project to eventually gain power at the next election,” he noted.

Echoing Katjimune's sentiments, fellow PDM MP Winnie Moongo (31) said their party plans to

continue representing and serving the youth of the country.

“We are all Namibians. Youth empowerment should not be a threat, it should be seen as the economic growth catalyst,” she added.

The PDM will also be represented by another Unam graduate and former SRC member, 23-year-old Inna Hengari, as well as Yvette Araes (28) in the National Assembly next year.

The fate of the PDM youngsters is, however, not yet decided as the party still has to solve a dispute with certain members who were forced to resign at the last minute for the PDM to comply with electoral regulations.

[Namibian]

### ✓ NIGERIA: YEDI HELPING NIGERIA YOUTHS RISE TO HEALTH CHALLENGES

**Abuja, 10 December 2019** - FOUNDED in 2011, YEDI (Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative) is a Nigerian non-governmental organisation that supports children and young people aged 10 to 24, who are particularly impacted by the health, social and economic difficulties facing the inhabitants of

Africa's most populous country.

Football is the most popular sport in Nigeria and the NGO has sought, since its foundation, to use the beautiful game to get key health-prevention messages across to young people, raising their awareness in particular of the AIDS

epidemic afflicting the country.

Nigeria's young people are especially vulnerable to AIDS and other diseases such as malaria and polio.

Thanks to programmes tailored to different sections of society, football provides an entertaining and effective

means of informing people about the kind of behaviour that they and others should be adopting.



Since the foundation of YEDI in 2011, 200,000 young people have participated in the association's programmes, which incorporate prevention messages about malaria, polio, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The Skillz Girl programme seeks to engage with young women aged 13 to 19. In playing football and taking part in other physical activities, they learn to make the right health and physical well-being choices, while also boosting their self-

confidence and their assertiveness in relations with others.

to integrate better into society.

[Guardian]

Youth unemployment is another major challenge facing Nigeria, and YEDI is supporting students and young adults in their efforts

### ✓ ZAMBIA: ZAMBIA TRAINS 800 YOUTHS IN AQUACULTURE IN EMPOWERMENT DRIVE

**Lusaka, 16 December 2019** - THE Zambian government said that it has trained about 800 youths across the country in aquaculture skills as part of an empowerment program.

Minister of Sports, Youth and Child Development

Emmanuel Mulenga said about 400 out of the 800 youths have since graduated from a training center. According to him, youth empowerment in the fisheries sector was cardinal as it would help facilitate economic development and job creation.

He said the ministry was also recruiting an average of 400 youths from across the country every quarter to be trained in various skills that included carpentry, among others.

[Lusaka Times]

### ✓ ZIMBABWE: ZIMBABWE YOUTH TACKLING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

**Harare, 12 December 2019** - IN Zimbabwe, women are the main victims of gender-based violence (GBV).

According to the Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey for 2015, one in every four women in Zimbabwe has experienced sexual violence since the age of 15 and one in every three women between 15-49 have experienced physical violence.

The statistics confirm that GBV is still a huge problem and there is a need to bring everyone on board and leave no one behind if we are to eradicate GBV. There is a need to meaningfully engage and involve young people in the fight against the vice.

Zimbabwe joined the rest of the world in marking the Sixteen-Days of Activism against gender-based violence which came to an end on Tuesday.

Action was at some 40kms from Harare central business district, in Hopley, Ushewokunze and Southlea Park peri-urban suburbs, where young Zimbabweans are leading efforts to end GBV prevalence in their communities.

Under the Peak Youth Tackling HIV project funded by Comic Relief and Egmont Trust and implemented by Restless Development Zimbabwe, young Zimbabweans regularly conduct community dialogues, roadshows and sports tournaments which they use to create awareness on violence against women.

Their movement is now a well-known effort among locals under the theme, "Run with the Cause, Stop GBV-Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment" targeting men and boys.

Young people, through the project have conducted GBV transformational

trainings which have reached over 100 men and boys. The main aim of the trainings is to educate them about GBV issues and turn them into agents of positive change in the community.

The training sessions capture aspects such as reasons why men batter women and they have received support from Zimbabwe Republic Police, Ministry of Women Affairs Gender, Small and Medium Enterprise Development.

In their roadshows, young people have also helped create awareness on anti-sexual violence under the theme "Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment."

These activities have been most helpful because, most young people do not know what sexual harassment really means but having it broken down to them by fellow young people has helped bridge the knowledge gap.

In trying to reach everyone, young leaders have also taken the activism to public spaces, such as bus parks where touts usually pass unwelcome comments, especially to young women and girls.

Young Leaders have also created and trained Gender Action Committees (GACs) in communities with support from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender, Small and Medium Enterprises and the Zimbabwe Republic Police.

The GAC is an idea that came from community engagement.



In the communities, the committee members also act as focal persons to provide intervention in GBV incidents.

*[Chronicle]*

These last 16 Days of Activism saw young leaders conduct home visits in their community educating young people and parents on GBV issues and calling for an end to rape and sexual harassment.

They also engaged with parents urging them to educate their children, especially young boys to become responsible citizens who value and respect other citizens.

Luckily, local district leaders are beginning to join and support the efforts of these young people.

This is a vital step in enhancing the work of young people in combating gender-based violence and agencies like Restless Development are doing a commendable job.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals calls for “no one to be left behind” which explicitly calls for the engagement and involvement of young people in ending violence against women and girls.

It is very crucial to support young people in their participation in ending GBV if we are to realize the 2030 Agenda.

It is high time that all stakeholders joined hands to augment young people as active participants in ending GBV as evidenced by the Peak Youth Tackling HIV young leaders’ efforts to end GBV.

NEWS



### ✓ CANADA: PLT TREE CANADA TO PLACE 500 MORE YOUTH IN GREEN JOBS

Ottawa, 18 December 2019

- YOUTH across Canada will be better supported to enter the workforce in 2020 and in following years thanks to tremendous growth at a small but mighty non-profit called Project Learning Tree Canada (PLT Canada).

Thanks in part to funding by the Government of Canada and employers across the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Canadian Parks Council (CPC) networks; PLT Canada which is an initiative of SFI has placed over 2,000 youth into Green Jobs since 2018.

The organization has managed to achieve gender balance in its job placements and connect more than ten percent of its positions to Indigenous youth.

Further investments from the government of Canada will enable PLT Canada to provide value-added services especially for rural youth, new Canadians, and Indigenous youth.

These new support services, such as mentorship and guidance counselling, will not only help youth enter the workforce, but also help them thrive within it and continue to grow over the course of their careers.

These are objectives that PLT Canada shares with the government. The increased funding will also allow the non-profit to place 500 more youth into Green Jobs between now and October 2020.

“Thanks to Project Learning Tree Canada, more young Canadians have access to meaningful work experience in the green jobs sector,” said the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, minister of employment, workforce development and disability inclusion.

“Giving young people especially those facing barriers a strong head start toward a career is what the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy is all about. We are pleased to partner with and support this organization.”

There has never been a more important time for the development of Canada’s forest workforce. Climate change requires a global shift towards more sustainable choices.

Using paper straws and mass timber, which stores carbon for large-scale building projects are just two unique examples of the types of choices we can make to address global challenges like ocean plastics and climate change.

However, when choosing renewable forest-based solutions it is critical that the products come from sustainably managed forests, which is the assurance that forest certification provides.

“Thankfully, we are a world leader in sustainable forest management and responsible procurement of forest products,” said Kathy Abusow, PLT Canada president and CEO.

“Over 200 employers, all linked to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Canadian Parks Council

networks, have enabled youth across the country to gain meaningful work experiences in the great outdoors.”

PLT Canada expects to accomplish many great things again in 2020 as it expands its programming and welcomes back thousands of youth from across Canada.

“We’re looking forward to helping even more young people navigate green career pathways, thanks to our new services and increased funding,” said Abusow.

“We’re incredibly grateful to the Government of Canada and our employer partners across the country for their incredible support and commitment to growing the next generation of forest and conservation leaders.”

*[Canada NewsWire]*





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

Lima, 27 November 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, 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 Pajatén 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]*

## ✓ SURINAME: CADRE OF TRAINERS TO RESPOND TO YOUTH CRIME IN CARICOM

Georgetown, 1 November 2019 -

Guyana – As part of the approach to fight crime and violence from a social perspective, several persons associated with youth development will benefit from training in five member states of the Caribbean community over the next month.

The training is aimed at establishing a cadre of trainers to build the capacity of youths at risk of or are already in conflict with the law.

The training which will be held in the member states of

Saint Lucia, Guyana, Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda and Jamaica, includes parenting skills, life skills development parenting skills leadership and mentoring.

It is an activity of the crime and violence prevention and social development project in the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM), under the more extensive CARIFORUM/European Union crime and security cooperation programme being implemented under the 10th European Development Fund.

The training initiative builds

on outcomes of and expands the Gangs and Violence: Partnering for Prevention and Social Development Pilot Project.

The activity is intended to equip stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to facilitate gang leaders with life skills which will enable them to better re-integrate into society.

This involves the conduct of gang prevention training workshops targeting rehabilitated gang leaders, parents, teachers, school administrators and faith-based organisations (FBOs).

To this end, approximately 35 trainees will be drawn from identified schools and related communities, past student associations, the business sector and faith-based organisations and youth institutions.



According to project manager at the CARICOM Secretariat, Louis Dodson, such programmes are intended to result in community-based initiatives aimed at creating behaviour change and fostering proactive, healthy and productive lifestyles for at-risk youths and by extension their communities.

“Youth already in conflict with the law must be targeted when addressing the issues related to reducing crime and violence to enhance their chances of navigating out of the paths they have begun to traverse,” Dodson emphasised.

The project manager noted, as well that the social crime prevention approach addresses the root causes for example, poor education, lack of opportunity, drug addiction and alcoholism of crime, driven by poor social conditions.

*[Caribbean News]*

NEWS



## ✓ INDONESIA: 71% OF YOUTH CONSIDER EMIGRATING

**Jakarta, 15 November 2019**

- AS part of the poll, researchers surveyed 1,289 Indonesians of all ages to discover how many wanted to leave the country, where and when they would go and for what reason.

As many as three in five (63%) Indonesians have considered leaving the country, the survey found.

Young Indonesians (71%) were more likely to consider moving than people over the age of 55 (30%), and women were more likely to think about living abroad than men (69% vs. 58%).

Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country according to UNESCO, and 50% of the population are under the age

of 30.

Chief operating officer of AECC Global Daryl Fong told The PIE News about Indonesia that there are several reasons why many young people are considering leaving the country.

“As the largest economy in SE Asia and a country with such a huge young population, [the Indonesian] government’s smart nation planning has to gear up to meet the demands of good quality international education,” he said.

He noted that the country’s middle class has been growing annually at a rate of 10% and now numbers 38 million.

Other findings of the

YouGov report include Europe being the most popular region for emigrating Indonesians (42%).

This is followed by Asia (41%), America (11%), Oceania (3%) and Africa (1%).

Although Europe is the most popular region, the country that Indonesians most want to move to is Japan (14%). This is followed by Germany (9%), Singapore (7%), the United Kingdom (7%) and the United States (6%).

Of all the reasons to move abroad, the most common is for a better quality of life (63%). Other reasons include better public services (56%), personal reasons (46%), better job

opportunities (46%) and greater wealth/affluence (36%).

“As the world becomes increasingly globalised, many Indonesians are now seeking opportunities abroad. Migration seems particularly on the minds of young women, for a multitude of reasons,” said Jake Gammon, head of omnibus APAC at YouGov Omnibus.

“It’ll be interesting to see if these thoughts turn into actions in the coming years.”

According to UNESCO data, Indonesia has 45,206 students studying abroad.

*[The PIE News]*

## ✓ MALAYSIA: GIVE PRIORITY TO PERSPECTIVE OF YOUTHS

**Kuala Lumpur, 26**

**November 2019** - IN 2018, a total of 81.2 per cent of Malaysians above the age of 15 were identified as regular online users.

As users grow more sensitive to the nuances of online life, issues of online infrastructure and policy have garnered increasing attention and discourse.

We then see issues such as cybersecurity, data privacy rights, freedom of expression, and the digital divide emerging as topics for mainstream policy discourse.

It is here that the term “Internet governance” has surfaced. Internet governance is a United Nations-created term, used to refer to the design and

application of rules meant to shape the evolution and usage of the Internet.

The goal of Internet governance is simple.

It aims to foster the creation of online environments conducive to the wellbeing of users.

The actual complexity of the Internet governance concept, however, lies in the diversity of perspectives with which you can approach it.

Under the concept of Internet governance, you can choose to discuss the technical infrastructure of the Internet and turn your attention towards matters of data encryption, domain name systems (DNS) and root servers.

Internet governance is a rich field. Its scope is broad enough for everyone to be able to find at least one topic of personal interest. Now, you might want to concern yourself with the state of Internet governance in Malaysia.

Recall the government’s RM21.6 billion National Fiberisation and Connectivity Plan, as outlined in 2020 Budget. The plan aims to enhance digital connectivity for the wellbeing of the people, through the development and deployment of digital infrastructure.

If successful, it will strengthen Malaysia’s digital community.

However, should we let this project limit the scope for

potential action in Malaysian Internet governance?

Governance of the Internet should not be restricted to the government.

Decision-making processes about the institutional design of the Internet are too complex to be centralised on to any single actor.

The diversity of perspectives with which to approach the topic creates the need for insights from a variety of stakeholders, including civil society.



A governance architecture that benefits everyone is not possible without horizontal communication and coordination between actors.

ways in which each and every one of us interacts with the Internet, every stakeholder is capable of bringing insight to Internet policy.

this article, it is your perspective in particular that needs to be given more weight in Internet governance discussions.

childhood being socialised by the Internet. You have a greater stake in this.

*[New Straits Times Online]*

Given the highly unique

If you are a youth reading

In all likelihood, you spent a large portion of your

## ✓ PAKISTAN: 2 MILLION JOBS FOR PAKISTANI YOUTH

**Islamabad, 20 November 2019** - PRIME Minister Youth Affairs Program (PMYAP) gears up to ensure two million jobs through its programme 'Job for Pakistan' in line with the Prime Minister's vision to make the young generation economically strong and independent.

A PMYAP official told APP that the programme has been planned

systematically through digitalized system. It would help collect the data of the applicants without any hiccups and complicated procedures.

The students would simply upload their curriculum vitae (CV) online and the programme would further verify the data, he added.

He said as per the bio-data of the individuals provided

through their CVs they would be adjusted in private sector companies and various institutions.

"Either qualified or skilled would be adjusted according to their area of expertise in local and international labour markets," he added.

He said, "Besides educated youth the skilled youth like electricians, plumbers, technicians, car and motor

mechanics would also get employment."

He said that every year 500,000 students get their qualified done and get degrees, however, Job for Pakistan will help them get job after completing their studies.

*[The News International]*

## ✓ PHILIPPINES: YANSON BATS FOR MORE YOUTH FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES

**Manila, 26 November 2019** - REGIONAL football associations (RFAs) would like to see more spending by the Philippine Football Association (PFF) in development programs for the RFAs' needs, including the vital age-group tournaments.

Negros Occidental Football Association (NOFA) president Ricky Yanson made this appeal to the PFF leadership on behalf of the RFAs, with the PFF having staged just one age-group tournament in the past four years.

Yanson, pushing for more development programs under his "football para sa lahat" initiative, said the RFAs wanted more of the PFF funds put in age-group tournaments and other grassroots activities to build more homegrown talents for the national teams.

"More tournaments also have a multiplier effect for our RFAs and their communities. They result in a happier youth, more engagements with stakeholders, and more jobs and economic activity related to football," he said.

Yanson, chair of the PFF youth development and grassroots committee, expressed frustration over the lack of priority and funding support for his area.

This led the members to fund committee work and implement projects, out of their own pocket. While grassroots projects were approved, the PFF had no budget for them.

For instance, he said the Training Area Development (TAD) program was approved for an initial eight RFAs, but the PFF administration said there

were no funds available.

After studying the concept, Yanson funded TAD's implementation in the NOFA areas, reaping benefits for footballers in Negros.

"We sacrifice willingly so that more Filipinos can enjoy football. The PFF must put more emphasis on development programs. We need to build a more solid football base for our youth."

The RFAs noted that the PFF last week announced new age-group tournaments for next year, with the expected entry of Qatar Airways as a new sponsor. But Yanson said the PFF should have prioritized funding for development in its spending, long before.

*[Philippine Star]*



## ✓ QATAR: UN YOUTH ENVOY LAUDS YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN QATAR

**Doha, 9 November 2019** - A top UN official has highlighted the efforts of Qatar and its leadership in empowering the youth and providing opportunities for them in various facets of life.

“It is heartening to see the commitment of the country’s leadership as Qatar values the partnership of the youth by providing them several opportunities.

I am particularly impressed by the youth taking part in conversations that are major topics of the world today and the government is providing them the opportunities for the same,” stated, Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN secretary-general’s envoy on youth.

Wickramanayake was speaking at the inaugural session of the Doha Forum Youth Edition held yesterday at the Minaretein building (College of Islamic Studies), in Education City, Doha.

Wickermanayake said that during her first visit to Qatar, she was highly impressed by the Qatar National Library and the government’s efforts to provide knowledge to the people of the country and abroad.

“This is my second visit to Qatar and I do cherish my visit to the Qatar National Library during my first visit to Qatar.

The library and the resources at the library, is the another proof of the great commitment of the country to equip the youth with knowledge and the right tools to make them

prepared for the future,” she explained.

She also noted that the two major topics of discussion at the forum are education and climate change and Qatar has been taking an effective and prominent role in both the topics.

“There are around 1.8 billion young people worldwide and education is a key factor. I am a strong believer in the fact that education is not a privilege but the birthright of every young man and woman.

An estimated 263mn children are out of school currently for various reasons and about 61mn miss out schools as they live in conflict and disaster hit areas,” continued the official.

She maintained that education is the most essential investment to build the future of the world.

“Education is the most powerful tool to resist other forces such as terrorism and to fight other security threats. One dollar invested in education can generate 15 dollars in return,” she noted.

As for the issue of climate change, Wickermanayake said that it was an emergency that needed to be tackled urgently.

“About 71% of the gas emissions in the world is caused by 100 companies. We need to transform these business models into sustainable ones.

Climate education is key for this and there should be a change in the approach. Conversations today in this

forum can be the starting point for that change,” added the official.

*[Gulf Times]*

ASIA NEWS



### ✓ AZERBAIJAN: IMPLEMENTS PROJECT FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ISSUES IN TOURISM

**Baku, 18 November 2019** - A labor fair with the organization and assistance of the Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan was held in Baku to address issues of youth employment in tourism, Sakina Babayeva, the head of the association, told Trend.

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

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

**City of Brussels, 18 November 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: UNEMPLOYMENT IN BULGARIA WAS 4.7% IN FEBRUARY 2019 – EUROSTAT

**Sofia, 10 November 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 November 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 November 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: ENVIRONMENT SECOND ON YOUTH PRIORITY LIST

**Canberra, 26 November 2019** - AUSTRALIA's youth now consider the environment the second most important issue in the country, a survey of teenagers has found.

More than 25,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 19 answered the annual survey by Mission Australia, which released a report on its findings.

When asked about the most important issues in Australia, mental health ranked highest with 36.2 per cent, followed by the environment (34.2 per cent), and equity and discrimination (24.8 per cent).

The percentage of young people who said the environment was a key issue more than tripled from 9.2 per cent in 2018.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth ranked mental health, alcohol and drugs, and equity and discrimination as their three

most important issues, with the environment coming in at No. 4.

Fewer than one in 10 young people (7.2 per cent) said they felt like they have a say all of the time in public affairs.

However, 45.2 per cent of respondents said they had a say when with friends, and 44.2 per cent said they did with family.

Mission Australia's chief executive James Toomey says there is a clear indication that young people in Australia feel "disenfranchised and deeply concerned".

"The apparent inability to have their voices heard through formal channels is perhaps causing them to engage in informal ways to get heard, such as climate strikes," Mr Toomey writes in the report.

"The growing public dialogue and experience of issues, such as extreme

weather events and drought, are clearly affecting young people's view of the world," he says.

More than one in five respondents (21 per cent) said they had experienced bullying in the past 12 months, with 79.9 per cent of these young people reporting that the bullying took place at school, TAFE or university.

One-third (34 per cent), comprising 37.3 per cent of young women and 27.3 per cent of young men, said they had experienced bullying online and in social media.

A total of 29.9 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths said they had experienced bullying compared with 20.3 per cent of non-indigenous young people.

The respondents ranked coping with stress, school or study problems, and mental health as their top three concerns.

However, the majority of young people, 60.7 per cent, reported that overall, they were happy or very happy with their lives.

Nearly six in 10 (58.3 per cent) said they felt positive or very positive about their future while 12.2 per cent reported feeling negative or very negative.

"Young people are asking for change. We owe it to young people to not only listen but to also take action," Mr Toomey writes.

"We must stand alongside them to advocate for the changes they want to see, provide opportunities to have a say, and better support them with the services they need as they tread their path to adulthood."

[9News]

### ✓ FIJI: PENSIONERS URGED TO SPEAK AGAINST SOCIETY ILLS

**Suva, 26 November 2019** - PENSIONERS in the country have a hidden potential to guide society and lead the country's youth to say no to drugs.

This was highlighted by Minister for Agriculture Dr Mahendra Reddy while speaking at the Fiji Pensioners Association 45th Annual General meeting today in Vatuwaqa.

Reddy says pensioners in every community must stand up and speak out against the deteriorating values within the society

and teach youths that drugs is bad for them as it is for the future of Fiji.

The minister urged pensioners nationwide to stand up and call out to the generation of today that drugs is bad.

Minister Reddy reiterated to pensioners present that they are not forgotten and need to stand up against the ills of society adding that they have an important role to play in determining a good future for Fiji.

[FBC News]



## ✓ GUAM: SUPPORTING YOUTH SPORTS

**Hagåtña, 25 November 2019** - Community Corporation President David Tydingco, back row, left, presents, a \$1,000 check to ACAS, a nonprofit organization supporting youth basketball, at the Tamuning Gymnasium.

The Tamuning Typhoons

Basketball Club is also pictured.

Community Corporation is proud to be able to support all youth-oriented activities that lead to the complete development of strong minds and healthy habits," Tydingco said.

Our ability to support youth programs is made possible through the significant contributions being made by Guam's Mega Bingo.

We look forward to supporting many more youth programs.

*[The Guam Daily Post]*

## ✓ NEW ZEALAND: VACCINE BOOST FOR YOUTH IN CLOSE-LIVING SITUATIONS

**Wellington, 13 November 2019** - A meningococcal catch-up programme is set to be funded for people aged 13 to 25 in their first year of close-living situations.

PHARMAC deputy medical director Dr Pete Murray said about 35,000 people living in boarding school hostels, tertiary education halls of residence, military barracks and prisons would

be able to get the vaccine. It was estimated about 8000 additional people per year would get the vaccine.

Associate Health Minister Julie Anne Genter called meningococcal, which can develop into meningitis or septicaemia and have long term consequences, a "serious threat which people at higher risk should be protected from".

"Cases of meningococcal are still relatively rare, but the consequences can be extremely serious, even fatal, and we know young people in close living conditions are at greater risk."

"New Zealand sees a number of meningococcal cases in our young people every year. The latest figures show 120 cases in 2019 to date, sadly with

eight deaths. Around half of these cases were in the W, C and Y strains."

The roll out will begin on December 1 - with young people living in close situations already eligible for one dose.

*[TVNZ]*

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

**Apia, 20 July 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]*

Season's Greetings from all of us at the World Assembly of Youth (WAY). We would like to take this opportunity to appreciate our [#members](#), [#sponsors](#), [#partners](#), [#volunteers](#), and [#affiliates](#) for their partnership and support rendered the past year. On behalf of the WAY [#ExecutiveCommittee](#) and [#Secretariat](#), we would like to wish all of you a happy holiday and joyful seasons! We hope that 2020 will be a great year to address and tackle youth issues, and we look forward to another fruitful year ahead. Our doors will always remain open to the youth of the world.

[#WAY](#) [#WAYHQ](#) [#seasonsgreetings](#) [#youth](#) [#Youthnow](#) [#happiness](#) [#joy](#) [#peace](#) [#happyholidays](#)

The logo for the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) is displayed in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

World Assembly of Youth  
Asamblea Mundial de la Juventud  
Assemblée Mondiale de la Jeunesse

The text "Season's greetings" is written in a large, red, cursive font. The year "2020" is written in a large, yellow, bold, sans-serif font. The background features a blue gradient with white fireworks and a group of smiling young people.

*May you all have a memorable holiday  
with family and friends!*

**WISHES OF HAPPINESS, BLESSINGS,  
PEACE AND PROSPERITY**

From all of us at,  
World Assembly of Youth

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