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### ✓ *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH, 2018*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1 March 2018	<b>Zero Discrimination Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
4 March 2018	<b>International HPV Awareness Day Campaign</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
8 March 2018	<b>International Women's Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
12– 18 March 2018	<b>Global Money Week</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
20 March 2018	<b>International Day of Happiness</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
21 March 2018	<b>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
22 March 2018	<b>World Water Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia



### ✓ BOSTWANA: BOSTWANA TO HOST AFRICA YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS SUMMIT

**Gaborone, 16 February 2018** - CONNECT Cycle will host the first Africa Youth Entrepreneurs Summit (AYES) next week Thursday in Gaborone at Travel Lodge.

The one day event will be held under the theme, 'Fostering Wealth Growth in Africa Through Young Entrepreneurs Partnership.'

Panelists will be young entrepreneurs from Botswana, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, DRC, Kenya, Malawi and

Tanzania. Speaking to Voice Money AYES organiser, Lemogang Senwelo said she decided to partner with young business people from other countries so that it can be easy for locals to export their products and services.

The youth are also to share ideas, opportunities of growth and come up with solutions for the challenges they face in business.

"I have brought young entrepreneurs from different countries under one roof to

learn how to expand our businesses. I always attend business conferences across Africa and I met these panelists.

It is very difficult to start business and it is a long process to get funding. We are going to select 15 entrepreneurs, fund them, provide office space and mentor them for a year.

In the next summit they will be sharing their success stories," Senwelo said.

The morning session

discussions will focus on employment creation and how to start and manage a business while the afternoon agenda will comprise of issues of finance, funding, psychology behind business and delegate interaction.

Tickets are sold at P500 standard, P2000 for five people, P4000 for 10 people and P700 for VIP.

[The Voice Online]

### ✓ GHANA: GHANANIAN YOUTH URGED TO BE PATRIOTIC

**Accra, 16 February 2018** - DR Kojo Asante, a Senior Research Fellow at the centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), has charged the youth to exhibit a strong sense of leadership and work towards having a progressive and all-inclusive country.

He said it was dangerous for the youth to isolate themselves and look on unconcerned about issues affecting their immediate societies and the country as a whole.

A statement issued by Efua Idan Atadja, Communications Officer CDD-Ghana and copied to the Ghana News Agency, said Dr Asante gave the advice during a Humanities Day Forum organised by the SOS-Hermann Gmeiner International College in Tema.

The forum on the theme "Taking Ownership of Our Own Development," was inspired by the United

Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 16 which focused on promoting peace, justice and strong institutions.

Dr Asante said it was time for Africa's youth to contribute their quota to addressing the continent's challenges.

"The problem we have in Africa is that when you talk about leadership, it is all about political leadership.

We need to create leaders in every facet of our society. Don't wait for that future that is to come. Wherever you are, start being a leader and make a change," he challenged the youth.

"I want people to start thinking and believing that they can make a difference no matter how overwhelming the challenges of Africa are," he said.

Dr. Asante further advised the youth to be patriotic and commit to serve others, if they want Africa to be able

to overcome its numerous challenges.

The Humanities Day Forum is organised biennially by the SOS-Hermann Gmeiner International College as a way of introducing students to varying perspectives on topical issues affecting African societies and their impact on the development of the continent and the world.

Mrs Shamima Muslim Ishmael, convener for Alliance of Women in Media Africa, said the single threat to the existence and security of the African continent was youth unemployment.

She challenged the students to begin to care about the continent by putting their talents and knowledge to good use.

She said "You have to use your environment and create opportunities for yourself and others.

"It's either you care now or

you will be made to care at a time that may be too late; your care will stand for nothing."

Mrs Ishmael also charged African leaders to concentrate on developing its ever-increasing human resource base.

[Ghana News Agency]



## ✓ KENYA: TRAINING OUR YOUTH CAN HELP INCREASE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Nairobi, 23 February 2018** - IT is estimated that there more than 75 million young people who are unemployed worldwide, yet many organisations struggle to find potential employees with the skills needed for entry level jobs.

Globally and locally, there exists a manifest mismatch between graduates from learning institutions and the human resource needs in the real economy.

Jemima, a single mother struggling to make ends meet despite having completed her high school education, aptly personifies this challenge.

In Kenya, more than 800,000 young people enter the job market every year after completing primary, secondary school or higher learning.

Now more than ever, there is need for constant training and education that prepares young people for employment by making them more equipped to face challenges associated with the demand and supply

disconnect of the skilled workforce.

A report commissioned by the World Bank spotlights the way in which attempts to close the skills gap are currently bogged down by lack of business experience on the part of the trainers and inadequate training curricula which lack sufficient integration with the formal Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system.

Human development is indispensable in any country's quest for economic development.

This is even more so at a time when the government seeks to raise the share of manufacturing sector from nine to 15 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) by 2022, expand food production and supply, provide universal health coverage for all Kenyan homes and build 500,000 affordable houses.

To raise labour participation for unemployed youth like Jemima in the government big-four agenda, the

government in collaboration with other stakeholders will need to employ a model that is defined by dynamic measurement of supply and demand, with economic rewards being inescapably linked to value addition.

**READ:** Microsoft, USIU partner to set up tech hub to plug job skills gap

All stakeholders will need to be more innovative in the approach to this problem in order to be successful.

There is a need for TVETs to adapt rapidly to the government's agenda as well as have a paradigm shift in their curricula to focus more on jobs and measure TVETs performance based more on job placement, rather than the number of students trained.

This effort to improve vocational education's attractiveness would attract more stakeholders to put their innovations and best practices in place towards increased impact in skills training and low unemployment rates among

the youth.

Youth labour participation is integral to the government's ambitious plans, in view of the fact that the government plans to create 1.3 million manufacturing jobs by 2022.

To realise the government's big-four agenda, TVETs and other stakeholders need to work closely together towards increasing the pool of skilled workers in industries in Kenya, as well as create opportunities for the utilisation of the skilled labour for improved productivity.

Since youth make the largest unemployed age group and will face these challenges throughout their careers, there needs to be a focus on programmes that connect young people like Jemima with a pathway to skills and entry-level employment and that focus on demand-driven skills.

*[Business Daily]*

## ✓ NAMIBIA: GOVT SPENDS ON DORMANT YOUTH CENTRE

**Windhoek, 21 February 2018** - GOVERNMENT is pumping money into a youth training centre that has been dormant for the past 15 years.

Community members at Farm Du Plessis in the Omaheke region expressed concern about the training centre in an interview with The Namibian last week.

The youth centre was constructed for the youth

ministry back in 1997, and was meant to impart agricultural skills to the local youth.

However, by the early 2000s, it had only trained a handful of people from Berg Aukas, and has since only been used to host occasional workshops, or to house road construction workers.

Last week, farmers said local youths had no jobs or skills, and were loitering

around as well as spending most of their time drinking.

One of the community leaders, Maria Kamanda, and senior traditional councilor Libhard Katiti Mbaeva last week urged government to rectify the matter this year.

Kamanda told The Namibian yesterday that people reported for work every day at the centre, but no youth training has been

taking place there.

She said the seven workers have been getting their salaries every month for doing nothing at the centre.

This is in spite of a report by The Namibian two years ago about the situation at the centre, which cost N\$2,5 million to build.



At the time, The Namibian also pointed out that N\$50 000 was being spent on salaries, while N\$40 000 was going to pay for electricity and water supplies, to which some neighbouring farmers have set illegal connections.

Following that report, the youth ministry promised that the centre would be utilised, but two years later it is still a white elephant.

In 2015, then youth permanent secretary Gabriel Sinimbo said the centre had received new equipment.

Newly appointed sports minister Erastus Utoni, who expressed shock about the centre and that people were being paid for doing nothing, yesterday said he will visit the farm soon.

Local farmer Isidora Bok (46) said the youth training

centre has become a place where many go to steal water. She said there was a time when students were registered, but no training was initiated.

One of the young people at the farm, Rosina Hoxobes (25), said she hopes the centre starts offering training soon as she would also like to be trained.

Hoxobes said she would have loved to become an interior designer, but if the centre opens, she is willing to enrol for any course that would get her a job.

"It will also be nice if the centre can hire local people, instead of bringing people from outside to do those odd jobs that we can also do," she stressed.

*[The Namibian]*

### ✓ ZIMBABWE: YALI ZIM ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT DRIVE

**Harare, 18 February 2018** - THE local chapter of Young African Leaders Initiative (Yali) Regional Leadership Centre South Africa has set its sights on youth empowerment as it champions development work in Zimbabwe.

Chapter coordinator for Zimbabwe, Takemore Mazuruse said they were going all out in their quest to raise an empowered and responsible generation of leaders and community builders.

"The world today requires committed and enterprising leaders who are geared to play their part in community development," Mazuruse said.

"As the local chapter of Yali, we have designed exciting 2018 programmes that will see our members and other progressive youth getting training in various programmes.

"The first of such trainings will be on February 24 at The Avon Restaurant in Avondale and we are inviting all young people to register and participate."

Mazuruse said the training would see various youth trained in proposal writing, conflict resolution, youth participation, public relations and digital marketing, among others.

Yali Regional Leadership Centre South Africa Alumni Zimbabwe Events and Networking coordinator Saymore Masaisai said there would be more development-oriented programmes to be rolled out this year.

"As a committee we have set ourselves a target to bring positive development in communities around Zimbabwe working with alumni and other progressive youths," he said.

"The training programme will, therefore, equip participants with market relevant skills designed to empower them for personal and community development."

All participants will receive Yali Regional Leadership Centre South Africa certificates, with partners like the United States embassy expected to grace

and support the event.

"We will make sure all our participants will get Yali Regional Leadership Centre South Africa certificates and we have invited partners like the US embassy, Junior Chamber International and Zimbabwe Youth Council, among others," Mazuruse said.

He highlighted that it was imperative for young people to be empowered for available opportunities in Zimbabwe.

"Zimbabwe offers a number of opportunities for young people and we want our youths to be able to write bankable proposals from their ideas while practising professionalism through related skills of the trade," he said.

The Young African Leaders Initiative youth development programme is a brainchild of former US President Barack Obama and seeks to raise empowered youths who can proffer solutions to challenges in their communities.

*[The Zimbabwe Standard]*



## ✓ BOLIVIA: VETERAN'S ORGANIZATIONS ASSIST YOUTH

**Brunswick County, 19 February 2018** - AMERICAN Legion Post 543, St James, and the Wilmington's 40&8 Voiture 245 combined forces on June 4. Representatives from both organizations visited Horseplay Farms/ Our Heroes Inc. in Bolivia.

Tuition assistance is provided for veteran's dependents and children with physical, emotional and special needs. These youngsters will be introduced to a five-hour "Horse Sense Workshop," learning skills from basic

horsemanship, grooming, to personal space barriers. Equine therapy has been proven to be quite beneficial in developmental therapy. They also visited the Brunswick County Youth Council Inc. "LAX BBQ" fundraising event.

This fledgling organization is looking to introduce the children of Brunswick County to opportunities combining fellowship, scholarships and programs that may have been underutilized until now.

[StarNewsOnline.com]

## ✓ CANADA: 2018 BUDGET KEEPS CANADA'S NATIONAL PARKS FREE FOR YOUTH

**Ottawa, 28 February 2018** - THE 2018 federal budget features a cross-country perk for youth 17 and under: access to all Canadian national parks, free of charge, fulfilling a promise made in 2017 to keep national parks free for kids.

As of Jan. 1, 2018, youth aged 17 and under have permanent free access to all federal parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas operated by Parks Canada.

"This budget recognizes something that every Canadian understands: that our quality of life, and our present and our future

prosperity, is deeply connected to the environment in which we live," Finance Minister Bill Morneau said in his 2018 budget speech on Tuesday.

"The extraordinary beauty of Canada's nature, parks, and wild spaces these are central to our identity as Canadians."

When the federal government released its 2017 national parks "Discovery Pass" to commemorate Canada 150, millions of Canadians took the opportunity to visit the country's national parks at no charge, Morneau said. "Some parks were so busy that they had to turn people

away," he added.

While some have praised the free admissions, others say it could be problematic and possibly harmful for the preservation of national parks.

"Extending free admissions to everyone would be bad for Canada's National Parks," Greg Pyle, biology professor at the University of Lethbridge, said in a tweet.

"If last year was any indication, there'd be huge crowds, trampled landscapes, lots of trash in otherwise pristine areas, and harassed wildlife."

Although park admissions will be free for youth 17 and under, regular fees will still apply for specific services and features, including: camping and backcountry accommodations; access to the Canadian Rockies Hot Springs; guided tours and hikes; firewood; mooring; and Overnight use of backcountry, among others.

In conjunction with the free admissions, Morneau also announced an investment of \$1.3 billion to conserve and protect Canadian waters, land, and biodiversity.

[CTV News]

## ✓ JAMAICA: YOUTH GROUP ENGAGES COMMUNITY ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

**Kingston, 6 February 2018** - APPROXIMATELY 40 young persons from the Exchange SDA Community Youth Group participated in a march against drug abuse in the community of Exchange, St. Ann on Global Youth Day (March 18).

As the young advocates made their trek through the community, they issued flyers and brochures on substance misuse.

The youth took the time to

speak with community members about the dangers of drug abuse as they journeyed across Exchange.

Upon completion of the march, the youth distributed meals and clothing to less fortunate members of the community.

The activities were hosted in partnerships with the Northern Regional Health Authority (NEHRA), who also offered basic health care such as blood sugar and blood pressure checks

to community members.

The Exchange SDA Community Youth Group is a newly-formed youth club in St. Ann.

The group, which was started by Senior Youth Empowerment Officer Anisa Wilson-Smith, is on a mission to engage youth, and positively impact the community of Exchange.

[Jamaica Observer]



### ✓ PERU: YOUTH GROUP HELPS PERU FOOD PANTRY

**Lima, 11 February 2018-** WHILE the -30F wind chill put a damper on the outside Peru Winterfest activities, it was still a productive Saturday inside the Peru Community Center.

Members of the Friends on a Mission youth group used the morning to sort and fold more than a thousand plastic bags, to be used by those people served by the Servant's Heart Food

Pantry.

Both programs are part of the United Baptist Church of Peru.

Food pantry Director Brenda Swan said the bags are brought in by people making food donations that keep the program operating. Hours here are 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday and 9 to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

The service project is part of the youth group's effort while fasting for 30 hours in order to raise money for hungry children through World Vision's 30-Hour Famine event.

Cathy Hezelton, who has directed the youth group since 2000, said there were nine youths participating in the 30-hour famine program, in which the young people learn about

the children they are helping as well as doing local service projects.

She said evidence of the positive way this program affects the youth group is that former members Seth Tacheny, Vernan Farrar and Briant Hunt returned Saturday to assist with their service project.

*[Peru this Week]*

### ✓ TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: YTC YOUTHS WELCOME SECOND CHANCE AT MATH

**Port of Spain, 15 February 2018-** TWENTY-NINE young men attached to the Youth Training Centre (YTC) have embraced "a second opportunity" to study mathematics as a formal subject as they graduated from the 2017 bpTT Young Adult Math Experience workshop at the facility at Arouca recently.

"I didn't like mathematics in the past and never really put my mind to it when I was in school. But this workshop has been very interesting.

Our tutor used practical examples to teach us the subject and made it really simple to understand. I hope to be an electrical engineer in the future and I know, for sure, that I have to pass math to achieve this goal," said 16-year old Joel Rambally.

A release said the Annual bpTT Young Adult Math Experience offers young men and women a second chance to study mathematics, a taxing subject for many, in a relaxed and fun environment.

Now in its seventh year, the initiative started off with students from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) it covered training at five locations this year, Port of Spain, Diego Martin, Mayaro, YTC (Arouca) and Tobago. The workshops are facilitated by training agency, Cross and Associates, with tutor Nicole Lord overseeing the YTC session.

This year marks the second edition of the annual math experience at the YTC, with Acting Assistant Superintendent of Prisons, Avellina Augustine-Kanhai, lauding BPTT for giving the youths a second opportunity to revive their interest in the subject.

"It is always a pleasure to see learning taking place, especially among youths. Within the service, we have a programme of education and skills training and we ensure that everyone is afforded the opportunity to learn and improve themselves.

"We thank BpTT wholeheartedly for enhancing our learning

activity and providing these young men with this chance to move forward in life. I also want to thank all the coordinators of the programme, parents and the facilitators, for partnering with us to make a real difference in the lives of these young men.

Joel Primus, Community Sustainability and Stakeholder relations Advisor, bpTT, told the graduates that while some people tend to have a negative view of YTC youths, their participation in the workshop demonstrated that something positive and heartening was taking place at the institution.

"Your graduation this morning shows that you have already embarked on a new life for yourselves which will usher great hope for your future.

Irrespective of what happened in your past, it is important to look ahead and plan for the future. Use this math experience as a building block for your new life," Primus urged the young graduates.

bpTT would continue to support the math experience at the YTC "and will support this initiative in other ways to help in your development for life".

Also addressing the graduates was Andrew Cross, Principal/Consultant, Cross and Associates, who told them that their graduation celebrated the end of a programme and heralded the celebration of a new beginning.

"Mathematics is a vehicle for positive change in your life.

Whenever you make mistakes, you need to correct them.

That is the objective of math and this opportunity should serve to change your life for the better," Cross advised the graduates.

*[Trinidad Guardian]*

He gave the assurance that



### ✓ BANGLADESH: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MOUNTAINEERING

**Dhaka, 11 February 2018** - ROPE4 Outdoor Education is going to introduce adventurous activities like mountaineering through the event “Mission Himalaya 2018” to the young people of Bangladesh. It is hoped that, such challenges will motivate the youths to take up an active and healthy lifestyle, leading to their personal development and finding the hidden strength within.

Mission Himalaya 2018 is comprised of three stages.

First, three workshops will take place in February and March of this year, at the Bangladesh Parjatan

Corporation.

The workshops will accommodate 20 participants each, where they would be taught and guided on mountaineering.

From each workshop, eight to ten participants will be selected for the next phase, which is a 3-day-long training camp called ‘Preparation for the Expedition’.

The Hazarikhil Wildlife Sanctuary in Chittagong is going to host the training in March, 2018.

Finally, the three best performers of Mission

Himalaya 2018 will be awarded with a chance to take part in an expedition in either India or Nepal.

The expedition is scheduled to take place in April or May of 2018.

Rope4 is a platform where one can learn about and share knowledge on outdoor activities.

The initiative facilitates trainings and workshops on adventurous activities, team building, survival camping, mountaineering expeditions and more.

The mission of Rope4 is to contribute to the development of youths, by

introducing to and educating them on positive and adventurous outdoor activities.

Star Youth, The Daily Star, is the Youth Engagement Partner of Mission Himalaya 2018.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation and Peak69 Outdoor and Adventure, an adventure gear shop, are the Event Partners of this innovative challenge.

*[The Daily Star]*

### ✓ JAPAN: JAPAN, UNDP TO SUPPORT EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH

**Tokyo, 19 February 2018** - THE Japan government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Monday signed an agreement to launch a US \$3.9 million initiative aiming to empower more than 20,000 youth in Sindh and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces.

This initiative will help improve employment prospects and promote social cohesion through positive interactions amongst the young people in deprived communities, helping them participate actively in the socio-economic development of Pakistan, said a statement issued here.

Speaking on the occasion, Japan Ambassador Takashi Kurai said that Pakistan’s population is very young and ensuring job opportunities and income for youth is critical for its development.

“Japan will continue to support youth and young women so that they can take the lead in the development of this country, which has a bright future with a young population,” he added.

UNDP Country Director Ignacio Artaza said that the challenges posed by the ‘youth bulge’ in Pakistan are immense.

“Almost 1.8 million jobs are required every year to absorb the growing number of young people entering the job market.

The youth represent the future of Pakistan, and this is a tremendous opportunity for which we are thankful to the government of Japan,” he added.

This project aligns with the government of Pakistan’s Vision 2025 roadmap and is an important step in helping Pakistan achieving its sustainable development

goals (SDGs) to engage young people, provide economic growth, productive employment and decent work for all.

The project builds on previous collaborations between UNDP and the Japanese government that have supported the people of Pakistan in responding to a host of development challenges, from relief and rehabilitation work in FATA to electoral reforms at the national level.

*[The Japan Times]*



### ✓ MALAYSIA: ANNOUNCES RM500, 000 INITIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO MALAYSIA YOUTH

**Kuala Lumpur, 22 February 2018** - DEPUTY Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi announced an initial contribution of RM500, 000 to the Malaysia Youth Alumni Foundation here tonight.

He said the contribution, which was set to be approved and launched in the near future was to cover medical and welfare costs of former youth leaders and activists who were currently suffering from illnesses due

to age-related or other factors.

"I hope the funds I am allocating to this foundation will be used for the welfare of former youth leaders and activists.

"I understand there are those who have no insurance coverage, and are forced to look for funds to finance treatment costs," he said during the Malaysian Youth Council (MBM) Alumni dinner event at the Putra World Trade Centre

here, today.

Also present were Ahmad Zahid's wife Datin Seri Hamidah Khamis and MBM Alumni president Datuk Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah.

Zahid also praised the initiative taken by the MBM Alumni to organise the dinner event tonight, which not only brought back nostalgic memories, but also raised the spirit of togetherness among alumni members.

A total of 1,200 former youth leaders and activists nationwide attended the event.

At the event, Zahid also presented MBM Alumni welfare handouts of RM500 each to 16 alumni members in need.

[Bernama]

### ✓ PHILIPPINES: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT KEY TO POVERTY REDUCTION

**Manila, 17 February 2018** - INVESTING in the employment of young people is important to poverty reduction and the country's inclusive economic growth, according to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) Brief.

The paper said youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) and slow in school-to-work transition is a challenge in the Philippines and the Southeast Asia and Pacific region.

It attributed to several factors contributing to the persistence of youth in NEET rates in the Philippines, particularly striking in the Visayas and Mindanao region.

These include job skills mismatch in the labor market, a lack of labor market information available to young people, and insufficient employment services for at-risk youth.

The ADB Brief said many of these at-risk young people were from low-income households with limited social networks.

To address this problem, it underscored the need to invest in the employment of youth in an effort to "realize the potential of human capital in terms of wealth and savings, leading to huge economic and also ultimately, social gains." "Employment generation is valuable to inclusive

economic growth. Young people are more vulnerable to low wages, insecurity, or lack of social protection.

An effective transition to the labor market and access to decent employment will allow young people to use their energy and creativity to foster social cohesion and bring their families out of poverty," it noted.

The ADB Brief said JobStart Philippines (JSP) has assisted young Filipinos in starting their careers, in support skills enhancement through formal or technical training to enable them to become more responsive to the demands of the job market, and in providing better integration opportunities into

productive employment.

The program includes 50 LGUs targeting 50,000 out-of-school youths by 2020.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has already signed memorandums of understanding with 32 partner LGUs to implement JSP as of December 2017. An additional six LGUs will join the program annually from 2018 to 2020.

[The Manila Times]

### ✓ THAILAND: UPSKILLING A GENERATION

**Bangkok, 27 February 2018** - SEVERAL organisations have joined together to teach computer science to Thailand's disabled and underprivileged young people.

Although computer science

is thought of as a difficult, complicated subject, it's actually a basic aspect of everyday life. Now a programme has been initiated to give underprivileged and disabled youth.

Microsoft's YouthSpark programme is a collaborative effort between Microsoft Thailand, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (DE) and Change Fusion, as well as the Redemptory's Foundation for People.

This marked the fifth year of training that YouthSpark has run under the ongoing partnership with local organisations, said Supahrat Juramongkol, manager of Microsoft Philanthropies.



"The activity is one of many learning opportunities planned for underprivileged and disabled youth in 2018," she said.

RFPD has provided digital training to over 1,000 people with disabilities in Thailand since 2017.

Through this YouthSpark grants, RFPD managed to introduce computer science education to the curriculum.

In 2018, with Microsoft YouthSpark, RFPD will provide even more opportunities to Thais with disabilities to get access to computer science through the "train-the-trainer" initiative.

Seventy-five additional youth trainers, comprising of RFPD staff and students, will not only empower young people with digital skills but also restore their dignity and encourage them to be more confident,

Split into 25 groups by their respective hometowns, within a year, the trainers will manage and deliver training for 750 people locally, as well as for 75 young people from orphanages in remote areas.

Under the Thailand 4.0 plan, the country is undergoing extensive reformation in all socio-economic areas including promotion of technology, creativity and innovation. Becoming a value-based and innovation-driven.

Through YouthSpark, in partnership with the Office of the National Economic and Social Development and ChangeFusion, Microsoft aims to train 1,200 young trainers by October 2018.

The training team comprises people of different backgrounds including Digital Community Centre leaders, members of local NGOs and schoolteachers, who will deliver digital literacy and computer science.

RFPD vice-president Pattarapong Srivorakul said offering chances to persons with disabilities in Thailand has progressed considerably with the introduction of new laws.

Thanks to support from Microsoft and the government, we now can reach people in remote areas. This provides opportunities to vast numbers of disabled people to upskill with computer science which now ranks.

Through these skills, they can pursue better career opportunities, foster self-reliance and achieve their lifelong goals in an era of ever-changing economic and social landscapes, said Pattarapong.

This year, Microsoft is offering 3 million baht in grants to the YouthSpark programme, reinforcing its commitment to equip young people with digital skills.

"We believe that every single young person in Thailand, regardless of their abilities and background, should have equal access to computer science education," said Dhanawat Suthumpun, managing director.

According to a LinkedIn survey, 24 out of the 25 skills that companies need most in 2018 are

computer-related, such as cloud and distributed computing. Having access to training is the only way for Thai.

Microsoft has also been working with the DE, which oversees the Net Pracharat project, to provide a broadband network to 24,700 villages nationwide and offer computer science learning to people in those.

"Under Microsoft YouthSpark, we continue to inspire and support people of all abilities to advance the future where the benefits of technology, and the opportunities it can open, reach those who need it.

*[Bangkok Post]*

NEWS



### ✓ AZERBAIJAN: AZERCELL DECLARES FURTHER SUPPORT OF YOUTH

**Baku, 25 February 2018** - AZERCELL CEO Vahid Mursaliyev met with the students who had obtained the title of Azercell scholars.

The operator reports that Mursaliyev stated at the meeting that in addition to monthly stipend from Azercell, the program will also provide the students an opportunity to enrich their knowledge about telecommunications, participate in Azercell's

corporate events and social activities, receive various trainings, as well as take internship at the company. "Azercell has supported the youth and students since the company started its business activity. A number of student programs, internships and other projects have been carried out so far.

We also concluded cooperation agreements with the universities you study in. All these steps are

aimed to develop our education", he stated. The stipend winners currently study in Baku State University, Azerbaijan State Economic University, ADA University, Public Administration Academy under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar University, Gafqaz University, Ganja State University, Nakhchivan State University, Baku High Oil School, State Oil and Industry University, Azerbaijan Technical

University, Mingachevir State University, Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction and Ganja Agrarian University. Azercell has conducted the Student Bursary Program annually since 2008. Over 130 students from various universities in Azerbaijan have benefited from the Program.

*[Azerbaijan Business Center]*

### ✓ GERMANY: YOUTH BETWEEN MARGINALIZATION AND CONTRIBUTION

**Berlin, 18 February 2018** - THE Don Bosco Forum in Bonn provided a platform for more than 400 guests to discuss social marginalization of youngsters.

"It is our goal as Don Bosco to get youngsters out of isolation" emphasized the managing directors of Don Bosco Mondo (Christian Osterhaus) and of Don Bosco Mission Bonn (Nelson Penedo).

Hundreds of young and long-term members of Don Bosco institutions worldwide, interested parties and representatives from politics and society attended the meeting at the University of Bonn. At the end of the Don Bosco Forum the participants of the prior scheduled International Youth Conference presented the results on the topic "Marginalization". 40 teenagers from Europe and the Middle East were searching for ways out of radicalization. They presented the Forum with a video pleading for

more tolerance and peace. In addition, their dancing performance served as an impressive testimonial of the meaning of marginalization.

The teenagers experienced the encounter with participants from diverse countries as enrichment. One female attendee concluded: "the more we know about each other, the more tolerant we become."

Father Thomas Koshy (SDB), Director of the Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (YAR) with headquarters in New Delhi, is aware of the meaning of marginalization of the young.

Roughly ten million children live in the streets in his home country India. For decades he has been promoting the welfare of street children.

Education is an important key to success.

The caste system constitutes a major problem in India demanding a strict separation of social classes.

Accordingly, the so-called "untouchables" are excluded from society being forced into doing menial work such as toilet cleaning and trash disposal. Fr Koshy laments a culture of exclusion preventing progress.

There are also many youngsters in Germany who are marginalized encountering rejection. "There is one form of emotional marginalization which leaves young people heavily scarred", Simon Härting (SDB) stated, the educational director of the Don Bosco Youth Aid Center in Sannerz close by Fulda.

"We had one boy with us who was rejected by his parents, grandparents, by his entire family. Nobody wanted to be in contact with him.

As a protective measure, he built armor, also physically. We did not manage to establish a relationship with him for a year, this being the most important factor we must build up a

relationship with the youngster."

"Sometimes we reach our physical limits when the youngsters become aggressive or offensive which can hit us also physically.

It is important to be well protected and to keep the focus on what is doable and what not. Regardless, Don Bosco always facilitates a fresh start over.

We adhere by our familiar quotation, "In case of a doubt, we grant a tenth chance."

*[The Guardian]*



### ✓ ROMANIA: BACAU TO BECOME THE YOUTH CAPITAL OF ROMANIA THIS YEAR

**Bucharest , 5 February 2018** - BACAU Municipality and Young People Federation from Bacau, together with the Governance Board for Young People Capital, comprising the Young People Council from Romania, Young People Federation from Cluj and BCR, signed on Tuesday the agreement for the establishment of Bacau as the Youth Capital of Romania.

Bacau will hold this title between May 2 2017- May 1 2018, aiming to develop the city through the involvement of young

people and capitalize their potential. At the same time, BCR will grant the municipality EUR 50,000, becoming the first official bank of the program.

The mission of Bacau is to support the young people's ideas by organizing local and national events and ensuring the infrastructure for activities for young people in different areas, such as education, culture, public participation, work and entrepreneurship, sport and health.

Both the municipality and

the Young People Federation from Bacau aim to organize between May 2 2017 and May 1 2018 over 100 events and over 1,500 activities for 344,000 beneficiaries as well as over 1,800 volunteers.

Young people are currently the main creativity source of Romania.

We have the duty of harness it and encourage it, to not lose it so easily.

We have to determine the young people to have faith that they can do something for the communities they

were born in and grew in, to actively contribute to the Romania's development. We are extremely proud to support for the third year in row the Youth Capital," said Dana Demetrian, vice-president executive retail and private banking of BCR.

Bacau is the second city from Romani that will become the capital of the young people after Timisoara.

*[Daily Mail]*

### ✓ SLOVENIA: YOUTH POORLY INFORMED OF HIV, DEBATE HEARS

**Ljubljana, 12 February 2018**- Young Slovenians are poorly informed of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, and there is

no systematic sex education at schools, agreed participants of a round table debate on preventing HIV transmission in Ljubljana

on Wednesday.

*[Slovenska Tiskovna Agencija]*

### ✓ SPAIN: YOUTH JOBLESS RATE IN SPAIN AT 42PC IN FIRST QUARTER

**Madrid, 27 February 2018**- THE jobless rate for people under 25 years of age in Spain in the first quarter dropped by 1 percentage point to 42 percent, compared with the previous three-month period, the Economy Ministry reported.

its main goals since taking office in 2011.

Economy Minister Luis de Guindos has said the country will create some 500,000 new jobs this year, bringing the unemployment rate below 17 percent.-AP

Spain's unemployment peaked at 27 percent in 2013 just before it began to emerge from a tough five-year financial crisis.

*[Bloomberg]*

The country still has the second-highest unemployment rate in the 28-country European Union behind Greece.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government has made reducing unemployment and boosting economic growth



### ✓ AUSTRALIA: YOUTH TAKING STEPS TO CHANGE LIVES THROUGH VOLUNTEER WORK

**Canberra, 28 February 2018**

- FORMER Dubbo student Kasey Kelly was learning about the struggles taking place in remote Aboriginal communities when instead of writing essays she decided to make a difference.

“I was studying a Bachelor of Social Science (Indigenous Studies) at Woolongong University and I found it really hard to sit in a classroom and hear about it without doing something.

I wanted to be able to do something now and not just wait until I had finished the course,” Ms Kelly said. For 10 weeks Ms Kelly volunteered in Oodnadatta in South Australia.

That was followed by four

days volunteering in Melbourne where she marched through the streets in the name of Aboriginal land rights.

Ms Kelly’s next volunteering stint will be for two weeks in the Northern Territory.

“There’s one village that’s been without water for a year, there was a problem with blue-green algae.

They only have one tap that’s up the hill. I learnt about it at uni and I never thought I’d get a chance to do something about it,” she said.

The volunteer said the programs she assisted with were all about sustainable outcomes.

Not just giving money to the communities in need but helping them start something that could be continued when the volunteers leave.

During her time in Oonadatta, Ms Kelly said she helped some local women turn their bush medicines into soap. They made \$300 in two days. Since starting volunteering, Ms Kelly said her life had turned around.

“I can’t tell you how much volunteering has changed my life, on a personal level but also job-wise,” she said. While before she was at university and struggling to find work, Ms Kelly said job offers started flooding in after her volunteering

stints began.

Even the Gilgandra community where she now lives has jump on board, helping her fundraise and donating goods for her to take to the Northern Territory.

After making such a huge difference in the lives of others, Ms Kelly said more young people in Dubbo should start volunteering.

“It’s a great way for young Aboriginal people to learn about their culture and help out their mob,” she said.

*[Daily Liberal]*

### ✓ FIJI: COMMONWEALTH YOUTHS MEETING

**Suva, 27 February 2018** - YOUNG people from around the Commonwealth gathered at the University of Fiji Lautoka campus for the Commonwealth Youth Forum last week.

University vice-chancellor Professor Prem Misir said the event became a reality after the 20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers was organised in Nadi last week.

Attorney-General and Education Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum spoke at the forum and highlighted various initiatives taken by the Government to ensure

accessible education for all Fijians.

*[Fiji Times]*

### ✓ GUAM: LION’S CLUB SEEKS AID FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

**Hagåtña, 15 February 2018** - THE District 204 Lion’s Club is in the process of bringing its youth camp-out to the CNMI but, in the meantime, is seeking the help of government and private agencies to sponsor some of those who will be participating in the camp-out in Guam.

The service organization has hosted a youth camp-out in Guam for many years now to inspire the youth to overcome diversity barriers.

The club wants to extend the program to the CNMI but funding has been a setback.

During the club’s annual health fair last Sunday, district governor Arturu Navarro explained that the camp-out in Guam also teaches the youth of the Lion’s clubs across the region to transition from Leos (junior youths) to Lion leaders.

“They learn a lot. They learn more about leadership traits...but it is only done in Guam. We have not done it

here yet,” he said.

The camp-out is usually held once a year for three days.

According to Navarro, it has been a while now since the club planned to extend the camp-out to Saipan but funding has not permitted it. “Financial constraints have been blocking the way,” he said.

Despite this, the youth of Saipan are welcome to join the conference in Guam, assured district 204 2009-governor Goring Duenas, who added that assistance

from government or private agencies to help sponsor these youth would be highly appreciated.

“What we are doing here is inviting them [Saipan youth] to come over and if any businesses out here on Saipan would like to sponsor these youth to come over for that three day activity, we welcome that,” he said.



Duenas also said they hope that, one day, the Guam youth can visit Saipan for the youth camp-out.

“It would be like a cultural exchange program of youths

working together ... One thing that is really good about this program is that it breaks barrier. ... We’d all come together as one,” he said.

Duenas said the club wants to make businesses aware that, although the Lion’s Club is a non-profit organization, they can partner up with other businesses that have the

same intent as that they have, which is to meet the needs of the community.

[Saipan Tribune]



### NEW ZEALAND: YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME SEEKS YOUNG WRITERS

**Wellington, 6 February 2018** - THREE secondary school students will each have the opportunity to be mentored by one of New Zealand’s best professional authors in order to develop their craft and hone their writing skills.

The NZSA Youth Mentorship Programme 2018 offers these aspiring

young writers (aged 15-18) a mentorship, from May to November, giving them the opportunity to gain valuable skills and knowledge.

The intent of the mentor programme is to foster and develop emerging writing talent with the support of established authors.

Young Picton writer Aislinn

Roodt, was partnered with award winning novelist Shirley Corlett for her 2017 mentorship and had this to say about her experience: “ I learned far more than I expected from this mentorship.

I have gained a deeper understanding of the principles used by writers and of the English language.

This has helped me write more concisely and in a richer way.”

The NZSA has run a highly successful mentoring programme for writers since 1999, thanks to support from Creative New Zealand.

[Scoop.co.nz]



### SAMOA: GETTING YOUNG FARMERS TO HELP ADDRESS JOBS SHORTAGE

**Apia, 27 February 2018** - THE Food Science and Technology Division of the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa (S.R.O.S.) is doing its part to improve employment opportunities for youth in Samoa.

It has implemented the first phase of its Letter of Agreement (L.O.A.) consultancy work with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (F.A.O.) to “Build capacity of youth and young farmers on value added food processing practices.”

The agreement and associated activities are a part of the technical assistance funded through F.A.O. for “Strengthening capacity of Youth for employment and livelihood in Agriculture.”

A survey conducted in 2012 revealed that employment opportunities for youth in Samoa are very limited with

40.3% of young people leaving school without graduating. The majority are falling out of the school system during secondary education.

Employment in the Agriculture sector has been reported to have decreased from 60per cent to 36per cent with limited solutions.

This highlights the urgent need to implement policies and programmes on skills development and entrepreneurship and this work is part of the identified interventions.

The programme was conducted by Tuimaseve Kuinimeri Finau, a Food Scientist of the Food Science and Technology Division and her staff. The partners, namely the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (M.A.F.) and Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (M.W.C.S.D.) selected the youth and

young farmers from around Savai’i and Upolu who participated in the two lots of one week training conducted in late January and early February this year.

The training included introduction to theory and general principles on value adding, food processing and preservation, food hygiene and safety, and H.A.C.C.P. The core activities, however, focused on practicals for processing actual products through the preservation methods of freezing (taro, fa’i Samoa, pumpkin, breadfruit), dehydration for producing tea and spices (using turmeric, ginger and lemongrass), as well as making fruit jams from papaya and oranges. The main objective was to build the capacity of young farmers for simple value adding activities using agricultural produce grown and available locally with an overall aim of building the capacities of participants

for income generating activities.

The programme included presentations from the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour (M.C.I.L.) as well as Small Business Enterprise Centre (S.B.E.C.) and also a visit to the M.A.F. pack house at Atele to observe first hand the facilities used for processing frozen crops for export.

The second activity for the project to be implemented in March will be the ‘production and marketing trials’ conducted by selected trained farmers for at least two products included in the training.

The results of this activity will be shared through an end of project workshop for all the trained young farmers to complete this work.

[Samoa Observer]

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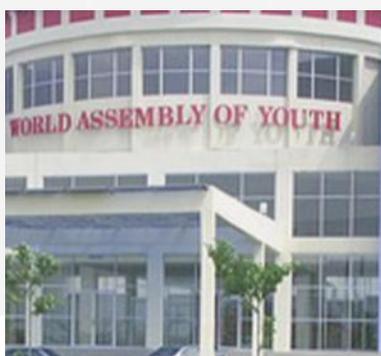
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World Assembly of Youth  
World Youth Complex  
Jalan Lebu Ayer Keroh  
Ayer Keroh 75450  
Melaka, MALAYSIA

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