



✓ In Today's Bulletin

<p><u>BOTSWANA:</u> With The Youth In Mind</p> <p><u>NAMIBIA:</u> Namibian Youth Joins UNESCO</p> <p><u>NIGERIA:</u> Aisha Buhari Urges Nigerians To Support Fight Against Corruption</p> <p><u>TANZANIA:</u> Mwanza NGO Launches Youth Competition</p> <p><u>ZAMBIA:</u> Be Proactive, VEEP Urges Youths</p> <p><u>BAHAMAS:</u> Cable Bahamas Supports Local Youth Literacy Programme</p> <p><u>BERMUDA:</u> Helping Youth On Path To Successful Careers</p> <p><u>CANADA:</u> Thunder Bay Set To Get Two New Youth Centres</p> <p><u>GUYANA:</u> Youth Organisations Need Young Leaders</p> <p><u>JAMAICA:</u> Starbucks To Launch Youth Training Program In New Jamaica</p> <p><u>BANGLADESH:</u> Bangladesh's Future Depends On Quality Of Young Leaders</p> <p><u>INDIA:</u> India's Future Lies In Hands Of Youth: G A Mir</p> <p><u>KUWAIT:</u> Youth Enterprise Dominates Economic Future</p> <p><u>LEBANON:</u> Youth Forum Energizes Next Generation</p> <p><u>QATAR:</u> Rota Wraps Up Youth Challenge</p>	<p><u>AZERBAJAIN:</u> Festival Of Children And Youth Creativity Due In Baku</p> <p><u>BULGARIA:</u> EIB Supports 1st Youth Employment Projects In Bulgaria CIBANK</p> <p><u>ROMANIA:</u> Romania Youth Think Mobile Internet Will Dominate</p> <p><u>SERBIA:</u> Serbia's Youth Is Well Educated, Hardworking And Talented</p> <p><u>TURKEY:</u> Employment Opportunities Waiting Turkish Youth</p> <p><u>AUSTRALIA:</u> Youth Employment Report Points To Effective Programs</p> <p><u>FIJI:</u> UNDP Gives \$100k To Mobilize Youths</p> <p><u>NEW ZEALAND:</u> Nominations Open For NZ Youth Awards</p> <p><u>PAPUA NEW GUINEA:</u> \$10.8 Million For PNG Youth Employment Project</p> <p><u>VANUATU:</u> \$3m For Youth Jobs</p>
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[**AMERICA**](#)
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[**EUROPE**](#)
[**PACIFIC**](#)
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✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL 2016

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
2 April 2016	World Autism Awareness Day	Melaka, Malaysia
6 April 2016	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	Melaka, Malaysia
7 April 2016	World Healthy Day	Melaka, Malaysia
22 April 2016	International Mother Earth Day	Melaka, Malaysia
23 April 2016	World Book and Copyright Day	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ BOTSWANA: WITH THE YOUTH IN MIND

Mogoditshane, 4 March 2016 - LEGISLATOR

Sedirwa Kgoroba says his office is working on curbing unemployment in the constituency to reduce crime rate which is normally associated with unemployed youths.

Speaking at a gathering to welcome Botswana Democratic Party Secretary for Mogoditshane, Pheny

Moresekaao into the Umbrella for Democratic Change fold last Friday, and Kgoroba said his party is planning to offer private tuition to the youths and to equip them with life skills.

"The area is over populated and has a high crime rate.

The youths require special skills to aid them get jobs so they can be off the streets,"

said Kgoroba.

He also revealed that his office has embarked on tower lights installation project again as a way of fighting crime.

"There are a number of dark areas in Mogoditshane where criminals hide so they can easily pounce on passerbys.

With the aid of tower lights I believe the situation will be under control," he said. In his speech Moresekaao said the BDP is falling apart hence his decision to join UDC which has functional structures.

[The Voice Online]

✓ NAMIBIA: NAMIBIAN YOUTH JOINS UNESCO

Windhoek, 2 March 2016 - OLIVIA Haludilu of the Young Professionals Programme (YPP) has been chosen along with 13 young professionals from non and underrepresented countries to join the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on a year contract in Paris and in a number of field offices.

This is the first time that a Namibian representative is chosen to be part of UNESCO under the YPP.

"I am honoured and humbled to have been selected to join UNESCO via the YPP 2015. I had a 1.5% of being chosen and I have to pinch myself every now and then to see if it is all real.

This is a great opportunity not just for me but for our country," says the excited Haludilu. The newly selected 14 young professionals, nine women and five men, come from all regions of the world, five from non-represented member-states, and nine from underrepresented member states, such as: Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Liberia, Zambia, New Zealand, Oman, Namibia, Montenegro, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Singapore, Slovenia, Portugal, Viet Nam, and Luxembourg.

Their background includes advanced degrees (Ph.D., Master, LL.M) in areas such as development and globalisation, natural resources; public policies; international relations; business administration; environmental law; law and security; public international law and applied accounting.

The young professionals will acquire training and work experience in development cooperation; project management; administration of multilateral programmes and projects, either within UNESCO's field offices or at the headquarters.

Haludilu says as a global citizen, UNESCO has given her a platform to become an international civil servant and contributes the little knowledge/experience she has towards the betterment of human kind.

"I am a proud Namibian

and I will act as an emissary for our beloved country in my conduct, my work and professionalism. Namibia is under represented in a lot of international bodies such as the United Nations, World Bank, the Common Wealth, the African Development Bank just to name a few.

This is probably due to our small population, but a lot has to do with the fact that the information about these kinds of opportunities is not readily available."

"I would like to focus on mentorship and coaching of young Namibians to not only improve their careers but to apply for young professionals programmes so we put our country on the map, gain valuable experience in international relations and to ensure that we have more Namibians in different international organisations at all levels," says the youthful Haludilu who is passionate about corporate governance and wishes to expand her experience in this field.

The applications for the UNESCO YPP 2015 opened to the public in

April 2015.

The YPP selection process is highly competitive and attracts increasing numbers of candidates every year.

The 2015 intake was chosen from an initial pool of 907 candidates submitted by 86 National Commissions; 277 candidates were pre-screened against the eligibility criteria and educational requirements.

These candidates were invited for an interview responding to questions dealing with substantive and technical skills, curriculum and motivation.

After a thorough review, 81 candidates from 42 Member States were selected for a final interview.

YPP provides the opportunity to young university graduates and young qualified professionals from non- and under-represented Member States to join UNESCO at the early stage of their professional careers.



UNESCO targets young professionals under the age of 32 with advanced degrees in education, culture, science, social and human sciences or communication, or in a field of direct relevance to the management and administration of an international organization.

Haludilu currently serves as

a Manager of Finance and Administration at Namibian Nature Foundation. In January 2016, she became the first Namibian to be successfully selected to join UNESCO in the Education Sector via the YPP.

Haludilu holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from the University of Namibia (Unam).

During her time at Unam she served as a Faculty Representative in 2005, was the first female Speaker of the Student Union Parliament in 2006 and Student Representative Council (SRC) Vice President in 2007.

She later served as the Secretary for Social Welfare of the Namibian Student

Association (NANSO) from 2008 to 2011. Haludilu also served as a member of the Education Forum at the regional level in her home village in the Oshana region from 2010 until 2014.

[New Era]

✓ NIGERIA: AISHA BUHARI URGES NIGERIANS TO SUPPORT FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Abuja, 23 March 2016 - THE Wife of the President, Mrs Aisha Buhari, on Wednesday in Abuja, urged Nigerians to support government's efforts in the fight against corruption.

She made the call at the 2016 Global Money Week celebration organised by the Forum Network of Young Female Leaders of ECOWAS Community, Nigeria.

Represented by her Director of Media, Malam Nadabo Zakariya'u, the President's wife said the need to support the corruption crusade had become necessary as it would ensure better future for the country.

She appealed to stakeholders to partner with the Federal Government in addressing all challenges that might set the country

aback. She said "let me remind us about the commitment and resolve of government toward enshrining best practices in the scheme of things at all levels.

"As a mother, I am very happy to witness this occasion in which children and youths are involved in the learning and operational processes in financial management."

She said that the series of activities outlined for the event for children to visit banks, the Nigerian Stock Exchange, the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), debates, among others, would stimulate youths to be better financial managers.

She added that there was the need to adopt the various recommendations during

the programme to ensure better management of finances in the country, "and I, therefore, commend your foresight and choice of theme for this event which is 'Take Part, Save Smart.'"

Mrs Buhari said that the Global Money Week would engage the youths and stakeholders at global level to project the practice of managing and saving for future.

Mr Felix Ihonre, the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Forum Network of Young Female Leaders of ECOWAS Community, said the Board was in support of the ongoing anti-corruption war in the country.

He said this had earned Nigeria honours across the globe because of the leadership the country has.

"The corruption battle for one is a battle for all. Our campaign against corruption will be most effective when we carry it out as a team."

Ihonre added that the Global Money Week was a money awareness celebration aimed at inspiring children and youth to learn about money saving, creating livelihoods, gaining employment to become good entrepreneur.

He said these would assist the youth to secure their future, learn and take part in clever cost-careful habits from early age to avoid financial exclusion and develop key money-managing skills later in life.

[New Agency of Nigeria]

✓ TANZANIA: MWANZA NGO LAUNCHES YOUTH COMPETITION

Mwanza, 3 March 2016 - THE KBK quality Capital Limited Board of Trustees has launched economic empowerment and job creation competition for youth aimed at promoting investment.

Board of Trustee Chairman, Dr Kissui Steven Kissui,

said yesterday here that the KBK quality capital company limited was helping the youth to become government partners in eradication of poverty, unemployment, corruption and scientific fraudulent.

Dr Kissui lauded Mwanza

residents for their decision to become royal investors and sponsor for the competition at Kiseke Ward in Ilemela District.

He said that through the economic and job empowerment strategy that is implemented by GODTEC Company

limited, BKB quality Capital Company limited, Bega we bega Microfinance Company limited.



Dr Kissui who is retired Assistant empowerment Director in the former ministry of information, culture, youth and sports

said that these 601,818 youth are ready to be employed in the companies.

She noted that the

competition is a part of implementation of the 5th phase government policies under Dr John Pombe Magufuli.

[Tanzania Daily News]

✓ ZAMBIA: BE PROACTIVE, VEEP URGES YOUTHS

Lusaka, 6 March 2016 - VICE-PRESIDENT Inonge Wina has told youths not to just talk about what they intend to do with their lives but participate in Government's youth empowerment programmes.

Ms Wina said youths should not be idle, but be proactive in implementing various Government empowerment programmes.

"It must be appreciated, however, that while Government and other stakeholders are implementing various programmes for youth empowerment, you, the youths must not sit idle, but be proactive in shaping your own welfare and destiny," she said.

Ms Wina said Government had devised many youth empowerment programmes that the young people could take advantage of.

She said one of the initiatives was the first-ever launch of the Youth Empowerment and Employment Action Plan by the President Edgar Lungu yesterday.

The plan provided measures and strategies for empowering and creating employment opportunities for the youths.

Even the first Republican President Kenneth Kaunda was young when he became president and presided over a youthful Cabinet.

Ms Wina said this year's theme 'Youth champions of dialogue, peace, unity and economic emancipation' was timely considering that Zambia was going to the poll in August this year.

During this period, many youths were used as tools to promote violence.

She urged the young people to work hard at promoting peace and denouncing violence.

During homily, the Zambia National Service (ZNS) chaplain Eve Mulenga said youths should embrace peace and stop boasting that they were violent and untouchable.

Reverend Mulenga said youths should champion peace because it was a prerequisite for economic emancipation.

[Times of Zambia]

NEWS



✓ BAHAMAS: CABLE BAHAMAS SUPPORTS LOCAL YOUTH LITERACY PROGRAMME

Nassau, 8 March 2016 - T. G. GLOVER Primary School students are singing their way to improved reading proficiency thanks to Mission: Educate Bahamas, which recently partnered with Cable Bahamas (CBL) and Kelly's Home Centre to give the school a new computer lab, equipped with the melodic learning programme Tunein to Reading (TiR).

The organisations teamed up in January to make the generous donation, which will benefit hundreds of students in grades three through six.

For its part, Kelly's contributed 40 brand new laptops to the resource centre. CBL stepped in to provide the site with dedicated REV broadband Internet modems.

Deployment Director for Mission: Educate Bahamas Alexis Tsavoussis said the organisation is committed to eradicating childhood illiteracy in the country

through the TiR programme, and the support it has received from corporations like CBL has been critical to its goal.

"We are so appreciative of everything Cable Bahamas has done for us," Ms Tsavoussis said.

"They have been so generous in dedicating modems to our programme. Tunein to Reading is computer-based and requires a steady stream of Internet in order for it to work effectively and keep students interested. So this sponsorship is vital to our success."

To date, Mission: Educate Bahamas has implemented TiR in 22 government primary schools in New Providence.

The innovative programme uses music to improve reading, pronunciation and comprehension skills.

Students enter the programme at their designated grade level and

sing along to songs that are specially written to test reading difficulty and vocabulary.

TiR also includes quizzes that measure comprehension and progress over the course of the programme.

Cable Bahamas Commercial Sales Account Executive Charnette Thompson said the company takes seriously its responsibility to the community and has, for many years, supported youth development programmes.

She noted that Cable Bahamas has donated modems to a number of school libraries in the past, which has assisted with the expansion of the TiR programme on the island.

"Cable Bahamas is proud to participate in this literacy improvement initiative that helps students to become better readers at the primary school levels, which we hope will continue into

junior and senior high to improve reading fluency and comprehension," Ms Thompson said.

"Mastering these skills is essential to personal and professional achievement, and ensuring that today's students are equipped to take advantage of opportunities and compete in tomorrow's global economy."

Mission: Educate Bahamas started its literacy initiative five years ago, and since that time, teachers have reported that the TiR programme has helped students become more interested and comfortable with reading, Ms Tsavoussis said.

As a result of this progress, she noted, the Ministry of Education has mandated TiR for all schools with access to the programme.

[Bahama Islands Info]

✓ BERMUDA: HELPING YOUTH ON PATH TO SUCCESSFUL CAREERS

Hamilton, 10 March 2016 - IN November, the Association of Bermuda International Companies took a panel of young Bermudian IB professionals into CedarBridge Academy and the Berkeley Institute to talk to S4 students.

For some of the professionals, it meant returning to their old schools to share their successful paths in International Business.

Panellists shared why they chose their careers and the paths taken to meet their

goals; financial, personal and academic challenges along the way and the value of perseverance; snapshots of their day-to-day job responsibilities; the important benefits of mentoring and networking; personality fits for certain careers; and encouraged them to find their passion and never lose focus.

In January, Abic returned to CedarBridge Academy and the Berkeley Institute to give the same sort of presentations to the S2s and S3s, a larger and younger audience.

The panellists encouraged them to find their passion, focus on their dreams and strive to improve their grades to ensure they were eligible to apply for scholarships and apply to good accredited colleges and universities.

The panellists were Christa Schweizer, corporate lawyer at ASW Law; Omar James, applications engineer at Clarien Bank; Jubilee Edness, assistant underwriter at Arch Insurance; Helen Crisson, actuarial analyst at Validus; Jennifer Beech, audit

manager at KPMG; Stuart Roberts, communications manager at the Bermuda Monetary Authority; Arianna Hodgson, human resources specialist at Expertise; and DeVrae Tankard, underwriter at XL Catlin.

Ms Schweizer, Mr James, Ms Edness, Ms Crisson and Ms Beech are all Abic education awards alumni.



Patrick Tannock, chairman of Abic, said: "Abic has been actively involved in increasing Bermudian students' awareness of career opportunities in IB and its support services, and our outreach to the Berkeley Institute and CedarBridge Academy is a natural extension of Abic's commitment to ensure that students are well aware not just of the opportunities which range from

accounting, underwriting, human resources, actuarial studies, law, IT and communications to banking but just as critically that they understand the path to acquire the appropriate skill sets to participate and succeed in IB."

The overall objective of the awards programme is to provide financial assistance to Bermudian students pursuing higher education degrees (full undergraduate

or postgraduate), primarily in areas related to IB and supporting services.

The long-term goal is to develop highly trained Bermudians who will return to the island to help to strengthen IB and the economy.

Jahmai Small, S4 and deputy head boy at CedarBridge Academy, said: "The presentation was very worthwhile and I feel it

will be beneficial for my future endeavours.

It helped me to network and also informed me of the various scholarship opportunities."

[Royal Gazette]

✓ CANADA: THUNDER BAY SET TO GET TWO NEW YOUTH CENTRES

Thunder Bay, 4 March 2016 - YOUNG people in Thunder Bay, Ont., will have access to more activities this year.

City Council approved \$105,500 in funding for two new youth centres at its budget review meeting on Thursday night.

The budget is yet to be ratified.

City administrators told council they could not yet reveal the locations of the new centres, but said that they are in "high need areas" and that the city is very close to finalizing arrangements for them.

The new centres would supplement existing youth programs housed in the Current River and West Thunder Community Centres.

Coun Andrew Foulds said his son has used the Current River youth centre.

He said the youth centres allow young people to bake, do crafts, play games, and visit other attractions in the city. (Andrew Foulds)

"I think they're outstanding," Coun. Andrew Foulds told CBC, adding his son has used the Current River youth centre.

"They do things like baking and crafts.

They play games, indoor and outdoor.

They also do some travelling.

They have opportunities to go to different venues within the city.

And they're able to do that a little more cheaply, so those families and those kids that may not have a lot of means can go to some other facilities in the city and participate."

Councillors voted down a proposal from Mayor Keith Hobbs to cut the funding in half and proceed with only one youth centre instead of two.

"I think we're long overdue reaching out to the youth in this community, and I think we need to do everything we can to attempt to catch up, and two isn't a bad

number," said Coun.

Iain Angus in expressing his opposition to Hobbs' suggestion.

Coun Shelby Ch'ng also opposed Hobbs' motion saying it was "duplicitous" for the city to claim it can't afford two youth centres while making its proposed event centre its number one infrastructure priority.

Council still hopes to partner with other levels of government to create a large, central facility for youth, Coun. Paul Pugh told CBC.

A previous partnership with the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre that would have involved purchasing the former Prosvita centre failed when the federal government refused to support to the initiative.

Kwaku Daniel Voss of the Thunder Bay Youth Connections Coalition praised city council for its initiative in funding the new youth centres.

"It's always been a plan to

have a hub and satellites, but the satellites right now are having to take the bulk of well they *are* our youth program," Pugh said, "and that's not the final goal."

The acting executive director of the Thunder Bay Youth Connections Coalition praised the city's decision to fund the two new centres.

"Just having a safe and open place for youth to access in Thunder Bay, it's just great to see," said Kwaku Daniel Voss.

The coalition has been working to create a virtual youth centre to replace Youth Tbay, a centre for at-risk youth that closed this past summer due to funding shortages.

[CBC.ca]



✓ GUYANA: YOUTH ORGANISATIONS NEED YOUNG LEADERS

Georgetown, 9 March 2016

- YOUTH workers say in order for youth-led organisations to succeed they should be genuinely led by young people.

Youngsters, academics and youth workers gathered at the Conference on Youth Work on Wednesday, to discuss youth development and empowerment.

Delegates said far too often organisations were created for the youth but they were hardly given a voice to contribute in building them.

Professionals for youth sport development, Pete Beeley, said barriers

included the broad definition of “youth”, which varied depending on the country.

“In some countries the definition of youth is broad, in some it goes up to 35 years and in others it goes up to 24 years.

It becomes challenging because it doesn’t always create an equal dynamic especially when those older-young people expect younger ones to defer to them,” said Beeley.

Tiffany Daniels, a Commonwealth young professional, said the strength of youth

development organisations depended on young people creating their own spaces for facilitating action.

“When young people get together people listen.

Another youth-led organisation that was succeeding in empowering young people was the Kenya based youth foundation Mathare, which was entirely youth-led and offered training in arts, sports and photography.

“We train them for four months and then we evaluate their skills.

A number of them have

been impacted positively by the skills we have given them and it helps them stay away from crime,” said founder Eric Nehemiah.

Nehemiah added that lack of resources often hampered his organisation and many others.

Delegates agreed that youth organisations should allow more young voices to be heard and included in all levels of leadership structures.

[Stabroek News]

✓ JAMAICA : STARBUCKS TO LAUNCH YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAM IN NEW JAMAICA

Kingston, 7 March 2016

- THE long-awaited Jamaica, Queens Starbucks is slated to open Tuesday as part of an initiative to hire and train local youth who are not in school.

The Jamaica Starbucks is the first of its kind to offer such a program and is part of a wider goal to reach 10,000 people between the ages of 16 and 24 nationwide.

Employees and community leaders, including Queens Borough president Melinda Katz, attended the unveiling of the store at 89th Street and Sutphin Boulevard on Monday, one day before the grand opening.

“By making a long-term investment in the form of new stores, we hope to play a meaningful role in supporting ongoing efforts to transform these vibrant communities,” said Rodney Hines, director of

community investments for Starbucks, in a statement on Monday.

The youth training program will operate in partnership with the Queens Connect Collaborative and YMCA’s Y Roads Center, both of which will help recruit youth for the store.

“This youth opportunity center, we are so excited (about) because you’re not only bringing a great corporate citizen but you’re also educating our children,” Katz said.

“This is a prototype for the rest of the nation.”

But despite the fanfare, none of the employees present during the unveiling were hired as part of the youth outreach program, most had found their way into the world of lavish coffee brewing on their own. Hines said that the program will begin

recruiting next month. A representative from Queens Community House, Ben Thomases, said that QCH will attempt to place troubled youth into the program.

Some locals that passed by the Starbucks during the unveiling on Monday attempted to enter the store but were denied by the staff who asked them to return the next day.

“The neighborhood is changing, we need more stores like that in the area,” said Denice Rice, 61, an auditor and lifelong resident of Jamaica, Queens resident who welcomed the store.

“Why should everything nice be in Manhattan or Astoria?” she added.

[amNY]



✓ BANGLADESH: BANGLADESH'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON QUALITY OF YOUNG LEADERS

Dhaka, 11 March 2016 - STRESSING social cohesion in society, Kazi Akhtar Uddin Ahmed, secretary to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, has said the future of Bangladesh largely depends on the quality of youth leadership.

He was addressing as the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the 14th "Building Bridges through Leadership Training" (BBLT) programme of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center, says a

BYLC press release. "I commend BYLC on bringing together students from English, Bangla and Madrasa medium and fostering values of inclusive and tolerant leadership among the young generation," he said.

"Leadership is not about advancing your own personal interests.

It is about working with others and striving to make progress on some of the tough challenges facing as a

group, community, or country.

I hope the training at BYLC will cultivate courage, compassion, and competence and prepare you for a lifetime of leadership for the development of our society," said BYLC President Ejaj Ahmad.

KM Abdus Salam, acting director general of NGO Affairs Bureau, who was a special guest, said, "BYLC's pioneering work in the field of youth

leadership is instrumental in developing the next generation."

Forty-two students are selected competitively to go through a rigorous training on the theoretical and practical concepts of leadership.

They will then apply their classroom learning into action by designing and implementing small, scalable, and sustainable community service projects.

[The Daily Star]

✓ INDIA: INDIA'S FUTURE LIES IN HANDS OF YOUTH: G A MIR

New Delhi, 14 March 2016 - DESCRIBING the youth as future of the country, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee chief G A Mir has urged them (youth) to remain steadfast in serving the people and in strengthening the country and state.

"Youth have the responsibility of strengthening the nation and making it free from social evils.

The Youth will have to play a pivotal role in strengthening the democratic institution also

and work with great enthusiasm to ensure overall development of the country and state.

Country's future lies in their hands," PCC chief said while addressing a day-long convention organized by Pradesh Youth Congress here today.

Indian Youth Congress president Raja Amrinder Singh Brar was the Chief Guest.

Former PCC president, Peerzada Muhammad Syed; MLA Muhammad Amin Bhat; PCC office bearers, IYC secretary Dr Uma

Shanker Panday; PYC president Pranav Shagotra; general secretaries Naseer Ahmad Mir and Amir Rasool also addressed the convention.

Mir said youth needed to utilize their skills and should work with vigour for the upliftment of people especially poor and downtrodden.

"Youth will have to share the responsibility of strengthening the democratic intuitions like Panchyats, urban local bodies by involving themselves fully in these institutions," he added.

Mir urged the youths to gear up for the forthcoming ULB and Panchayat elections and ensure Congress overwhelming victory.

The PCC chief said it is the Congress and UPA Government that launched several schemes directly benefitting youth to make them strong and economically viable.

The PCC chief also administered oath to Youth convention.

[Greater Kashmir]

✓ KUWAIT: YOUTH ENTERPRISE DOMINATES ECONOMIC FUTURE

Kuwait City, 15 March 2016 - THE government of Kuwait has set about creating opportunities for young Kuwaitis through large scale entrepreneurship initiatives.

Government management of Kuwait's significant oil reserves have dominated national economic planning since the 1950s.

Now, strong demographic growth as well as volatility in oil prices has set Kuwait on the path towards a bold new diversification goal: small and medium enterprise (SME) establishment.

The government is working to help a generation of youth entrepreneurs found their own businesses.

"Most economies that are functioning well are based primarily on returns from SMEs," explains HE Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Oxford-educated Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs. National plans are seeking to make this the case for Kuwait as well.

Currently the majority of the population is employed by government institutions funded by hydrocarbon revenues.

This is simply not sustainable for up and coming generations.



Over 60% of the country's population is aged under 34, which necessitates the creation of 20,000 jobs annually to keep pace with growth. Instead, a \$6.7 billion fund has been established to support young people in setting up

their own companies and being their own bosses.

The challenge now is for the majority stakeholders of future Kuwait, the youth, to embrace this paradigm shift and demonstrate its entrepreneurship, creativity

and innovation.

HE Sheikh Mohammed is confident it can be done.

"If you had spoken to someone of my age 65 years ago, they would have said 'the next generation can't

outdo us.'

The next generation did outdo them, and did it royally, and on a world stage."

[The World folio]

✓ LEBANON: YOUTH FORUM ENERGIZES NEXT GENERATION

Beirut, 6 March 2016 - YOUNG people from around the country came together over the weekend for the Youth Speak Forum, discussing youth activism and participation in finding solutions to societal problems.

Aiesec, the international youth-led organization that put on the forum, aims to create a global network of people to bring about positive change through "personal development and shared global experiences," according to its website.

"The main goal of the Youth Speak forum is to gather around the main issues we see in Lebanon and get [participants] working together and with the corporate world," said

Tara Kenkhuis, a public relations executive for Aiesec in Lebanon.

Speaking to The Daily Star during the event Saturday, she added that just under 200 students from a number of universities and from all over Lebanon participated in the forum.

The day kicked off with a presentation by Jose Louis Curi, the national director of Aiesec, who spoke about an Aiesec survey of young people and introduced participants to the day in general.

He tackled the issue of what motivates young people and how they can take action.

According to him, it is up to each of us to make the world a better place through investing in people.

The forum included a panel discussion in which a number of delegates took on the question of how we can view the next 15 years optimistically.

The experts raised the importance of attitude and skills as being crucial, not just a degree from university. Students, they said, need to step outside the classroom and get real world experience and volunteer, in the country or abroad.

The trainees encouraged the students to go beyond their college degrees and acquire skills that will make them stand out in the real world.

They explained that it can be highly competitive outside education and so each fresh graduate should

have enough knowledge about the workplace, the competition and the branding before entering the market.

Finally, students had the chance to get hands-on experience. They were divided in teams and given one of the pressing issues of our society based on the findings of the Youth Speak survey released earlier this month.

The six pressing issues were the refugee crisis, the environment, education, employment, civic engagement and entrepreneurship.

[The Daily Star]

✓ QATAR: ROTA WRAPS UP YOUTH CHALLENGE

DOHA, 21 March 2016 - REACH Out To Asia (ROTA), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), has wrapped up its Youth Challenge with final presentations from nine ROTA Youth Service Clubs (RYSCs), sponsored by ExxonMobil Qatar.

In its final stage, Youth Challenge provided an opportunity for 45 youth from nine RYSCs to exhibit their unique community

service projects across Qatar to over 450 participants at ROTA's 8th EMPOWER 2016 conference, which concluded on Saturday.

Prizes were awarded to six of ROTA's Youth Service Clubs, and the winners were The Field is yours, Fishless, La Tgeeb Al Eid, Go Blue from Al Bayan School, Our Hope, I Aspire.

The contestants included The Field is Yours, Go Blue from Al Bayan School,

Count on Me, Top Shabab, La Tgeeb Al Eid, I Aspire, IQRAA, Fishless and Our Hope Clubs.

The projects focused on issues from marine conservation and environmental awareness to sports, road safety, and social entrepreneurship.

ROTA's Youth Service Clubs (RYSCs) are a network of self-directed, extracurricular associations designed to unlock the potential of youth.

Supported by the ROTA Qatar programme, the clubs provide a unique opportunity for young people across the nation to develop leadership skills and gain an understanding of international and community development issues, while offering practical experience to carry out creative projects that address local and global challenges.



Abdulla Al Bakri, Community Development Manager at ROTA said: “The Youth Challenge helps ROTA further advance the objectives of the Youth Clubs, which are designed to equip young people with proper education and training to become leaders.

The Youth Challenge helps participants to chart their career paths, and prepares them to be qualified ambassadors for Qatar and ROTA in international, regional and local conventions such as the EMPOWER 2016 conference.”

“At ExxonMobil, we believe that one of the greatest contributions we can make in Qatar is to provide the energy to build human capacity.

We work closely with our valued local partners, such as Reach Out To Asia, to invest in programs that do just this,” said Alistair Routledge, President and General Manager for ExxonMobil Qatar.

“We hope that our joint investment in the Youth Service Clubs will energize youth to reach their full potential as innovators, entrepreneurs, future employers and global leaders.”

[Peninsula On-line]

NEWS



✓ AZERBAIJAN: FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CREATIVITY DUE IN BAKU

Baku, 11 March 2016 - BAKU will soon host the fourth international festival of children and youth creativity "Safe rengler" (Fine colors).

The event, organized by Azerbaijan's Arts Academy together with the Museum and Exhibition Center of the Academy and the Russian Information and Cultural Center in Baku, is scheduled for May-June

2016. The organizers encourage young talents to submit proposals for the contest until May 5, 2016, Trend Life reports. The drawings can be sent by e-mail to adramuseum@gmail.com.

Conditions of participation and requirements can be found at the official website of the Russian Information and Cultural Center.

The Russian Information and Cultural Center actively works to inform Azerbaijani public about Russia's achievements in various fields, including spiritual heritage, rich scientific and cultural potential.

The Center promotes bilateral cultural, educational, scientific and technical programs and actively supports the Russian language teaching.

The organization interacts with non-governmental organizations and friendship societies.

[AzerNews]

✓ BULGARIA: EIB SUPPORTS 1ST YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS IN BULGARIA CIBANK

Sofia, 5 March 2016 - THE European Investment Bank (EIB) is providing a credit line of EUR 50 million to CIBANK JSC to finance projects implemented by SMEs and Mid-Caps.

This is the first EIB loan in Bulgaria focused on the creation of job opportunities for young people under 25 years of age under the Jobs for Youth initiative.

CIBANK JSC is the first bank in Bulgaria with which the EIB has joined forces in

the framework of the EIB's youth employment programme "Skills and Jobs - Investing for Youth".

The funds provided will support companies offering vocational training / internships/training programmes for young people or cooperating with a technical college, school or university to employ young people.

This EIB loan is designed to help improve the situation of young people in

Bulgaria, who face a high unemployment rate of some 28%, and provide them with better life prospects. At the same time it will strengthen the position of the SME and Mid-Cap sector, which is the engine of the Bulgarian economy in terms of economic growth and the creation of new working opportunities.

This operation is building on the successful cooperation between the EIB and CIBANK. It represents the 5th credit line

between the two institutions.

Three of these are active EIB loans outstanding totalling EUR 90 million to CIBANK. All previous loans have been successfully allocated to supporting firms in the Bulgarian SME and Mid-Cap sector. Source: EIB

[Balkans.com Business News]

✓ ROMANIA: ROMANIA YOUTH THINK MOBILE INTERNET WILL DOMINATE

Bucharest, 19 March 2016 - ROMANIA's young residential users of up to 30 years of age and residents from rural areas think that fixed internet usage will decrease while mobile internet grows, according to a survey conducted by telecommunications authority Ancom whose aim is to establish a set of relevant information on the users' perception of the electronic communications services and their consumption needs.

Believers in fixed internet growth are only

representatives from the business and media segments and representatives of authorities and academia. According to the end-users' perception, mobile telephony use will keep growing once with the ever younger age of first use with the release of high performance terminals at lower prices and with the growing usage of mobile internet.

On the other hand, some of the interviewed groups consider that data services will inevitably replace mobile telephony

concomitant with the advance of applications that enabling real time communication via the internet such as Facebook, WhatsApp, or Skype.

The respondents also perceive fixed telephony and linear television as being on a downward trend or even on the way to extinction and see their replacement by mobile and by internet access services as imminent.

The survey's results were announced at the international conference

'2020: A telecom odyssey' organized by Ancom on 17 November.

The conference brought together regulatory authorities in Europe, electronic communications associations, operators, online content providers and consumers.

[Telecompaper]



✓ SERBIA: SERBIA'S YOUTH IS WELL EDUCATED , HARDWORKING AND TALENTED

Belgrade, 15 March 2016 – ICT HUB, a business incubator for technological entrepreneurship, was visited by representatives of 500 Startups, a global leader on the start-up scene, investment fund and accelerator, who said Serbia is a good place for investments.

During their three-day visit, the founders and representatives of the

investment fund held a number of workshops and mentoring sessions for local entrepreneurs at the premises of ICT Hub in the Science and Technology Park Zvezdara, Belgrade.

The topics were how to achieve initial interest in startup, how to position a product, achieve business growth, raise funds and start and develop business, reads a statement issued by ICT

Hub.

500 Startups representatives qualified Serbia as a good place for investments, adding that the country's youth is well-educated, hard-working and talented.

What Serbia lacks is a change of awareness of business and focus on private businesses, they said.

Partner at 500 Startups Marvin Liao pointed out he had the opportunity to meet promising local entrepreneurs and interesting companies, and that his impression is that Serbia is rich in talents and has great potential in terms of technology.

[InSerbia News]

✓ TURKEY: EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WAITING TURKISH YOUTH

Ankara, 1 March 2016 - DESPITE the employment problems around the world, the government has kept its promise and provided employment to 1 million youngsters.

Through SMEs, 3 million jobs will be offered to youngsters in the next three years.

The Turkish Employment Organization has also broken a record and exceeded its target targeted number of 850,000 employed people.

Within the first 11 months of the year, it employed 950,000 people. While the need of employers for qualified personnel was covered, placement increased by 45 percent compared to the previous year.

The government plans to reduce the unemployment rate to 5 percent in 2023 and decrease the unemployment of young people as well.

Those who receive social aid will be provided with job consultancy service and 25 percent of that training

will be conducted in one year.

Furthermore, job opportunities for more than 1 million young people will be created each year.

The government's agenda in 2016 is all about employment.

The Turkish Employment Organization is going to extend its scope and activate jobs that are open, further arranging programs that will increase basic and professional capacities.

Within the next two years, the employment capacity will increase by 2 million and employee premiums will be lowered along with various other employment incentives.

Part-time jobs will be promoted and more people will be recruited through the İŞKUR's employer pool.

Young entrepreneurs will also be supported within the scope of SMEs, which are considered to be the locomotive of Turkey's exports.

SMEs plan to employ 3

million people until 2018 and the government will provide easier access to exporters in the international market.

İŞKUR will also offer income opportunities to university students and offer job opportunities in all cities from Hakkari to Edirne.

While university students will earn around TL 1,000, they will also gain experience.

Also, the scholarships or education loans of these students attending the program will not be cut and general health insurance premiums will be covered by the government.

In so doing, the chances of recruiting suitable candidates will increase and part-time and contract workers will be registered.

İŞKUR serves municipalities at 4,000 points, Social Solidarity Associations and district governorates and those looking for work can register with the institution via their smart phones, tablets and PCs.

The institution also supports young people who are making their career plans through consultancy services at job fairs arranged at schools.

Furthermore, as of June, major service points have been established at ports for those looking for jobs in the marine sector, including cities such as Istanbul, İzmir, Mersin, Antalya, Samsun and Trabzon.

Young people seeking employment in the marine sector can directly apply at the designated points or benefit from the active work power program.

[Daily Sabah]



✓ AUSTRALIA: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT REPORT POINTS TO EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS

Canberra, 13 March 2016 - FUNDING and advocacy Not for Profit, Social Ventures Australia, has released a report identifying the underpinning principles behind successful youth employment programs.

The Fundamental principles for youth employment report was the product of a national and international research project supported by the Collier Charitable Fund.

The report identified 10 fundamental principles which are essential to effectively support young people into employment.

They included “personal” factors the capabilities and experiences a young person

needs to gain and retain meaningful employment and “community infrastructure” factors the ecosystem components required to support successful employment transitions.

The personal principles included identity and self-esteem, building aspirations, literacy and numeracy, and employability and careers management skills.

Community infrastructure principles included the importance of partnerships between business and other community organisations, early intervention for young -people at risk, personalised support, alternative pathways to employment

and providing adequate financial support to jobseekers.

The Principles Framework was designed to provide a guide to organisations looking to support young people into sustainable employment. A series of case studies illustrate the effective application of each of the principles.

“Extended periods outside of the workforce can trigger a cycle of entrenched unemployment and disadvantage over a lifetime,” SVA Director Andrea De Almeida said.

“To ensure at-risk young people are not stuck in this cycle it is crucial to provide them with tailored support

that takes into account the range of barriers they may be experiencing.

“We hope that this research will enable better design and investment in youth employment programs, and provide a more transparent and consistent measurement and evaluation standard for existing programs.”

SVA is a Not for Profit organisation established in 2002 by The Benevolent Society, The Smith Family, Work Ventures and AMP Foundation. It offers funding, investment and advice to increase their social impact.

[Pro Bono Australia]

✓ FIJI: UNDP GIVES \$100K TO MOBILISE YOUTHS

Suva, 5 March 2016 - THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), working through the Government’s Ministry of Youth and Sports, is providing \$100,000 to support the Government’s rehabilitation and recovery efforts following Tropical Cyclone Winston.

The funding has been made available through the UNDP -funded Fiji Youth Strengthening Project and the European Union-funded Strengthening Citizen Engagement in Fiji Initiative (SCEFI) Project.

It is expected to mobilise around 500 youths in hard-hit areas under the guidance of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the use of the ‘Cash for Work’ modality to provide

financial assistance for youth workers to support the recovery work.

The funding is expected to be facilitated in two-phases.

The first phase will see around 300 youths being mobilised as soon as possible to assist with the debris-clearance and the Government’s re-construction efforts in devastated communities.

The second phase will see 200 youths being mobilised by the end of the second quarter of this year, to assist in the agricultural recovery work.

Around \$30,000 will be used to procure the necessary equipment and supplies for the debris clearance, seedlings and equipment later for the

replanting efforts.

Minister for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou, in welcoming the initiative, said: “This is a much-needed process to put our youths back to work and to be in a position to support their families.

“The youths have already been active in cleaning up debris in schools and this need to continue.

Now their efforts will be acknowledged and we thank our partner UNDP, for working with us to make it happen,” Mr Tuitubou said.

Akiko Fujii, the UNDP deputy resident representative said: “This re-diversion of funding into immediate relief work is something UNDP is glad to consider at this time of need

for Fijian people, particularly the youths who are the strength of the communities.”

[Fiji Sun Online]



✓ NEW ZEALAND: NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR NZ YOUTH AWARDS

Wellington, 16 March 2016

- A CHANCE for youth achievements to be recognised on a national stage is back for a third year.

The nationwide 2016 Youth Awards celebrate young people's achievements and contributions to supporting other youth.

The awards recognise up to 45 people and organisations across seven categories.

Youth minister Nikki Kaye said if you know someone who deserves recognition for their achievements, "then please put their name forward".

"Anyone can make a

nomination. I encourage nominations from community leaders and teachers to youth workers and young people themselves.

"The award categories in 2016 celebrate qualities such as leadership, being a change-maker and giving back, as well as young people who have supported youth activities in areas such as the arts, culture, sport and the environment."

Awards categories are Change Maker, Leadership, Giving Back, Working for Youth Award, Youth with Disability Award, Youth Group and Youth Champion Award.

There can be up to five

recipients for each award.

"I continue to be amazed by the talented and committed young people who I meet across New Zealand," Ms Kaye said.

"With the right support, young people are leading change in New Zealand and internationally and this is something I want to continue to encourage.

"The youth awards are an opportunity to not only recognise young people's achievements but to also highlight the positive contribution that they are making to their communities and to New Zealand."

Last year's recipients of youth awards included a student who captured on video the stories of remaining World War 2 veterans; a group who developed a virtual landscape of the Gallipoli battlefield as an educational resource; and the founder of a non-profit performing arts company, which delivers free leadership workshops to young people.

The winners will be formally recognised at a celebratory event at Parliament in May.

Nominations are open until April 18. Nominees must be aged between 12 and 24.

[Gisborne Herald]

✓ PAPUA NEW GUINEA: \$10.8 MILLION FOR PNG YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

Port Moresby, 8 March

2016 - A WORLD Bank-supported program providing thousands of young Papua New Guineans with life skills and employment training has been extended to 2018 with additional funding support of US\$ 10.8 million (over PGK 31 million) from the Australian Government.

Australia's support will enable the Urban Youth Employment Project (UYEP) to impact on the lives of up to 15,000 more unemployed young people by 2018 to help them find positive long-term employment.

Over 8,000 Papua New Guineans have already participated in the project since it began in 2011.

Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Mr Bruce Davis said: "This is an important program which helps young people help themselves and improve their lives. Australia is pleased to be able to support such a program, which empowers young Papua New Guineans to contribute to the development of their country." Stefanie Stallmeister, World Bank's Country Manager for Papua New Guinea, said: "Young Papua New Guineans remain disadvantaged in access to employment opportunities.

There are more than 40,000 unemployed young people in Port Moresby, many have missed out on completing their education due to their

life circumstance."

"UYEP is filling a critical gap by addressing youth marginalization. This program gives young Papua New Guineans life-changing opportunities, and it's wonderful that the Australian Government's support will help this project continue."

While expanding existing project activities to reach more young people, the additional funding will enable the project to increase the number of literacy and numeracy trainings and improve outreach to women.

Kadive Yamba, a single mother-of-five from Port Moresby, is one of the 8,000 Papua New Guineans

who have participated in UYEP since it began.

She is a full-time employee at the Papua Niugini Freezers Ltd as an Inventory Assistant after completing her training with UYEP.

Internal surveys of UYEP participants conducted by the World Bank indicate that the vast majority (80 percent) of participating young people believe the project has empowered them to become better persons in their communities, by boosting their self-confidence, and enhancing their employability.



More than half (60 percent) of community leaders also report a perception of less crime in their communities as a result of the project. Over 30 percent of UYEP-trained graduates say they received offers of full-time employment after completing their five-month on-the-job training as part of the project.

"Economic growth has led to a new range of

employment opportunities, but these require skills and knowledge that many of our youth, because they have missed out on education opportunities, don't yet have," said Hon. Powes Parkop MP, Governor of the National Capital District Commission. "UYEP is helping to ensure that the youth of our nation can make the most of these new opportunities - in-line with the government's Vision

2050 plans, and the National Youth Strategy," he said.

The additional US\$ 10.8 million (over PGK 31 million) grant from the Australian Government represents a 60 percent increase in UYEP project funding. UYEP is currently supported by a credit of US\$14.1 million (over PGK 43 million) from the World Bank Group's International

Development Association (IDA); US\$530,000 (over PGK 1.5 million) from the Korean Trust Fund and; and US\$1,580,000 (over PGK 4.5 million) from the Government of PNG and National Capital District Commission.

[Voxy]

✓ VANUATU: \$3M FOR YOUTH JOBS

Port Vila, 17 March 2016 - MORE than a thousand Fijian, Vanuatu and Samoan youths will be assisted to secure employment through organic agriculture with the launch of a \$US1.5million (\$F3.13m) two-year program in Suva, Fiji, recently.

The Farm to Table project is a partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) housed within the Pacific Community (SPC) and funded by the Sustainable Development Fund (SDG-F).

Activities of the project will address the high levels of youth unemployment in the three countries through skills building in organic agriculture, income generation, food security and climate change resilience.

UNDP resident co-ordinator Osnat Lubrani said the UN was looking forward to supporting a program focused on sustainable livelihoods that targeted youths, adding the project

could open up opportunities for income generation, boost confidence and empower young women and men.

"The UN is proud to work in partnership with SPC and POETCom on this initiative, an excellent approach to sustainable farming and at the core is that it relates to food security and nutrition as well as climate change adaptation," she said.

"All these are closely connected to the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals."

Organic agriculture builds resilient farming systems with the ability to withstand extreme weather events and can provide yields comparable with conventional or chemical based farms.

As lead implementing agency, POETCom will work with partner civil society organisations, FRIEND, Farm Support Association and Women in Business Development, and the governments of the three countries to identify suitable youths to receive training in organic

agriculture and product development.

Target youths are those seeking employment between 18 and 30 years of age or transitioning to formal employment within the next 12 to 24 months.

The program will address the high level of youth unemployment in the three countries, about 44 per cent of the youth population in Fiji and 8.9 per cent in Vanuatu.

To do this, it will support linkages between the agriculture and tourism sectors of these countries, mapping value chains from the farms to hotel tables or retail outlets.

POETCom co-ordinator Karen Mapusua explained that for example; "In Fiji we are going to focus on Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston badly hit areas helping to rebuild the economy through supporting the value chains between the suppliers (youths) and buyers (hotels and restaurants), developing menus that will use local products or the promotion of local products.

"Simply, the youths will be trained to do organic farming, develop a product for example banana or coffee and be supported to market their product with the tourism sector."

The program responds to a call by Pacific leaders at the 2011 Pacific Island Forum for increasing youth employment and the aims of the Pacific Youth Strategy for young people to see agriculture as a viable career option.

Ms Mapusua said the program had the added benefit of getting more youths into agriculture, which would boost the economic viability of the sector.

"Though agriculture remains for most Pacific Islands countries' population the main source of livelihood, its contribution to economic value added chain has generally declined over the last decade, whereas the tourism sector has seen significant growth," she said.



"Reinforcing linkages and developing synergies between tourism and agriculture should help to achieve the objectives of sustained and equitable growth."

IFAD's Pacific sub regional co-ordinator Sakiusa Tubuna said the focus was on poor smallholder farmers.

"IFAD recognises the importance and value of partnership as a means to achieving our development objective," Mr Tubuna said.

"This is the reason we are partnering with UNDP, POETCom and SPC in this project.

"Our focus is on poor smallholder farmers and this project will enable smallholder farmers in the three countries to benefit from business opportunities that are available locally."

[Fiji Times]

NEWS

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