



### ✓ In Today's Bulletin

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### ✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH 2017

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1 March 2017	<b>Zero Discrimination Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
3 March 2017	<b>World Wildlife Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
8 March 2017	<b>International Women's Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
20 March 2017	<b>International Day of Happiness</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
21 March 2017	<b>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
22 March 2017	<b>World Water Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
27 March 2017	<b>Global Money Week</b>	Melaka, Malaysia



### ✓ GHANA: GHANA ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM RECEIVES BOOST

**Accra, 1 February 2017** - GHANA's entrepreneurship ecosystem received a major boost with the start of the "Growing Business Together" (GBT), a Dutch funded programme geared towards helping start-ups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) scale up their businesses.

A GNA report said the two-year programme, implemented by MBC Africa and its Dutch counterpart, Impact Booster, is aimed at equipping young Ghanaian entrepreneurs with the requisite skills, knowledge and outlook to be able to scale their businesses beyond the start-up and small enterprise stage.

The programme, he noted, was important because it was targeted at Ghana's youth entrepreneurs, who were the future of Ghana's development and the backbone of the private sector, which serve as the engine of growth.

He noted that the programme will enable participants to learn from Dutch entrepreneurs in Ghana, who will act as coaches, while they also learn from their Ghanaian counterparts.

Ambassador Strikker,

quoting from Steve Jobs, the late Founder of Apple, urged the entrepreneurs to be passionate and driven in their work, as this was required in order to build successful and fulfilling business.

The programme, targeted at start-ups and early stage businesses, will address key hurdles for such businesses including inadequate skills for building and growing businesses, lack of access to appropriate finance and business networks.

The components of the programme include a three-city GBT Caravan, GBT Coaches programme, the GBT Academy and the GBT Startup investment conference to be held in Ghana.

Mr. Nelson Amo, Co-Founder of Innohub, who will be partnering with MBC to run the GBT Academy, said the challenge with Startups and SMEs in Ghana as their inability to grow past the SME level into big businesses that can compete, not only on the national level but also the regional, continental and global level.

This, he said, called for a re-orientation of the mind-set of these small business entrepreneurs to enable them see the larger picture.

The coaching program as well as the Academy will help to address this need.

GBT looks at how to move from SMEs to the next level; how to position these businesses to be able to move from SMEs to bigger businesses," he stated, adding that the structure of the programme will enable the participating businesses to be investment-ready for the GBT Startup Investment Conference.

Ms. Anna Samake, Chief Executive Officer of MBC Africa, said most SMEs in Ghana were stuck at the small business level due to various reasons, including the entrepreneurs themselves not having a long-term vision for their businesses.

You have to develop the ability for a long-term vision and plan properly to effectively grow, envision the growth and plan accordingly," she told the GNA in an interview.

Other challenges, she noted were the lack of the capacity and skills to effectively translate the vision into strategy and execute it to the highest level, and lack of knowledge on the appropriate financing structure for every stage of

the business, and these would be addressed by accelerators like the GBT.

"The difference is, we are going to do it in an even more practical way; the right type of financing," she noted, adding that whilst the project was for two years, the Academy was here to stay and would be fine-tuned based on findings from this first pilot.

Mr. George Duncan, Programme Manager of the GBT Accelerator project added that a five-day programme was being run in the Netherlands to identify Ghanaians living in the Netherlands who have innovative ideas to start a business in Ghana.

"The entrepreneur with winning idea in that round will be sponsored to come to Ghana in September to join the cohort here for the GBT Startup Investment Conference," he said.

The project, according to him, costs about 200,000 Euros, funded by the Dutch Embassy and also supported in other ways by MBS and Impact Booster.

[Business Ghana]

### ✓ KENYA: ONLINE PLATFORM TO HELP YOUTH FIND PART TIME JOBS

**Nairobi, 6 February 2017** - FIVESOK, an online platforms aimed at helping Kenyans find part-time jobs, is set to launch in the market tomorrow.

The platform connects potential clients to

small-scale service providers, including tutors, graphic designers and online marketers. Unlike other classified platforms, FiveSok only compiles the services ranging from Sh500 to Sh5,000.

Upon successful completion of the work, users can earn positive rankings which leads to more visibility and sales.

The firm was first piloted in the market in June last year by a team of entrepreneurs looking to help combat the

country's youth unemployment rate. The platform will be launching an upgraded version based on the feedback of 5,000 users tomorrow.

[Nairobi News]



### ✓ NAMIBIA: HIV CARE AMONG YOUTH NEEDS URGENT INTERVENTIONS

**Windhoek, 8 February 2017**

- DESPITE considerable progress in HIV care and treatment, innovative HIV prevention interventions and approaches to reach adolescents and young women, are needed urgently.

The cycle of new infections among adolescent girls and young people is on the increase creating more concerned whether young people are ignorant or they ignore the information being provided to them on the issue.

According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) 2014 research, nearly half of all

adolescents living with HIV globally were living in six countries, five of which are in the African region.

In Eastern and Southern Africa, 74 percent of the new infections among adolescents are among girls aged 15-19 and AIDS-related illnesses are the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age.

Are young people ignoring the information that is being provided to them?

Commenting on the issue, African Youth and Adolescents Network secretary-general in Namibia, Ashwell Wayne, says young people are not

ignorant, they just know what they want, when and how they want it.

He adds that young people can never deny information that is there but the greater question is whether the information being provided is youth friendly and is communicated to the right people and in the right way?

“We must understand that we can never reach out to young people of the 21st century using outreach technology of the 14th century,” he says.

Wayne goes on that many people claim that young people are ignorant but what they don't understand is that they do not start leading this outreach

programmes then the battle cannot be won because young people need the information to be presented in a certain way that is suitable for them.

He adds that many programmes that are in the name of youths and adolescents are not reaching the people that it should and for as long as they are not reaching the target groups, new infections will continue with un-understood information.

*[New Era]*

### ✓ NIGERIA: 10,000 YOUTHS, OTHERS TO GET OGUN, CBN AID

**Abuja, 8 Abuja 2017** - NO fewer than 10,000 youths and other small-scale farmers are to benefit from the Ogun State/Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Anchor Borrowers Programme aimed at creating employment for youths and boosting agricultural production and food security in the state.

The state Coordinator and

Special Assistant to the Governor on Agriculture, Mr. Tosin Ademuyiwa, disclosed this in Abeokuta at the flag-off of the programme to empower the youths and others in the 20 Local Government Areas of the state.

He explained that the programme was to give financial support to them to boost production of cassava,

rice and maize, adding that attention would also be given to fisheries and poultry farming.

Admonishing youths to key into the opportunities offered by the programme to earn a living, he said everything would be done to ensure that they benefited maximally from the programme.

The coordinator, Ogun State Youth in Agric Business, Comrade Olugbenga Ige, thanked the state government and the CBN for the opportunity to be self-employed and help in diversifying the economy.

*[The Nation Newspaper]*

### ✓ ZAMBIA: YOUTH CREATES EMPLOYMENT FOR 50 PEOPLE

**Lusaka, 4 February 2017** - A Young Zambian female entrepreneur has launched a restaurant adding nutritional value to the nation and creating the much needed employment.

Founder and proprietor Jessie Chipindo said she opened her first restaurant in January 2014 and has decided to expand by open a second restaurant in the

premises of Southern Sun and create the much needed employment in the country.

Ms Chipindo said she is committed to offering fresh, healthy and well prepared local and international food. She thanked the government for creating an enabling environment for young entrepreneurs to flourish.

And Minister of Tourism and Arts Charles Banda said the newly launched Dulce & Banana has employed 50 specialized staff a move that has pleased the government. He said Government stand ready and remain committed to helping young entrepreneurs to expand their business and recognizes the unequalled role that the private sector plays in developing and

sustaining the country's economy.

Mr Banda said his ministry was also happy that Dulce & Banana multi-cuisine restaurant will add value to nutritional factors which many Zambians are concerned about in the recent values.

*[Lusaka Times]*



### ✓ CANADA: MP JATI SIDHU PROMOTES CANADA SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

**Ottawa, 22 February 2017** - JATI Sidhu, Member of Parliament for Mission-Matsqui-Fraser Canyon, recently hosted an information session to discuss the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

The session was presented by Service Canada staff and gave the applicants attending a chance to ask questions, get hands-on assistance and learn valuable background on what the program offers.

Each year, the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program helps employers create valuable summer job opportunities for full-time students aged 15 to 30 years old, while strengthening local economies and communities across Canada,” said Sidhu. “CSJ focuses on our local priorities, and I was very encouraged to see the response in our constituency, both through the number of applications we received and the in-person turn-out we had at

the session.”

CSJ provides funding for not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with up to 50 or fewer employees.

Not-for-profit employers can receive up to 100 percent of the provincial/territorial minimum hourly as well as employment-related costs.

Public-sector employers and small businesses can receive up to 50 percent of the

provincial/territorial minimum hourly wage.

“If you have hired a student in the past, you know how beneficial it can be for your organization,” said Sidhu. “We all know first-hand how important it is for students to gain much-needed skills and experience and contribute to our community.”

*[Agassiz-Harrison*

*Observer]*

### ✓ CHILE: AS YOUTH DRUG USE RISES, CHILE TRIES TREATMENT THAN PUNISHMENT

**Santiago, 9 February 2017** - SUBSTANCE abuse by at-risk children and adolescents in Chile is becoming an increasingly difficult challenge that can have a negative effect on the country's development.

Normally Chile is marked as an example of successful human development in Latin America.

More than its immediate neighbors, the country is known for its strong economy and is characterized by its progressive attitude on social issues. Despite (or perhaps because of) these impressive achievements, the country is also fighting certain problems that sometimes come with purchasing power, including the increased consumption of illicit substances.

Chile typically ranks among the highest in consumption levels among secondary education students in the region.

The rates show an upward spiral due to an increase in

the popularity of inhalants and cocaine derivatives.

In 2009, for example, the country registered the highest prevalence of cocaine among secondary students of any country in the Americas. A rate of 6.7 percent was trailed by the United States at 4.6 percent.

\*This article was translated, edited for length and clarity and published with the permission of the Inter-American Development Bank's blog Sin Miedos.

It does not necessarily represent the views of InSight Crime. See the Spanish original here.

As part of an effort to mitigate the damage, Chile has been working with children charged with drug crimes to offer them an assortment of assistance options, in order to encourage healthier habits, lower violence rates and improve the opportunity for reintegration into family and social life.

The drug and alcohol

treatment program for adolescent offenders, known by its Spanish acronym PAMOH, is a rehabilitation and social adjustment initiative for juvenile delinquents and young adults involved in drugs in the city of Valparaíso.

Launched in 2010, this program applies the therapeutic focus of the Model for Human Occupation (MOHO). The program is designed to offer substance abuse treatment for juvenile delinquents between the ages of 14 and 18, but help is offered until the program participants turn 20.

The focus of the program is based on the identification of key beneficiaries, applied in ways that encourage the formation of positive habits and an improvement of physical and mental capacities.

*[Insightcrime.org]*



### ✓ GUYANA: PRESIDENT TO RE-ESTABLISH GUYANA YOUTH CORPS TO EMPOWER YOUTHS

**Georgetown, 12 February 2017** - PRESIDENT David Granger on Sunday announced that he will re-establish the Guyana Youth Corps on January 1, 2018, to empower the nation's youth and provide them with the skills needed to prepare them for the work force and equip them to aid in the development of Guyana.

The Head of State made this announcement at the Graduation Ceremony for 57 young people, who successfully completed Module Two of the Youth Leadership Training Programme at the Madewini Training Centre, the Ministry of the Presidency reported.

The Guyana Youth Corps was first established on January 1, 1968 as a means of solving the youth unemployment problem.

It operated for seven years, during which time, approximately 1,200 youth benefitted from the programme.

The Youth Corps was then absorbed by the National Service on January 1, 1975, which itself was dismantled in 2000.

Due to a weakened education system over the past two decades, President Granger has lamented the fact that over 4000 children drop out of school every year in Guyana.

In some Regions 90 percent of students fail English and Mathematics at the National Grade Six level. This leaves many young people disadvantaged and unable to develop their potential.

It will be the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the first Guyana Youth Corps and I will bring together some of the agencies, which are just nibbling at the edges of our youth enterprise in Guyana so that young people, who might have faced challenges in their education can voluntarily come in and learn skills and prepare themselves for the world of work so that we give our young people an opportunity.

This will take place in the hinterland and the coastland," the President was quoted as saying in a statement issued by his office.

The President said that such a move is critical to ensuring youth empowerment in Guyana and added a good education is fundamental to reducing youth unemployment and preparing young people to lead in the development of a more technologically advanced 'green' Guyana.

"I want to see a [country] of fuller employment, of greater empowerment, of wider equality and of progress for the young people of this country. I look forward to the establishment of the Guyana Youth Corps when we can move thousands of children out of poverty and into prosperity," he said.

The Head of State commended the graduates for reaching this stage of the Youth Leadership Training Programme, and said that this signifies that they have now taken a step forward toward achieving Government's vision of the good life.

As such, the President said, the Programme is meant to help young people holistically understand both their destiny and their legacy.

He also acknowledged that there are many challenges facing young people. However, the President said that these challenges can be solved through ensuring equality, education, employment, empowerment and entrepreneurship opportunities for the nation's youth.

"We have to deal with these challenges facing Guyanese society because you are the future of Guyana.

My generation has to prepare this country for you and when your turn comes you have to do the same to bequeath this great country to your children and grandchildren," he said.

More importantly, the President said, young people between the ages of 15-25 take up about one third of the country's population.

"This is an important group for me because if you don't make it successfully through that 10 year gap, it means that your prospects of having that good life would be severely impaired. We have to do something about those 250,000 young people.

Those are the young people of Guyana and those are the people who concern me most" he said.

The training programmes are conducted by the Office of the Presidential Advisor

on Youth Empowerment.

Presidential Advisor on Youth Empowerment, Mr. Aubrey Norton said that Module Two of the Youth Training Programme, enabled the participants, who all participated in Module One of the Training prior, to think critically.

"As we moved around the country we found that there was the absence of youth organisations and that many young people were never exposed to youth leadership training.

It is in that context that we decided that we would develop a youth leadership training programme," he said.

Skills learned included writing reports and minutes, the formulation and implementation of policy, how to conduct meetings as well as social psychology and team building exercises.

The course also included a mock parliament exercise where the youth were allowed to debate the contents of the National Youth Policy

*[Demerara Waves]*



### ✓ JAMAICA: YOUTH URGED TO DEVELOP INNOVATIONS TO SOLVE SOCIETY'S PROBLEMS

**Kingston, 18 February 2017** - EXECUTIVE Director, Junior Achievement Jamaica, Alphie Mullings-Aiken, is urging young people to pursue career paths that will enable them to create wealth while offering solutions to some of society's problems.

She noted that many innovative ideas have been developed in the areas of information communication technology and robotics.

She cited the example of Whatsapp, a free messaging and calling application, which has provided a solution to high telecommunications costs.

Mrs. Mullings-Aiken, who was addressing a youth forum at the Planning Institute of Jamaica's (PIOJ) Oxford Road offices on February 17, urged the participants to begin to think about how they can make an impact.

"I want you to think about what is the problem I have personally, how can I solve that and how can I make money from that? That's what our entrepreneurs are doing around the world," she pointed out.

The forum was staged by Junior Achievement Jamaica in partnership with the Vision 2030 Jamaica

Secretariat at the PIOJ and formed part of activities to mark National Careers Week from February 13 to 17 under the theme: 'Expanding Horizons for Vision 2030'.

It included interactive sessions highlighting new and emerging jobs in order to assist students in making wise career choices. It also provided them with an all day experience in a work environment.

Programme Director, Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat, Elizabeth Emanuel, told JIS News that the objective was to engage students in a "visioning exercise" about

the Jamaica they want by 2030.

It also served to help them better understand their role in the fulfilment of the National Development Plan.

"So they are not only beneficiaries of whatever development gains that we (achieve), but they also contribute to making Jamaica that place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business," she said.

[Government of Jamaica]

### ✓ PERU: LABOUR LAW SPARKS FROM ENRAGED YOUTH AMID CALLS FOR REPEAL

**Lima, 22 February 2017** - THOUSANDS of young Peruvians have marched through central Lima, chanting: "We don't want to be cheap, exploited manpower", in the latest protest against a controversial labour law which demonstrators claim robs them of basic rights, but which the government argues will boost employment.

Thursday's march, which was joined by trade unionists, ended in a violent standoff with police, who fired tear gas at the protesters. About 20 people were arrested and 16 officers injured, according to the interior ministry. There was no immediate information on whether any protesters were injured. Dubbed the "Ley Pulpín", or Pulpín Law, the youth employment law's derogatory moniker has its origins in a brand of fruit juice that is targeted at

children and often carried in school lunch boxes. The term "Pulpín" has come to mean an innocent or immature young person who can be exploited. The law came into effect in mid-December and has been opposed bitterly by many of the 18-24-year-olds it is intended to benefit. The protest in Lima was mirrored in 10 other cities, and there has been an outpouring of criticism on social media.

The law aims to foster the creation of jobs by lowering costs for employers who hire young people. Holiday entitlement will be cut from 30 to 15 days, social security and life insurance will be reduced, and two annual bonuses and severance pay will disappear.

The government insists the law will enable many young people to join the formal economy because companies will be encouraged by the lower

costs to create more jobs for young workers who lack experience. But many of those targeted say the legislation simply allows companies to exploit young people.

[Vail Daily News]



## ✓ BAHRAIN: YOUTH AWARENESS ABOUT DIABETES HIGHLIGHTED

**Doha, 13 February 2017** - HAMAD Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) Press collaborates with its online open access platform "www.Qscience.com", looks to raise couple youth awareness and education in conjunction with early detection among youth as a way to combat diabetes; and to reinforce the importance of an open dialogue between youth and their elders when it comes to Type II diabetes.

Executive Director of Qatar Diabetes Association, Dr. Abdulla Al Hamaq, said that efforts are already underway to support youth awareness.

He added that "With the high prevalence of obese and overweight youth and diabetes in adults, it is very likely that the prevalence of pre-diabetes and Type II diabetes will increase in the young population," according to Qatar News Agency.

"Working on prevention is the best. QDA is stepping up its awareness activity in schools and universities and

conducts two weight reduction camps per year targeting the youth who are identified with high risk of diabetes."

A group of scientists led by Abdelilah Arredouani from the Diabetes Research Center at the Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), a research institute of HBKU, and Dr. Mario Falchi from the Department of Twin Research at Kings College in London, have been taking a look at a specific salivary protein, alpha-amylase which is produced by the salivary glands and is released in saliva, as an indicator of people at-risk for Type II diabetes.

The team has based their research on other studies of the protein.

"The study is a follow up of other studies that showed an association between low levels of salivary amylase and obesity and glucose intolerance," said Arredouani.

"However, the mechanisms underlying these associations are not understood. In our study, we tried to decipher these mechanisms by selecting individuals that differ only in the levels of serum salivary amylase." This is the first study that concluded after trials that individuals with low levels alpha-amylase may cause the body's energy production sources to switch from sugars to fatty acids.

This type of genetic indicator can lead to early detection of at-risk youth which will allow doctors and healthcare practitioners to properly implement intervention and awareness campaigns that are tailored to those deemed at risk, thus, making them more effective.

They found that simply informing youth about the disease, its causes and preventative methods would enable them to make better life choices in relation to the disease.

A total of 87 % and 100 %

of girls and boys respectively felt ready to devise an action plan for their own improved health after being involved in an intervention programme that provided them with information about how healthy food choices and exercise could decrease their chances of getting Type II diabetes.

Diabetes is categorized into two different types: Type I diabetes is passed on genetically and is not related to eating habits or lifestyle choices; and Type II diabetes is a symptom of an unhealthy lifestyle that includes poor eating habits, excessive weight gain, lack of exercise and a low level of overall fitness.

While the disease is not curable, it can be prevented by maintaining a healthy diet and getting regular exercise and be treated by insulin intakes and oral medications in addition to this, QNA reported.

[Bahrain News Agency]

## ✓ KUWAIT: KUWAITI OFFICIAL AFFIRMS KEENNESS ON PROVIDING JOBS FOR YOUTH

**Manama, 16 February 2017** - THE Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) of Kuwait affirmed Thursday keenness on finding solutions and providing job opportunities for young Kuwaitis in various fields, particularly in small and medium enterprises.

MGRP has keen interest in qualifying and employing national labor through holding specialized training courses for the youngsters

that prepare and qualify them for employment and running their own small and medium enterprises, MGRP's Secretary-General Fawzy Al-Majdaly stated to KUNA.

Al-Majdly made his remarks after taking part in a workshop, entitled "Developing small enterprises in GCC States", to discuss and address subjects related to supporting young businessmen and businesswomen in the field

of small enterprises. The workshop aimed at exchanging expertise, reviewing Gulf States' experiences, discussing future developments, and finding ways to reform policies and laws in the field of supporting small enterprises at GCC countries, said the MGRP chief.

MGRP his submitted a sheet on its role in supporting small enterprises, encouraging jobseekers on pioneering an independent

business which meets Kuwait's vision and interest in qualifying the youth to attain work requirements at the private sector.

The Kuwaiti Program has also prepared a number of consultative studies necessary for establishing an incubator for small and medium enterprises and marketing their products through a joint cooperation with co-ops, said Al-Majdly.

[Kuwait News Agency]



### ✓ OMAN: OMAN PRIDE: YOUTH LEARN LIFE LESSONS BY TACKLING CHALLENGES

**Muscat, 8 February 2017** - MODERN life being what it is, it is sometimes hard to imagine being out on your own, stranded on a remote island with just enough food and water to survive.

Such exercises, though, do build character in people, and that's the sort of training Oman Sail is giving the next generation of Omani leaders.

Their Khazan youth programme, run in association with BP, began three years ago and has trained over 1,700 Omanis from local universities.

We did research on what was missing in people in Oman, and found that skills such as leadership, communication, planning and self-motivation were needed," said Khamis Al Anboori, head of Oman

Sail's Corporate and Personal Development arm.

The programme runs for three days, and we have about six teams of eight students in each batch," he added. We give them a challenge on the first day and ask them to solve it. What is important is what they learn here. We don't just look at how quickly they completed the activity, but also measure teamwork, communication and participation."

We were given a piece of wood and asked to cross a stretch of water to get to the other side," said Taymora Al Ghawi from the Ibri College of Applied Sciences.

My teammates and I had to figure out the best way to cross the water and get to land, because you can only

stay afloat for so long.

This activity taught us to measure distances between two places, and how to get there in the safest possible manner and shortest possible time," she added.

We went through another exercise where we were only given a limited portion of supplies in a very remote part of the beach and asked to survive there, making do with what we had.

After seeing the changes in my personality because of this course, my parents want my brother and sister to take part as well," said Anwaar Al Bamani, another student.

My parents are very proud of all that I have learned here," added Ahmed Al Balushi, a student. "They are happy that I am getting to learn such things and

imbibing leadership and teamwork skills which will help me in the future."

We want people to choose their jobs in the future because they are good at it, not because their fathers or friends want them to," said Al Anboori.

Together we have built a unique programme," added David Graham, CEO of Oman Sail.

We are all convinced this will have a positive and enduring effect across the Sultanate in the years to come."

*[Times of Oman]*

### ✓ LEBANON : YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH LEBANON BUSINESSES

**Beirut, 17 February 2017** - LEBANON's Youth Advocate Program is working with local businesses to enhance the economic opportunities of the area's at-risk-youth.

YAPWORX is a four-month-long program designed to provide teens with an opportunity to explore the world of work, connect with regional business leaders, and develop the skills and interest required for a successful transition into the work place, according to a news release issued by the Youth Advocate Program.

Several local business are participating in the YAPWORX program, serving as "Opportunity

Advisors" and giving adolescents a wide range of work opportunities from which to select. Among them are Lebanon Federal Credit Union, Colortech Inc., First Aid & Safety Patrol, and Brentwood Industries.

The YAPWORX program combines classroom instruction with practical, experiential learning activities, explained Bob Swanson, regional director for Youth Advocate Programs in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

"This program enhances young persons' future economic outlook and inclusion as contributing members of our society," he said.

Headquartered in Harrisburg, the Youth Advocate Program is a private, nonprofit organization that provides community-based alternatives to residential placement for youth.

It has programs in 25 major cities in 17 states, according to its website, yapinc.org.

YAP has been operating in Lebanon County since 2000.

Among its local programs is a day-placement center for many of the county's juvenile offenders, who otherwise would be placed in residential treatment centers.

Located in the former

Youth for Christ building on Grace Avenue in North Lebanon Township, youths and their families receive education, counseling and behavioral support from YAP's trained counselors.

YAPWORX is funded in part through Lebanon County Juvenile Probation, Lebanon County Children and Youth Services, and a generous contribution from Edward and Jeanne Arnold. And the United Way of Lebanon County provided technical assistance in launching the program.

*[Lebanon Daily News]*





## ✓ PAKISTAN : PM YOUTH PROGRAMME HAS FACILITATED 746, 153 YOUTHS

**Islamabad, 18 February 2017** - PRIME Minister's Youth Programme has facilitated as many as 764,153 youths so far since its announcement by Nawaz Sharif after taking charge of the federal government in 2013.

The programme was aimed at providing employment opportunities, trainings, facilitation and many other things to the youths across the country.

It is offering six projects: PM's Youth Business Loan Scheme, PM's Interest Free Loan Scheme, PM's Youth Development Programme, PM's Programme for Provision of Laptops to Talented Students, PM's Fee Reimbursement Scheme for Less Developed Areas and PM's Youth Training Scheme.

The schemes have facilitated around 764,153 people across the country in their respective fields.

The PM's Interest Free Loan Scheme has provided interest free loans to poorest of the poor segments of society with a poverty score of up to 40. So far, loans amounting to Rs 5.815 billion have been disbursed to 261,071 borrowers. Of the total borrowers, 162,019 are women (62%).

According to data, 54,000 BISP beneficiaries have also benefited from the scheme.

The recovery rate of the scheme is 99 percent.

A milestone of reaching out to 300,000 borrowers will

be achieved by June 30, 2017.

Similarly, the PM's Youth Skill Development Programme is aimed at training unemployed youth of Pakistan with middle level education for acquiring productive skills for gainful employment.

So far, technical/vocational training to 75,000 youths, both men and women, has been imparted. However, the project will train another 100,000 people by June this year.

The PM's Youth Business Loan Scheme is focused on unemployed youths, especially the educated ones looking for establishing or extending business enterprises.

So far, business loans to the tune of Rs 17.043 billion have been disbursed among 17,045 potential entrepreneurs.

Recovery rate of the scheme is 94 percent.

Eighteen partner banks of the scheme are processing the loan applications as per their established banking procedures.

Loans are granted after the satisfactory completion of all the formalities of the bank.

The PM's laptop scheme is aimed at spreading the use of computers amongst the college/university level students for the pursuit of higher education and research.

So far, almost 200,000 laptops have been

distributed among students of PhD, MPhil, MS, masters' and bachelors' programmes of HEC recognised universities across Pakistan.

Milestone of distributing 300,000 laptops among university students will be achieved by June.

*[PakTribune.com]*

NEWS



### ✓ ALBANIA: CANNABIS DAMAGES SOCIETY AND THE FUTURE GENERATIONS

**Albania, 6 February 2017** - HEAD of OSCE Presence's, Robert Borchardt, remarks at a meeting with students of the University of Arts in Tirana

The road that leads to progress and a better future is a hard one, but it's worth it.

The OSCE is committed to assist Albania in reaching the highest democratic standards in order to fulfil its OSCE Commitments.

Democracy, Rule of Law and Human rights are pillars of functional modern societies.

In Albania, functional democratic governance is still hindered by lack of dialogue at the highest political level, politicization of the public administration, slow justice administration, widespread corruption and organized crime.

These problems cannot be solved in one day or one year, but with everyone's commitment I am certain Albania can succeed.

I came to Albania for the first time in 1996, when many of you were still kids: to a country which was incredible poor, disorganized, partly even anarchic, controlled by violence in some regions and with many heavy defaults in its nascent democracy.

Today Albania has advanced in a way I could have never imagined in 1996, but still Albania has a long way to go.

The OSCE Presence in

Albania concentrates its support for Albania on a number of fields where we believe that we can make a difference, and where others are not yet supporting Albania.

To put some "meat on these bones", I will give you a couple of examples concerning our activities.

This year, the OSCE Chairmanship has set Youth as one of our highest priorities.

Young people like you hold the key for the direction which Albania and other countries in the region will take.

Young people's participation in public life and social media, prevention of radicalization of young people and regional youth co-operation are some fields of activity, just to name a few.

With the orientation of our Austrian Chairmanship, the OSCE Presence in Albania has also focused more on working with young people, and has, for instance, recently developed in co-operation with the Municipality of Tirana and the Austrian Embassy a new project: The Youth Trail; as we call it.

This project will bring together discussions on youth, radicalization, peace and security, combined with outdoor activities.

Participants will come from all over the Western Balkans.

We also work with young people in towns and villages across the country.

These activities provide a unique opportunity to connect young people, decision-makers and public figures, to discuss democracy and plan local initiatives.

Finally, we will seek to establish a Youth Advisory Group for ourselves to better serve young Albanian people through our programmatic work.

Human Rights in Albania are mostly respected but efforts are still necessary in areas such as child rights protection, gender-based violence, property restitution/compensation.

We are for many years already involved in the fight against trafficking of human beings - often linked to the most serious human rights violations.

We work with prisons and probation service on improving also this sector of the Albanian judicial system.

Albania has been gone through dramatic changes in the last 25 years, and one of the most dangerous ones has been the further spread of cannabis in the country.

Cannabis damages society and the future generations. We all have to make the right choices, but especially young people.

The OSCE Presence in Albania will support the government in its endeavour to implement a comprehensive plan to fight cannabis.

Fighting corruption, helping to destroy the dangerous

leftovers of Enver Hoxha's armament frenzy, improving the links between citizens and parliament, and a number of more projects are ongoing.

Major changes are taking place in the world: look at refugees and their suffering, mass migration, terror threats everywhere, perceived or real threats to economic wellbeing in the developed economies of the EU, shifts in the distribution of wealth, and many more.

Since 1990 Albania and many other countries and the artists in these countries - are challenged by the paradigm change of the end of Communist dictatorships and the dealing with this past.

I am very much aware that this is a challenge and contains risks. Walter Benjamin once wrote about the risk when art gets in politics. He mentioned the aesthetization of politics in Fascism and the politization of aesthetics in Communism.

We support, together with the University of Arts and the Faculty of Fine Arts, a competition of artists on these themes the best works being selected by a panel of experts, the 2 winners receiving each a prize of 500 Euro. All the best art works paintings, installations or sculptural works - will be exhibited at FAB gallery for the national and international audience in Tirana.

*[Albania Daily News]*



### ✓ AUSTRIA: NEW STUDY: YOUNG PEOPLE IN AUSTRIA FEEL UNSETTLED BY FAKE NEWS

**Vienna, 6 February 2017** - ON the 14th international Safer Internet Day, taking place in February 2017, the Austrian initiative Saferinternet.at will present the results of its recent study on the topic of "Internet rumours: How do teens evaluate information found on the internet?". Social networks are the main information resources for young people in Austria, although they are not perceived as trustworthy. 86 per cent of the respondents indicate that they are insecure as to whether information found on the internet is true.

They expect support from their parents and their

teachers to acquire media literacy.

The topic of rumours on the internet has been widely addressed under the label of "fake news".

Young people, especially, experience the widespread existence of fake news and rumours online, as they most often rely on social networks to keep themselves informed daily.

The Austrian institute for Applied Telecommunication (ÖIAT) and the Internet Service Providers Austria (ISPA) have initiated a study, realised by the Institut für Jugendkulturforschung on "Internet rumours: How do

teens evaluate information found on the internet?".

In the representative online inquiry, 400 adolescents aged 14-18 were asked about how they deal with information from the internet. This was accompanied by six qualitative interviews. Social networks and television as the main sources for information

Social networks next to television are the most important information resource on daily topics for young people in Austria.

For 59 per cent of the respondents, social networks are one of their

three most important information resources; their other news sources are radio (33 per cent), YouTube (27 per cent), and daily newspapers (25 per cent) as well as websites of daily newspapers (20 per cent). 17 per cent of the respondents indicate that they keep informed on daily topics by YouTubers and 12 per cent rely on free newspapers. Conclusively, we can observe that young people keep informed on daily politics and other news by a mix of traditional and online media.

[Daily star]

### ✓ AZERBAIJAN: MINISTER: OVER \$24M SPENT ON YOUTH-RELATED PROJECTS

**Baku, 1 February 2017** - YOUTH and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov has revealed that more than \$24 million was spent on youth-related projects in Azerbaijan over the five years

"We are proud that the Youth Fund under the President of Azerbaijan Republic carries out very active role.

This year alone nearly \$3 million was spent on thousands of youth-related projects.

Our projects are divided into several categories," Rahimov told the UN Press Service as he attended the Youth Forum in the UN headquarters in New York.

The main topic of the meeting participated by representatives of youth and ministers from 70 countries is the role of youth in combating poverty.

Rahimov noted that successful policy is being carried out for involving young volunteers in Azerbaijan.

"We have hosted grand events like the European Games in 2015, Formula 1 and the World Chess Olympiad in 2016. This year we will host the World Scout Youth Forum," the minister said.

Rahimov is sure that such great projects provide an opportunity to unite the youth and volunteer movements.

The activities of the Youth Foundation, established in 2011, are aimed at motivating young people to take an active part in the

socio-political, socio-economic and cultural life of society.

Major focus of Azerbaijan's state youth policy is made on guaranteeing the social protection and employment of young people, stimulating their quest for creativity, educating them in the national spirit, strengthening their military and patriotic upbringing, and promulgating a healthy lifestyle.

[AzerNews]

### ✓ GERMANY: YOUTH BETWEEN MARGINALIZATION AND PARTICIPATION: FORUM 2017

**Berlin, 2 February 2017** - 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]*

### ✓ UK: YOUTH SUFFER LOW 'MENTAL WELLBEING

London, 8 February 2017 - YOUNG people in the UK have some of the lowest levels of "mental wellbeing", according to an international survey.

A study of the attitudes of 15- to 21-year-olds in 20 countries examined levels of optimism, confidence and a sense of being loved.

Japan was the only country lower than the UK on this wellbeing ranking, published by the Varkey Foundation education charity.

Only 15% of young people in the UK said they got enough sleep and exercise.

The study looked at the views and expectations of so-called Generation Z, born in the years around the new millennium, based on a survey of more than 20,000 people in countries including the UK, the

United States, France, Germany, India, China and Argentina.

And it suggested that there was no clear link between material wellbeing and mental health.

While the UK was almost at the bottom of the rankings for wellbeing, along with countries such as Japan and South Korea, the top places were taken by young people in Indonesia, India and Nigeria.

South Korea, with a reputation for a fiercely pressurised education system, was the only country where young people actively disliked where they lived.

Young people across this global sample, including the UK, reported that they were more pessimistic than optimistic about the future.

The perception of risk from extremism, terrorism and conflict was widespread - more so than worries about climate change or inequalities between rich and poor.

In the UK, extremism and terror was identified as the biggest single reason for being "fearful for the future", followed by the threat of "conflict and war".

There were big differences in attitudes towards the principle of free speech - and whether it should be protected even for views might offend.

Only about a third of young people in Nigeria supported the right to free speech, if it was likely to offend some ethnic groups or religious beliefs.

In contrast, more than two-thirds of young people in Argentina supported free

speech, regardless of who it might antagonise.

"At a time of nationalist and populist movements that focus on the differences between people, the evidence shows that young

Young people are passionate believers in the right to live the life that they choose, whatever their background, free of prejudice of all kinds."

But Mr Pota said that this was also a generation that was "deeply pessimistic about the future of the world".

*[Evening Standard]*



### ✓ FIJI: REIHNER SETS PLAN FOR OUR YOUTHS

**Suva, 2 February 2017** - MOTIVATIONAL speaker for the Island Breeze Rugby Plus Graham Reihner said the youths of Fiji needed to have a plan and work towards seeing it come to reality.

Reihner, who is a businessman in New Zealand, is also a board member for Footy 4 All Foundation which organizes and distributes sporting equipment to people around the country.

While speaking to youths and the people of Dravo Village in Tailevu he said: "The program is about youth development and is related to rugby but it is about development in all areas.

"Sports as an avenue to develop youths life and change their life and make the best out of their life. We are talking about big dreams, goals and plans they need to have in their life and how to achieve those things.

"People who come from a more simplistic way in the villages need to have the ability to go out and create the wider goals in the world."

He said they would be working on a number of plans for other areas in Fiji. "We have got plans for other island as well and we will be closely working with the island of Ovalau and a program has also been planned for Labasa," he added.

"Next week we will go to

Ra and have a three-day seminar there spreading the net wider with more people and youths.

"It will be about development, using rugby as a sport and there is also sports training in terms of coaching, policing, health and nutrients and my part will be finding about dreams and then putting them into the plan and from there creating goals together with ways to achieve it."

[Fiji Times]

### ✓ GUAM: OUR VIEW: STEP UP EFFORTS TO HELP MENTOR GUAM'S YOUTHS

**Hagåtña, 22 February 2017** - OUR community needs to step up efforts to help island youths in need of mentoring and positive role models.

One shining example of a group that works to give adolescents and teens a guiding hand to teach needed life skills and set them on the path to be productive citizens is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam.

The nonprofit's Micronesia Resource Center One-Stop Shop has established a presence at the Hemlani Apartments in

Harmon, to help migrant youths.

John Howard, a former track star who serves as a community leader and mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam, recently started the Foneni Achocho Sensu Athletic Club.

It meets at the Dededo gym to train for track and field events.

Howard said the main goal is to engage youths from the Federated States of Micronesia, particularly those from Chuuk.

The club will hold a mini track and field challenge from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Feb. 25 at Okkodo High School.

We have some guest speakers that will come and talk to them about being responsible and productive citizens.

We use the sports to attract the youth to come out and attend the event, but the main point is to have some speakers from our Chuuk government."

In his weekly radio address this week, Gov. Eddie

Calvo asked the community to help with the event.

"If you're a coach, a runner, or just someone in the community with a heart to help our young people, please come out and join (Howard), Big Brothers Big Sisters and the rest of us," he said.

We encourage the community to assist in this and other efforts, to help mentor Guam's young people.

[Pacific Daily News]

### ✓ NEWZEALAND: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES GROWING

**Wellington, 11 February 2016** - THE number of youth development opportunities in New Zealand is growing by around 10,000 annually as a result of a new approach, which includes the Government co-investing in new opportunities with philanthropic, business, iwi and other partners, says Youth Minister Nikki Kaye.

"In July last year, the Government committed \$1 million to seed a Partnership Fund, with the aim of attracting investments from other partners to help grow youth development opportunities," says Ms Kaye.

"Already, over \$900,000 from the Fund has been invested, alongside around \$2 million cash and in-kind

support from partners towards more than 6000 new opportunities.

"There are many businesses and organisations out there which recognise the value of investing in helping young people acquire the skills and confidence they need to contribute positively to society as adults.

"It makes sense for the

Government and these organisations to work together, to maximise resources and increase the number and quality of opportunities available." A Board was also established last year to oversee the Partnership Fund and lead the development of new collaborative partnerships to increase youth development opportunities.



“A key role of the Partnership Fund Board is to draw on the expertise and networks of its members to generate new ideas, and forge new partnerships to grow the opportunities available,” says Ms Kaye.

“They’ve achieved great results in a relatively short time, and I look forward to the new partnerships and

opportunities they will develop this year.”

So far in 2017, a number of new partnerships have been announced offering a range of mentoring, volunteering and leadership opportunities for young people in fields such as sports, the creative sector and technology.

The new approach for the

Ministry of Youth Development, which was announced in November 2015, is expected to increase the number of youth development opportunities from 50,000 to 70,000 annually over two years.

“We’re on track to achieve this, with the extra 10,000 opportunities expected to be

created by the end of this year taking the total opportunities available to around 60,000,” says Ms Kaye.

Overall funds targeting disadvantaged youth are also expected to increase from 18 to 30 per cent.

[Radio New Zealand]

### ✓ PAPUA GUINEA: YOUTHS IN PNG URGED TO STAND UP FOR SDGS BY LEADERS

**Port Moresby, 21 February 2017** - PASSIONATE young leaders in Papua New Guinea (PNG) are encouraging their peers to stand up for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global development milestones aimed at transforming the world and PNG by 2030.

A press release from United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office stated that the selected Youth Champions for the Global Goals of the United Nations in PNG, Ms. Bronwyn Kili, Ms. Lydia Dimokali, and Mr. Nathan Garry are generating a youth movement towards the Goals.

It is reported the three champions organized a

workshop for representatives from the University of Papua New Guinea, Papua New Guinea University of Technology, National Capital District Gender Desk, Basketball Federation Papua New Guinea, High Performance Sports, Mission Vibe, and Youth for Change.

The lead facilitator Kili, 19, who is the president of the Youth Adolescent Health Club (YAH), raises awareness on the importance of the SDGs. Kili says these goals will shape the country when they are in their 30s or 40s.

“Do you want a future where current issues such as poverty, hunger, and gender based violence still exist? It is us who need to stand up

now to attain better lives for ourselves,” urges Kili.

Mr. Garry, 25, who is currently working to establish a NGO called “Youth for Change” to educate young peers, especially those living in settlements believes more actors are needed than just government.

“We need our young peers playing such a role.” said Garry.

Garry also discourages the lack of the sense of urgency and utilise the SDGs as guiding tools to develop and transform PNG.

“Let us not wait. It is our future, and it is our country. SDGs is a guiding tool to develop and transform our

country better.” Participants of the workshop discussed how the SDGs are linked to their lives, and how best they can help promote them.

They were also encouraged to recognize their influential power, networking capacity and innovative ideas and, to think through how they can promote the SDGs in their respective schools and communities.

Meanwhile, the report affirms that the United Nations in Papua New Guinea will continue to engage with youth in promoting the Goals because of the critical importance of youth in developing a nation.

[EMTV Online]

### ✓ SAMOA: INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES OPEN DOORS FOR YOUTH

**Apia, 20 February 2016** - THE 2016 Internship Programme ended last week and the feedback has been positive both from the interns as well as the work placements.

The Samoa Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Youth Employment Programme (Ministry of Women and

Social Development) and the Samoa National Youth Council launched the programme last year.

The 10 week initiative was designed to assist with the increasing number of unemployed youth in Samoa. Sixteen interns were assigned to businesses/ organizations that are

members/stakeholders of the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and supported this initiative to address youth unemployment: analyst Helen Skipps.

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The main purpose of the programme was to allow the interns to gain work experience in a formal setting and skills that can further their chances of securing employment.

At the end of the programme, three interns were offered full time roles while five secured part time roles in their work placement.

One of the interns, Santyao Misa, said she found the programme very helpful, “the work experience and skills I have gained has been great.

It was my first time working and I enjoyed it, everyone was nice and helped me a lot”.

Another intern, Toetu Faatoaga, stated that one of the most important skills he took from being a part of the programme was learning to adapt to a work environment, “I was able to learn from my work colleagues and found the working environment very supportive”.

The Samoa Chamber of Commerce, Youth Employment Programme (Ministry of Women’s, Community and Social

Development) and the Samoa Youth Council are looking at implementing the programme again due to the positive feedback received from the interns and the workplaces.

The Samoa Chamber of Commerce CEO Lemauga Hobart Va’ ai comments “The Samoa Chamber of Commerce is committed to addressing the Youth Unemployment issue in Samoa, we are looking forward to working closer with the MWCSO to ensure this internship programme is a continuous win/win for our Government and the Private Sector of Samoa”.

The Samoa Chamber of Commerce wishes to acknowledge all the businesses who took part in the internship programme as it would not have been possible without your assistance.

The Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry Incorporated as the National Private Sector Organisation is funded by the Pacific Leadership Program (PLP).

*[Samoa Observer]*

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