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AFRICA
AMERICA
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INFO

✓ *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JULY 2017*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
9– 13 July 2017	17th Melaka International Youth Dialogue "Our Roles in Solving Juvenile Delinquency"	Melaka, Malaysia
11 July 2017	International Day of Persons with	Melaka, Malaysia
15 July 2017	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development	Melaka, Malaysia
18 July 2017	Human Rights Day	Melaka, Malaysia
30 July 2017	International Day of Friendship	Melaka, Malaysia
30 July 2017	World Day against Trafficking in Persons	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ BOTSWANA: HEADWAY IN EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH CONTRACTORS – GOV'T

Gaborone, 01 June 2017 - ABOUT 29 youth companies have benefited from the Citizen Economic Empowerment (CEE) policy through maintenance contracts worth P59 million during the 2016/2017 financial year.

The permanent secretary in the Ministry of Infrastructure and Housing Development, Dikagiso Mokotedi said this before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) this week.

He said the policy was built on good foundation, regarding the initiative targeted the youth to be awarded 15% of all contracts.

The CEE, which is currently undergoing scrutiny from the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB), was introduced

to help citizens participate actively in strategic socio-economic decisions.

Earlier this year PPADB noted that they would soon engage a consultancy to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy, which is expected to be completed during the 2017/18 financial year with recommendations to make empowerment through procurement more effective.

“The reservation policy was built on a good foundation and has made a significant progress amongst the youth as most of them have already benefited,” he said.

Mokotedi said the policy does not only limit the youth contractors to participate in the large tenders, as already there are some who are already competing with large companies.

“We are doing our best to engage the youth as during the past financial year government spent about P847,000 training about 50 youth through the Youth Vocational Training programme,” he said.

According to Mokotedi, through the programme they invited everybody who has shown interest in the construction sector, talked to them and enquired about their interests, following which he said would then place them in different posts across the ministry.

Further he said about P72 million of the contracts that were awarded during the first phase of the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) was awarded to 21 youth companies.

Mokotedi also noted that there are some projects under ESP which have been

awarded and still going through the evaluation process which includes the construction of houses for the Ministry of Health and Wellness as well as the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security.

According to Mokotedi, the biggest challenge that delayed was shortage of land.

“The biggest challenge that hindered the progress of these projects was lack of land as for example, initially the Ministry of Health though they indicated they had the land which later emerged that the ministry no longer own the land,” he said.

[Mnengi Online]

✓ KENYA: KENYAN MINISTERS STRATEGISE TO ADVANCE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Nairobi, 12 June 2017 - MINISTERS in charge of Youth Affairs of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) met in Livingstone, Zambia on 9 June 2017 to discuss ways to advance youth employment in the region.

The meeting was jointly promoted by the ICGLR and the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region (OESG).

The meeting was held under the theme « Accelerating the implementation of the 2014 Declaration of the ICGLR Special Summit of Heads of State on the

fight against youth unemployment through infrastructure development and investment promotion » and was a follow-up to the Special Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya, in July 2014.

The Ministerial session was preceded by a two-day expert meeting which brought together, on 7 and 8 June, youth representatives and national experts from the region, policy makers, and representatives of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, regional organizations including the ICGLR Levy Mwanawasa Regional Center for Good Governance, the

World Bank Group and the African Development Bank.

The two-day Expert Meeting took stock of progress and challenges in advancing youth employment issues in the Great Lakes region.

Kenya has a promising youth population.

The national experts and representatives exchanged views on progress in advancing the youth employment agenda at the national and regional levels.

They also discussed and validated the strategy and action plan developed in support of the

implementation of the Heads of State recommendations emanating from the 2014 Special Summit on youth unemployment.

In line with the « Delivering as One » UN policy, the United Nations system in the region presented their joint analysis of the status of youth in the region, along with their interventions aimed at tackling youth unemployment, within the context of the youth pillar of the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, adopted by the UN Security Council in March 2016.



The opening ceremony of the ministerial meeting was presided over by the Guest of honour, Honorable Chomba Freedom Sikazwe, Minister in charge of Presidential Affairs representing the President of the Republic of Zambia, His Excellency Edgard Chagwa Lungu.

The session was attended by Ministers of youth from the region and their representatives, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes region, Said Djinnit, the ICGLR Executive Secretary, Zachary Muburi Muita, representatives of the United Nations and regional organizations as well as members of the diplomatic corps.

The guest of honour expressed the gratitude of his Government to the ICGLR and the Office of the UN Special Envoy for

convening the youth ministerial meeting.

He invited the principals of the two institutions as Guarantors of the Peace, Cooperation and Security Framework for the DRC and the region to continue supporting programmes aiming at fostering sustainable peace and stability in the region. The region has a role in ensuring that every young has access to quality education and employment opportunities.

The UN Special Envoy, Said Djinnit, noted the impact lack of access to socio-economic and political opportunities has on durable peace and reconciliation, and underscored the importance of establishing inclusive policies to tap into the unique demographic dividend that youth represents for the region.

The ICGLR Executive

Secretary, Zachary Muburi Muita further highlighted the critical importance of the meeting and noted that the growing menace of unemployed youth in the region is being manifested in disturbances to law and order in urban settings, proliferation of negative forces that prey on disillusioned youth. The Ministers then reviewed the report of the experts on the outcome of their meeting and exchanged on best practices for strategies and policies at national level to tackle youth unemployment.

The Ministers agreed on the need for a coordinated and participatory approach, and endorsed the 2017-2022 regional strategy for the implementation of the 2014 Special Summit of ICGLR Heads of State on youth unemployment.

The strategy focuses on eight key areas including,

infrastructure development; investment promotion; education and training; youth entrepreneurs access to funding; mobilization of additional resources for youth issues; youth representation in decision-making organs; monitoring, evaluation and coordination of policies and interventions; and good governance and transparency.

They further recommended that the regional strategy be submitted for adoption at the next ICGLR Summit of Heads of State and Government in December 2017.

The ICGLR youth ministerial meeting was organized with the financial support of the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region and the World Bank.

[The Star]

✓ MALAWI: AFRICA DAY OF THE CHILD: IS AFRICA REALLY TAKING CARE OF THE YOUNG?

Lilongwe, 17 June 2017 - IN Malawi students from primary schools were just smoked with tear gas a few days ago and some of them are celebrating their Day in police holding cells.

The people in power who, happen to be the parents of the young are instructing the police to wound and injure the very generation that has its day today June 16.

Youth make the majority of the population of the continent of Africa, but youth are denied opportunities and access to not only quality education, but education.

The taxes that they and their parents pay instead of utilizing it for sustainable development in education, infrastructure and social amenities, African leaders and governments use the taxes for their personal and individual greed.

This is the Africa we fought for from colonial and apartheid hands.

Today we still blame colonial powers but forget to point to our own greed. Over half a century, to some nations, and almost over 30 years to other nations, Africa has been independent of colonial rule.

Despite knowing the ills of colonialism, African leaders joined the bandwagon of colonial mentality by continuing to oppress and suppress their respective fellow citizens.

Today Africans have failed Africa. Our failure of Africa is giving the colonial agents the upper hand to subject Africans as clueless, visionless, blind and inferior.

We have failed to reclaim our own land that was forcefully and violently taken from our ancestors on the continent.

As our leaders and governments submit to the

ideologies of colonialism, corruption, selfishness, tribalism, nepotism and racism, have blanketed the entire continent.

Natural resources that were meant to uplift the lives of the youth, are exchanged for personal wealth and amassing national wealth into the pockets of those dining with the colonial agents.



This is why Africa is poor and the youth of the past and the youth of today combined with the youth of the future, will remain blind, clueless and visionless, mainly only if the youth remain financially poor and knowledge-incapacitated.

As we celebrate the day of the African Child let us take care of youth because

tomorrow is for them, not for us.

However, mindful of the political persecution inculcated on our youth for voicing and speaking out truth, justice and peace, we need to stop brutal acts against our youth, because every change and revolution begins with the youth.

We appeal to all

governments of Africa to provide space and accommodate the youth in decision-making bodies for the better future of our continent of Africa.

It is and it must come from all Africans to know and realize that Africa's future will not and shall never be realized from external ideologies, but from our own policies and ideologies

from within.

The only thing we need to do in Africa is to do away with hatred, tribalism and disunity.

Our race is unique therefore we need to cherish and consolidate on our existence. Blessed must be the African child.

[The Nation]

✓ SOUTH AFRICA: YOUTH MUST STOP THE DOWNGRADE MEMES

Johannesburg, 18 June 2017 - INTERNATIONAL ratings agencies S&P, Fitch, and most recently Moody's, have downgraded various aspects of South Africa's credit rating to junk status.

These downgrades are in part contributed to the country's political landscape, especially the instability and lack of leadership in government. And as our supposed leaders both in the ruling ANC and in opposition parties continue with their political battles, infighting, and power struggles, this situation is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

With this in mind, one of the most pertinent issues is what these credit rating downgrades mean for ordinary South Africans.

While this broad topic has been addressed to a certain extent, the focus must also extend to specifically what the downgrades mean for our youth.

Stubborn unemployment South Africa has one of the highest unemployed rates in the world.

The graduates of the class if

2017 intending to enter the adult world, and young professionals, will be severely impacted by the downgrades.

And those that already don't have employment might see their efforts being derailed by the current technical recession as well.

The downgrades will also result in higher living costs.

If you had your first car in mind, or a first small place to buy, some furniture or even just a television set the fallout of the down grade is higher installment costs.

Even if you are using taxis as transport, the cost is sure to rise due to the increase in the price of fuel.

All these increases transfer to the end consumer and that includes the youth.

The majority of SA youth spend an average of 800 to 1 200 minutes a month looking for a job.

This time increases at graduate or job-seeker level, as higher remuneration is expected, which is proving hard to come by at the current economic climate.

Bearing the brunt

In the immediate future, we as the youth might not feel the impact of the credit downgrades, but in the mid- to long-term period we shall definitely feel it, especially in our pockets. And since many youth still rely on their parents to "carry-them", it means even harder times for families.

Even aspiring entrepreneurs and young people running their own business are at risk of getting credit at a higher interest.

Most SMME owners take out personal loans to start or expand a business, and the downgrade could lead to more borrowing costs for them. Access to credit will be difficult for young entrepreneurs, and if you're lucky to secure it, it will come at a higher rate, which will negatively impact your business.

The leadership crisis has eroded investor sentiment, and with that reduced the money available to grow the economy and in turn create employment and alleviate poverty.

Meanwhile, one highly-placed minister has assured the South African

people that "it is not all doom and gloom for young people", that they will pick up the rand and that we must not worry.

Elders misleading young people. Statements such as these are clearly misleading young people, and can only be described as reckless.

Our so-called leaders don't seem to understand how the political crisis affects us, the youth.

It's time for us to galvanise ourselves, be more positive and stop the downgrade memes.

We must become more assertive, look for opportunities in and outside our communities, go study abroad, and acquire new skills that will grow this country.

As things stand, it does not seem as if help will come from our leaders.

[Mail and Guardian]



✓ ZIMBABWE: WHAT JUNE 16 2017 SHOULD MEAN TO THE ZIMBABWEAN YOUTH

Harare, 15 June 2017 - THE day that is celebrated internationally in honour of the Soweto youth (5 - 10,000 students) of 1976 who marched against apartheid in South Africa leaving some dead and injured after being attacked by the apartheid police.

Day Of African Child (DAC) 2017 is commemorated on the theme - ' The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in Africa: Accelerating protection, empowerment and equal opportunities for children in Africa by 2030'.

On 1 January 2016, 17 sustainable development goals of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by World leaders in September 2015 became official. These are

- 1 No Poverty
- 2 Zero Hunger
- 3 Good Health and wellbeing
- 4 Quality Education
- 5 Gender equality
- 6 Clean water and Sanitation
- 7 Affordable and-cleanenergy
- 8 Decent work and economic growth
- 9 Industry innovation and-infrastructure
- 10 Reduced inequalities
- 11 Sustainable cities and communities
- 12 Responsible consumption and production
- 13 Climate Action
- 14 Life below water
- 15 Life on land
- 16Peace,justiceandstrongins titutions
- 17 Partnerships fort he-goals

For these goals to be

reached , different sectors and everyone need to do their part i.e. Private sector.

In this Article I will focus on a few of these goals starting with Goal 3- Good health and well being.

Ensuring health lives and promoting the well being for all is necessary for sustainable development.

While there is progress in reducing the spread of HIV / AIDS , Malaria , Polio , Tuberculosis and other ailments - extra effort is needed to eradicate these diseases .

In every situation analysis is accompanied by figures where people say if in year 2 000, 2, 1 million people world over died of HIV/ AIDS or Malaria, if only 800 000 die in 2017 we deem it a feat achieved but it's time we remember the real person behind these figures.

One life lost is one too many , 2 or 5 still represent a real human being it should not be viewed in the light of reduced figures .

It is imperative at this juncture to look at horror facts on Zimbabwe's healthcare

1) Infant mortality rate is 59/ 1 000 births. Infant Mortality rate is the number of infants dying before reaching one year of age.

2) 98% of drugs used in public health centres are funded by donors.

3) Healthcare personnel in Zimbabwe is at a ratio of 1, 5 doctors for every 10 000

people and 7 trained nurses for every 10 000 people.

4) 1 in 100 women die giving birth main causes being uterine rupture, cardiac failure and bacterial infections among others

5) Over 85% of Zimbabweans do not have medical aid, with no formal employment medical aid is difficult to access.

Goal number 8- Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

Zimbabwe majority of citizens live on \$1 per day or less with a family of 5 struggling to make ends meet may live on \$5 or less daily budget.

Continued lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments and under consumption have led to citizens failing to sustain themselves.

Unemployment being a cause of different health challenges including but not limited to stress and malnutrition. An adult out of gainful employment has no peace of mind.

Poverty is more than lack of income and resources, it manifests through hunger and limited access to education among the rest. Lazarus Dokora's goat for fees being manifestation of a super impoverished country (unjustifiable as it is as a government intervention measure)

Goal 16- Promote just, peaceful and inclusive society.

When one sees the words just and peaceful in Zimbabwean context attention is quickly drawn to our State institutions which a few looters are using to oppress both the man in uniform and citizens.

- 1) substantially reduce corruption and bribery
- 2) Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in institutions of global governance.
- 3) Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.
- 4) End abuse and violence related deaths.
- 5) Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.
- 6) Promote and enforce non discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

We can therefore come to the assertion that in order for Zimbabwe to reach the goal of Agenda 2030 together with other countries ZANU PF government must go.

[Daily News



✓ BERMUDA: DONATION TO YOUTH COUNSELLING PROJECT

Hamilton, 9 June 2016 - THE Argus Group has donated \$15,000 to Family Centre in support of its Youth Development Zone counselling programme.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Royal Gazette]

✓ CANADA: CANADA LAUNCHES YOUTH IN TRUCKING SURVEY

Ottawa, 4 June 2017 - TRUCKING HR Canada has launched its Youth with Drive survey in an attempt to develop a national employment strategy for youth in the trucking industry.

The goal of the survey is to gather information about young people (18-35) currently employed in the trucking industry from both an employer and employee perspective.

The survey questions cover

three main themes, including; attraction, engagement and challenges.

Millennials are now the largest cohort in the Canadian workforce, yet are still largely under-represented in the trucking industry.

A recent study prepared for the Canadian Trucking Alliance predicts a driver gap of 34,000 by 2024, and the ratio of younger to older workers continues to increase.

The average age of a

Canadian truck driver is 47.1 years, four years older than the average Canadian worker, and less than 15% of drivers are between 25-34 years old. With the growing need for drivers, technicians, safety personnel, managers and more, the trend is concerning.

"We need to identify ways to better attract, recruit and retain young people in the trucking workforce" said Angela Splinter, CEO of Trucking HR Canada.

"We want to hear from industry so that we can assess and ultimately address what some of the challenges are."

The online survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, is fully anonymous, and is open to employers and employees of all ages, who are currently employed in the trucking industry.

[Truck News]

✓ DOMINICA: NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY REVIEW COMPLETE

Roseau, 11 June 2017 - THE review of Dominica's National Youth Policy, which was launched in August 2016, is now complete.

GIS news spoke exclusively with lead consultant for the policy review, Henry Charles.

He is satisfied that the policy has addressed all the

necessary areas.

We have a draft and we are doing the final editing now before it is submitted to Cabinet.

The policy covers the general areas.

When we look at the recommendations, the concerns, the issues, challenges and opportunities as expressed by young people throughout

the consultative processes as well as through the youth household surveys that we did and bearing in mind the emerging trends in terms of youth development globally and regionally; we also had to consider some of the international and regional frameworks and protocols. Taking all this into consideration, I think the policy is a fairly good representation of what a

modern framework for youth development should include."

Charles described the new policy as a framework for the empowerment of young people which will position them at the center of Dominica's development strategy.



“When you go through the policy you will see reference is being made to [Dominica’s] Growth and Social Protection Strategy.

The policy cannot run separate from that, it has to be linked. You would see references in the policy being made to the theme for this year’s [national] budget which is ‘Rebuilding Dominica’s Resilience’.

Considering issues facing countries like Dominica

with respect to climate change and environmental issues, disaster mitigation you would see issues related to that in terms of young people’s role.”

Charles informed that the policy includes recommendations from organizations such as the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce, the Dominica Association of People with Disabilities and the Kalinago Youth Council.

He says if embraced, the policy has the capacity to transform the nation into a modern society more resilient to global economic and social challenges.

Charles says the process of reviewing the youth policy has revealed that Dominica’s youth are resourceful, resilient and dynamic.

“They have ideas, they know what they want, they know where they want to go

and they are looking for the opportunities.

They are looking for support in terms of providing the enabling environment for them to be able to achieve not just for themselves yes they want to achieve for themselves but they also want to achieve for their family and for their society.”

[GIS Dominica]

✓ ECUADOR: OPTIMIST CLUB RECOGNIZES YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS

Quito, 25 June 2017 - THE future is in good hands judging from the sampling of students recognized at the annual Optimist Club of Collingwood’s youth appreciation night.

More than 30 students from elementary and high schools in the Southern Georgian Bay area who have been involved in their schools, community clubs or sports teams were recognized for showing commitment to community service and leadership.

“We are really happy to do this evening to celebrate the accomplishments of youth

in our region,” said John Houser, chair of the event. “It really is interesting to see the diversification of what the students are doing and the impact of what they are doing is having on their communities here and around the world.”

The audience heard of successes in sports, the arts, community services both home and abroad, with projects as diverse as working with robots to multiple wins in national science fairs.

“From a young age I was taught the importance in giving back to the community and

empowering youth from all over the world to get an education,” said Franco.

“I guess the fulfilment you feel inside when you give back to a community, give back to young people that need help you see that they are excited to learn; they just don’t have the means.”

”I have the means to help get the education they deserve and want.”

Franco has already looked at studying bio-chemistry at university, and then hopes to obtain a medical degree.

“From there, I would like to

be travelling to countries like Ecuador (that) don’t have adequate medical care and giving that to them,” said Franco.

The initial trip to Ecuador was arranged through an application process from me to we, a social enterprise founded in by Canadian brothers Craig and Marc Kielburger, an organization a lot of the evening’s recipients were associated with.

[The Whistler]

✓ JAMAICA: WORKSHOPS HELP GUIDE YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE POLICY

Kingston, 4 June 2017 - AN increase in the number of young female professionals becoming engaged in farming, as well as a call for more technical support in the agriculture sector are just two of the preliminary findings from four youth in agriculture policy workshops conducted last month. The workshops were mandated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to get the perceptions,

experiences and recommendations of Jamaica’s youth farmers, agri-entrepreneurs and agricultural students between the ages of 15 and 35 in order to provide the strategic framework for the Government’s youth in agriculture policy.

According to Rose, in looking at the information gathered by way of questionnaires and focus groups from the first three workshops, there have been

some notable constructive feedback from young Jamaicans involved in the sector, with most expressing their desire for mentors or clearer direction on how to get started in the sector.

“Some of them don’t know where to go, some of them don’t even have any skills from which to start, so some of them have a little issue with respect to knowing where to go.

That came out in the

discussions in Linstead, but in Manchester they were more aware, so it depends on who and where in Jamaica they are,” RosShe said that ideally, to register as a farmer one needs to go to the Rural Agricultural Development Authority for assistance and if someone is a student the person should seek help from the Jamaica 4-H Clubs, which will provide the necessary training opportunities. e explained.



“Sometimes people will want government assistance with agricultural enterprise, but some of them don’t, so we asked them about that, how do you think the Government can assist you.

Some people weren’t interested, they say they just want to know what to do and when to start,” the policy consultant said.

“More people are also doing organic farming, but more people want to access hotel markets and supermarkets they have to be more prepared to do so and produce at a certain quality standard,” Rose said.

“The challenge is, of course, payment on time for supermarkets, as there’s the issue of spoilage, so some supermarkets you have to take it back.

Those are some of the issues, so that’s why people say they prefer the export market.”

“People are interested, we are not losing youths as some may think, they are interested, and professionals who have no idea about agriculture, they are the ones that want to make some real money out of it and they are putting in their savings,” Rose stated.

“There is the issue of getting credit and land.

Ready access to land is a problem, but a lot of them are very innovative; they go and talk to other farmers and they rent or lease land, so they are much empowered.

[Jamaica Observer]

NEWS



✓ CHINA: CHINESE YOUTH HAVE HIGH HOPE FOR BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

Beijing, 15 June 2017 - CHINESE youth have high hope for the Belt and Road Initiative, believing that it will help create more job opportunities and have impact on their choices in the future, according to a survey.

The survey, conducted among 2,000 youth aged 18 to 35, was published in Thursday's edition of China Youth Daily.

In the survey, 65.6 percent of respondents said they were confident of employment growth driven by the initiative and 55.7 percent said the initiative would have an impact on their future decisions.

"I had no deep understanding of the Belt and Road at the very beginning, and I thought it was far away from my life," said Yang Dengyun, a junior at Beijing Institute of Technology, in the survey.

"I now begin to realize that it is closely related to our life."

As a student majoring in electrical engineering and automation, Yang believes that there must be broad areas where his professional knowledge could be put into use in the initiative.

The Belt and Road Initiative aims to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along

and beyond the ancient Silk Road trade routes.

It has engaged more than 100 countries and international organizations since it was proposed in 2013.

A sophomore majoring in Arabic at Beijing Foreign Studies University said there should be growing demand for minor languages under the Belt and Road Initiative.

According to the survey, there are opportunities to start businesses in the tourism sector, cultural and education agencies, engineering, agriculture, farm machinery, Internet technology and electrical

appliance making.

In addition, 82.1 percent said they expected more international exchange opportunities.

Some 36.4 percent of the people were willing to pursue employment in major pivot regions or cities in Belt and Road countries.

China invested a total of 51.1 billion U.S. dollars in Belt and Road countries from autumn 2013 to July 2016, accounting for 12 percent of its total outbound direct investment.

[Xinhua net]

✓ INDIA: FUTURE POTENTIAL IN THE YOUTH, PROMOTE GREATER EXCHANGES

New Delhi, 13 June 2017 - CHINA has called for promoting greater exchanges between the youth of India and China saying, "As the future potential of the world's largest developing countries lay in their hands".

Vice Mayor of Shanghai (incharge of youth affairs) Shi Guanghui said this while welcoming Indian Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Vijay Goel to Shanghai.

Goel was leading a

200-member youth delegation from India, whose visit was organized as part of the bilateral youth exchange programme which has been in place since 2007.

Indian delegation led by Goel visited China from June 9 to June 13 at the invitation of the All-China Youth Federation (ACYF).

During the last leg of the visit, the Vice Mayor of Shanghai, received the visiting Indian delegation at the premises of the

Shanghai Municipal People's Government.

Goel thanked Shanghai Municipal Government and Shanghai Youth Federation for the excellent arrangements for the Indian delegation and also extended an invitation to Shanghai city leadership to join the upcoming 3rd International Day of Yoga celebrations in Shanghai on June 21.

Earlier, Goel visited the ANTS Innovation Center in Pudong, where an

incubation hub for education related start-ups and tech companies run by the young entrepreneurs from Shanghai was on display. He also visited the Shanghai Zhubaiqiu Youth League Branch, where handicraft learning for young Shanghainese is being promoted.

[Financial Express]

✓ PHILIPPINES: EMBASSY TOWN HALL PROMOTES PH YOUTH IMMERSION FOR FIL-AMS

Manila, 16 June 2017 - A town hall meeting discussed the Filipino Young Leaders Program (FYLPRO) June 13 at the Philippine Embassy here as part of the effort to promote the immersion program among Filipino American youth.

The FYLPRO program selects 10 outstanding Fil-Am leaders in the United States for week-long, all-expenses paid trip to the Philippines to meet leaders in various fields and strengthen the ties between the US and the Philippines.

It is a joint project of the Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the United States, Ayala Foundation, and the FYLPRO non-profit organization.

"The immersion program gives the delegates the opportunity to re-connect

with their Filipino roots, and build mutually beneficial relationships with Philippine entities," said Minister Patrick A. Chuasoto, Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* of the Embassy.



“It exposes them to conditions in the Philippines, particularly in the fields of business, government, arts and culture, and social entrepreneurship.”

The three speakers shared their FYLPRO stories, underscoring the value that the program has contributed to their personal and professional development.

Tolentino’s presentation focused on the highlights of the last immersion program and his legacy project that aims to create opportunities for Filipinos in the

performing arts. Cendaña, whose FYLPRO experience in 2012 marks the first time he traveled to the Philippines, said that the immersion program provided an impetus for him and his family to return and witness the developments in their country of heritage.

Tengco, meanwhile, described the immersion program as an “inspiring opportunity to re-connect with the homeland.”

During the Q&A, the speakers fielded questions on Filipino-American empowerment, political

engagement, and FYLPRO legacy projects. The official schedule of the 2017 Immersion Program is 8-14 October 2017. This is the sixth FYLPRO Immersion Program since its inception in 2012.

Requirements:

1. Leaders no younger than 25 years old and no older than 40 years old by Oct. 8, 2017, the first day of the 2017 Immersion Program
2. Ready and capable of traveling to the Philippines, arriving in Manila by Saturday, Oct. 7,

- 2017 and departing no earlier than Oct. 14, 2017. If selected, the
 4. program will shoulder airfare and accommodations
 5. Demonstrated
 6. leadership skills within their school, community, workplace or other area of involvement
- Have potential or demonstrated involvement in the Filipino community, or in issues and/or activities that align with the interest of the Filipino American community or the Philippines.

[Inquirer net]

✓ SINGAPORE: BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH TO CONDUCT YOUTH CAMP IN JUNE

Singapore, 5 June 2017 - FIVE-time Bundesliga champions Borussia Monchengladbach will be holding a youth football camp later this month in Singapore.

The June 17-21 camp, in partnership with the German European School Singapore (GESS), will be open to about 100 participants.

Boys and girls aged between five to 14 years old are eligible to sign up with about 70 slots filled so far. The five-day camp will be held at GESS Junior School campus at Jalan Jurong Kechi.

Registration fees are \$450 (GESS students) and \$500 (non-GESS students) and include a full-kit Monchengladbach uniform

and a Derbystar football. Three Monchengladbach coaches, Felix Galli (Under-12/13s), Norman Wittekopf (Under-16s) and Bjorn Dickmanns (Under-19s), will oversee the camp.

The Monchengladbach Academy was rated the third best football academy in Germany last year.

Their alumni include Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen as well as current Monchengladbach squad players Mahomoud Dahoud, Julian Korb, Patrick Hermann, and Tony Jantschke.

[Straits times]

✓ THAILAND: AI WILL HAVE BIGGEST IMPACT ON US, SAY THAI YOUTHS

Bangkok, 20 June 2017 - YOUTH in Thailand rank artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) as the most exciting technology innovations that will affect their lives, according to recent survey findings by Microsoft.

Thai youths also expressed a number of concerns involving the impact of technology on everyday life namely the loss in job opportunities, relationships growing impersonal and the rising threat to security and privacy in the digital world,

said the report.

In the Microsoft Asia Digital Future Survey, 1,400 youths were polled across the Asia-Pacific region, including 100 from Thailand. Other countries involved in the survey were Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam.

AI involves the creation of intelligent machines or

services that work and react like humans a feature that is now increasingly found in almost everything from translation services to virtual assistants to video games.

Leveraging the potential of AI to execute tasks such as data analytics, speech recognition and problem solving, people can be empowered to achieve more and yet do less.

IoT, on the other hand, refers to the ever-growing network of physical objects connected to the internet

and the communication that occurs between these objects and other devices and systems. This includes everything from street sensors and home appliances to wearables and vehicles.

According to the survey, youths anticipate AI will offer the biggest improvement in their lives in three areas: Connected or driverless cars (46 per cent), software robots that improve productivity (25 per cent) and robots as social companions (20 per cent).



On the other hand, they expect IoT to improve lives the most in three other ways: Smart homes where appliances can “talk” to one another (42 per cent), traffic systems that can adjust in real-time to mitigate road conditions (24 per cent) and smart buildings that can optimise energy usage according to changes in weather and number of occupants (24 per cent).

The second-ranked technology that youths are most excited about is virtual/mixed/augmented reality.

Augmented reality involves creating or placing a virtual world inside the real world, while virtual reality is about creating a feel of a real world inside a virtual world. Mixed reality combines both elements, where a user can navigate through the real world interacting with virtual objects and real life notions such as “depth”.

The survey found that youth are looking forward to future technologies to help them to facilitate the way they connect with people that they work with, improve their physical and mental health, and make them more employable.

According to Siriporn Pajharawat, director of Developer Experience & Platform Evangelism (DX) Group, Microsoft Thailand, more than 60 per cent of the world’s youth are in Asia Pacific and this region will be a hotbed for the world’s digital revolution.

“AI, IoT combined with virtual/mixed/augmented reality, provide incredible digital transformation

opportunities for nations and organisations to carve an exciting new future for all of us.”

While 70 per cent of youths surveyed in Thailand feel that their country is ready to adapt to digital disruptions, they also aired a number of major concerns, including potential loss of jobs (30 per cent), relationships becoming too impersonal (29 per cent) and security and privacy (17 per cent).

“The high concern by youth around the potential loss of jobs reflects how it is critical for countries around the world to focus on equipping everyone with the relevant digital skills for the 21st century workplace,” Siriporn added.

“Also noteworthy is the awareness of security and privacy issues, which are growing in both importance and prevalence in today’s digital landscape. With more and more devices becoming interconnected, a single vulnerability may lead to damages on a scale never before possible, and every stakeholder across society from researchers and developers to end users must work together and act responsibly to uphold safety and privacy for everyone.”

To get ahead, they feel a top priority is to ensure schools prepare students with the right skills to fully leverage future innovations, followed by making future technology innovations affordable and accessible, and creating conducive business environments to encourage start-ups.

[Bangkok Post]

NEWS



✓ AMERNIA: ONLY 35.4% OF ARMENIAN YOUTH PURSUE PROFESSION

Yerevan, 25 June 2017 - GENERATION of Independence: Research Among Young People” found out that Armenia’s youth today is “vulnerable and incomplete”.

The study was carried out by the Armenian branch of Friedrich Ebert Foundation in cooperation with Faculty of Sociology of YSU.

They surveyed 1200 people aged 14-29 from Yerevan and 10 marzes of Armenia.

According to the research, young Armenians have uncertainty in public life, and social activity is more characteristic for the males. The youth don’t trust state

agencies and display minimal political involvement.

“We initiated the research to understand young people in Armenia, as they are the sector of society that starts changes, moves forward and succeeds.

Our goal was to stress the importance of young people’s role in the society and political decision making,” Director of the FES South Caucasus Office Julia Blazius told the press today.

She noted that the research outlined main problems and stressed certain points in education and employment.

The research discovered that one of serious problems is lack of financial resources for acquiring professional education. 24.3% of young people in Armenia don’t want to continue their education for that reason exactly.

On the other hand, professional knowledge doesn’t guarantee a job, and only 35.4% of the youth pursue their respective profession.

Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Armenia Karine Harutyunyan attached importance to such researches.

“They raise awareness in the ministry about young people’s problems, help us plan the efforts and make targeted decisions,” Deputy Minister said.

According to her, those problems aren’t new, and the research contains important issues and stresses, such as lack of state funding for higher education and resulting low quality of education, etc.

[Armenian Weekly]

✓ AZERBAIJAN: AZERCELL DECLARES FURTHER SUPPORT OF YOUTH

Baku, 25 June 2017 - AZERCELL CEO Vahid Mursaliyev met with the students who had obtained the title of Azercell scholars.

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

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

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

aimed to develop our education”, he stated.

The stipend winners currently study in Baku State University, Azerbaijan State Economic University, ADA University, Public Administration Academy under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar University, Gafqaz University, Ganja State University, Nakhchivan State University, Baku High Oil School, State Oil and Industry University,

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

[Azerbaijan Business Center]

✓ GEORGIA: YOUNGSTERS CAN SHARPEN BIRD ID SKILLS

Tbilisi, 23 June 2017 – IT’s time for young birders to begin honing their bird-identifying skills as they prepare for the 12th annual Georgia Youth Birding Competition, set for April 29-30.

Registration is open and online at www.georgiawildlife.co

m/YBC.

This fun, free competition has been connecting young people with wildlife and having a positive impact on conservation for more than a decade.

The reach extends even beyond Georgia, with Race 4 Birds Foundation (www.race4birds.org) using

the event as a model for youth birding competitions nationwide.

Coordinator Tim Keyes of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is enthusiastic about the future.

"We will continue growing an enduring passion for

birds and the outdoors with every year’s event in Georgia, and inspire a growing number of events for a wildlife biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Nongame Conservation Section.



Some former birding novices are now veterans, and bringing younger children under their wing in birding.

The event has inspired a young birders club, a growing network of young birders connected through social media and participation in American Birding Association and Audubon Society camps for youth.

The competition also continues to set state records for birding youth. The top team in 2016

identified 170 species, the second consecutive all-time high for the event. The fun gets going April 29-30 when the 24-hour statewide birdathon for teams varying in ages from kindergarteners to high school seniors returns.

The deadline to register is March 31. Complete information, including online registration, is at www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC.

The competition and an accompanying T-shirt Art Contest are sponsored by DNR's Wildlife Resources Division, The

Environmental Resources Network Inc. (TERN) friends group of the Nongame Conservation Section - and others including the Georgia Ornithological Society and the Atlanta and Albany Audubon societies.

A banquet and awards ceremony will be held April 30 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center near Mansfield.

Teams register online in one of four age divisions and compete against other groups their age. Participants can also

volunteer to raise money for conservation organizations. The Youth Birding Competition is designed for youth of all skill levels.

Those new to birding can take advantage of mentoring opportunities offered through the competition.

As a voluntary part of the competition, teams also raise money for conservation.

This year's pledges pushed past \$20,000 the total raised over the event's 11 years.

[Coastal Courier]

✓ ROMANIA: YOUNG PEOPLE SET TO MAKE LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY TO ROMANIA

Bucharest, 17 June 2017 - A GROUP of young people from North Belfast are gearing up for a potentially life-changing trip to Romania.

Twenty youths, aged between 15 and 18, who are part of the Romania Project in the New Lodge area, are to travel to the country in just a few weeks.

The New Lodge Youth Project, as part of Ashton Community Trust, started back in 2015 and enabled young people to get involved in an extensive programme which involved personal development,

supporting young people with disabilities at the 174 Trust, volunteering to help Belfast's homeless and intergenerational work with the local elderly.

Youth worker Sean McMullan, who is in charge of the project, said the project was much more than just a trip abroad.

"The young people learn so much throughout the year within the programme which benefits them whilst out in Romania," he said.

"The young people volunteer weekly in the 174 Trust with young people with disability, taking part

in homeless work and also learning a lot about themselves.

"Whilst in Romania the young people work in a local disability centre, orphanages, family homes and engage with young people their age to experience the culture of a young person living in Romania.

"The young people are a credit to us at the youth centre, to themselves and to their families as well. The Romania Project experience is one that is life-changing and it is a privilege to be a part of this experience with all of these dedicated young

people.

"Whilst already making a big impact in their community I know that these young people will be great role models for other young people in their youth centre and community for a long time to come."

The project has won two awards for positive change and continues to impact positively on young people's lives in the New Lodge district.

[Belfast Media Group]

✓ SPAIN: SPAIN JOBLESS RATE TO 18.6PC, YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AT 43PC

Madrid, 26 June 2017 - SPAIN youth unemployment rate edged down to a seven-year low of 18.6 percent at the end of 2016, the National Statistics Institute reported today.

The number of young people out of work fell by 83,000 in the October-December period,

to 4.2 million. Over the year, the unemployment rate dropped by 2.3 percentage points, the institute said.

The jobless rate for young people under 25 years of age remained at a high 43 percent, down from 46 percent at the end of 2015. Despite recent

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

The conservative government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has made reducing youth unemployment and boosting economic growth its main

goals since taking office in 2011.

[Socialist Alternative]



✓ AUSTRALIA: STRONG YOUTH ENTRY AT INTERNATIONAL DAIRY WEEK

Canberra, 10 June 2017 - IF you want people to be successful in dairy, you have to get them when they are young.

Lucas Grey might be just five years old, but his father Michael Grey said he already knew his way around the family's Port Macquarie dairy farm.

"We employ people on our farm, but dairy is hard to teach," Mr Grey said.

"The best ones are the ones who have done it their whole lives." Lucas takes care of the chooks in the morning and

makes sure the farmhands have been doing the right thing with the dairy cows. "He makes sure they have fed them the right amount. If they haven't done it right, he (Lucas) lets them know," Mr Grey said. A third-generation dairy farmer, Mr Grey has brought all four of his children to International Dairy Week at Tatura to ensure they learn what they can about the family trade.

He said he had fond memories of his father taking him along to agricultural shows when he was a child.

It's a tradition he hopes his children will continue with their own when they grow up.

The Greys are just some of the hundreds of dairy farmers who have made the journey to Tatura Showgrounds for the week-long expo, which showcases the latest developments in the dairy industry.

With showing dominating the early days of the expo, people have been busy clipping their chosen cows to ensure they are immaculate for the judges.

Ella Goldsmith from Sun

Vale Holsteins, a stud in Yarroweyah, said 23 of the best cattle from the stud were chosen from hundreds to come to Dairy Week.

"They are washed every day, put on special diets, it is a lot of work," she said.

In its 21st year, the event opened with youth trials on Sunday as the next generation of dairy farmers put their skills to the test.

[Huffington Post Australia]

✓ FIJI: ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTHS

Suva, 13 June 2017 - ELEVEN Fijian youths were fare welled yesterday as they prepared to leave for Japan to participate in the "Ship for World Youth Leaders" program.

Ministry of Youth and Sports permanent secretary Alison Burchell wished the youths the best and a safe trip.

"Represent the best of Fiji

and with all the other countries try not to show off but show off the Fijian warmth, hospitality, diversity and hymn through singing," she said.

Ms Burchell told the youths to return with a report of their experience and leadership qualities.

Japanese ambassador to Fiji, Takuji Hanatani also extended his well-wishes to

the Fijian delegation to the SWYL program and reminded them to participate in all the sessions actively, make new friends, learn about other cultures and jointly participate in on-board programs.

"The key objective of the program is to cultivate the spirit of international co-operation, building friendships and better understanding between the

youths and participating countries," he said.

Mr Hanatani said the program should help build a valuable asset for the future and become a bridge between Fiji and Japan.

The ship will have 240 youths from selected countries around the world.

[Fiji Times]

✓ NEW ZEALAND: GOVT TOLD TO TAX THE TOP TO HELP STRUGGLING YOUTH

Wellington, 6 June 2017 - MANY people could be prepared to pay more tax to help disadvantaged young people, the children's commissioner says.

Judge Andrew Becroft says inequality is one of the biggest challenges the country faces and it should be ashamed, embarrassed and worried about some of the statistics.

He said there were 85,000 to 90,000 under 18-year olds doing it tough, while New Zealand's over 65-year-olds were some of the most advantaged in the world. Judge Becroft said people in higher income brackets should be volunteering to pay more tax if it meant more help for those most in need.

"It may not actually be political suicide.

"If it could show that a small tax increase at the top level was going to be used to help the most disadvantaged in an effective I think many New Zealanders would sign up for it on the spot and say 'Go for it'.

He said there was no miracle cure in dealing with the issue of child poverty, and a broad approach was needed.

"The government will need to take the lead but we can't just to allow the government, or assume or tell the government they've got to solve it for New Zealand. It will involve businesses, it will involve the NGO sector, it will involve the whole community.

[Radio New Zealand]



✓ PAPUA NEW GUINEA: YOUTH WASH CARS AS INCOME SOURCE

Port Moresby, 17 June 2017

- CAR washing is fast becoming a source of income for many unemployed youths in the nation's capital.

EMTV News met Joshua Pukari and Joshua Remi in the capital city, Port Moresby.

Both men are in their early twenties and have been washing cars to earn a living.

Joshua Pukari and Joshua Remi are both from Central Province and have spent most of their lives in the

Moresby South Electorate.

Growing up, both aspired to be independent individuals who would support their families, in bringing food to the table. But due to limited spaces in the education system, the two men have resorted to washing cars for a living.

Similar to a working class person, the duo starts washing cars at 8 o'clock every morning and finish off at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. They have been doing this for six years now.

The idea of washing

vehicles for an income was at one point, a fundraising activity, which students from the University of Papua New Guinea, got into to raise money for their provincial groups.

However, starting in 2010, a number of residents in Port Moresby started washing cars for an income.

Since then, it has become a stable income source for many people living along the Badili to Sabama area in the Moresby South, Six Mile in the Moresby North East and Waigani in the Moresby North West

Electoralates.

For the Joshua's, they make up to K150 per day depending on the number of vehicles they wash. But they are not the only ones who provide car wash services.

There are a number of car wash stations at Badili, and the two always compete with others to wash vehicles for an income.

[EMTV Online]

✓ SAMOA: YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE BACKBONE OF SAMOA

Apia, 11 June 2017 -

LEADERS of today have a responsibility to prepare young people if they want a better tomorrow.

That is the opinion of a 28-year-old from the village of Salani Falealili.

Faleata strongly believes the youth play a vitally important role in our societies that they need to be recognised and prepared for it.

"It's not an easy job," he told the Village Voice.

"But it is very important. Within our families, our parents depend on us to do most of the chores in our families.

"That's the same for our villages as well.

Whenever we have meetings for our village council, the youths or the young men are always the ones doing all the chores for the matais.

"Our parents learnt how to do all the things they know now through observations.

"And to me, as a youth, if I want to become a great leader in the future, then the proper way to do this is to learn by observing the elders.

"Within our families, our leaders are our elders and our parents.

We should observe what they do and how they deal with problems.

We can learn so much just by serving them and talking to them.

"That's the same within our villages, we can learn from the high chiefs in the village not only on how to handle different issues within the villages, but also learn about the language and culture.

"Oratory is one important aspect of our culture and the house of the matai's is the

right place for you to learn everything you need to know about oratory."

He went on to say that one important thing we need to remember is to "listen and obey."

"That is where we get our blessings from," said Faleata.

"They may be wrong sometimes, but all we need to do is to listen and don't talk back to them."

[Samoa Observer]

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