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✓ *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL 2017*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
6 April 2017	International Day of Sport for Development	Melaka, Malaysia
7 April 2017	World Health Day	Melaka, Malaysia
21-23 April 2017	Global Youth Service Day	Melaka, Malaysia
22 April 2017	International Mother Earth Day	Melaka, Malaysia
23 April 2017	World Book and Copyright Day	Melaka, Malaysia
28 April 2017	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ BOTSWANA: 10 BENEFITS OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Gaborone, 6 March 2017 - OVER time, there has been a significant rise in vocational education and technical training in Botswana.

However, job creation in the formal sector is limited, given the size of the domestic market. And it does not help that we have a stereotypical view of vocational education as a low level.

The following are some of the reasons why vocational training, is a very good form of education.

Vocational graduates have better employment opportunities than graduates from academic tertiary schools. It goes without saying that getting an office

job is a struggle.

Technical programs typically include required core classes and electives that allow students to branch into sub-topics or specialty areas.

This makes for a more focused learning experience than a bachelor's degree that includes liberal arts requirements.

Vocational school programs are typically shorter than a four-year private or public college.

Associate degree programs at community colleges or technical schools typically include two years of full-time study.

The term 'vocational' actually means '

work-related'. So if you are doing a vocational qualification it means you are learning skills that will help you to get, and do, a job.

Some people are not aware that you can actually get vocational qualifications that will take you up to the same level as a degree, so the opportunities for continued personal development are still there, even if you don't choose the conventional route.

Vocational graduates have entrepreneurial skills. Take for example someone who did carpentry, they are able to employ themselves.

Vocational graduates possess good attitudes toward work; they are able

to physically engage themselves from start to finish of a project.

For students who have trouble with motivation and accountability, vocational courses offer an excellent chance to develop these vital skills. Showing up for class on time, and all.

With a vocational qualification, you're more likely to be able to start working sooner, giving you the experience you need to back up what you're learning and you get to earn money at the same time.

Vocational graduates possess necessary technical skills in their specialization.

[Botswana Youth]

✓ GAMBIA: AKON TO PROMOTE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND LIGHTING PROJECT

Banjul, 5 March 2017 - FAMED Senegalese American singer, Akon, has landed in The Gambia as part of the launch of a project connected with his 'Akon Lighting Africa' initiative.

He is expected to meet with President Adama Barrow and to launch a solar energy project.

Akon is on record to have said he aims through the initiative to provide millions of African homes with electricity.

The visit is also connected with a youth empowerment project under the theme, 'Role of young people in building a new Gambia.'

The program is championed by Thione Niang founder of

the Give1 Project and Samba Bathily of the Solektra Energy Group.

Akon together with fellow Senegalese Niang and Malian entrepreneur, Bathily; co-founded Akon Lighting Africa initiative. A project aimed at "bringing clean energy to millions of households in Africa."

The initiative last year announced that it had raised about 1 billion dollars to finance projects in Africa.

Akon told the media that even though it was not an easy task for him raising the first billion dollars.

He added that Africa was in dire need of basic necessities like potable water and electricity.

He said his desire for luxury

reduced when he noticed the poor development in Africa.

In 2015, award-winning artist, real name Aliaune Damala Bouga, launched the mega-solar project aimed at providing electricity to some 600 million Africans.

The initiative primarily targets rural communities that are not connected to the electricity and also seeks to find ways to bring costs down to make power supply more affordable.

[Freedom Newspaper]



✓ GHANA: YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER MEET YOUTH GROUPS IN GHANA

Accra, 4 July 2017 - ISAAC Kwame Asiamah, the Minister for Youth and Sports has met with Executives of some key identifiable youth groups in the country to discuss issues and challenges within their respective circles and develop a possible roadmap to address them.

The move, which was the first time in many years since the sector minister opened its doors to youth leaders. It, was also part of

the familiarization process for the minister.

At the meeting, the Minister engaged the groups in devising ways that could bring about the required support to ensure the Ministry's commitment towards mobilizing the youth of Ghana for socio-economic development.

According to Mr. Asiamah, "The active population of the country are the youth

and therefore much attention should be given to them."

The Minister reiterated government's commitment to ensure that, the youth constitute the major source of human capital for the transformational agenda of the country.

Mr. Asiamah said all efforts would be made to ensure these youth groups receive the needed support from the Ministry.

Present at the meeting were groups known as the "Big Six" youth groups in the country, which includes the National Youth Authority, Ghana Scout Association, Ghana Girls Guide Association, National Cardet Corps Ghana, Head of State Award Scheme, Boys and Girls Brigade and Ghana Red Cross Association.

[ghananewsagency.org]

✓ GUINEA BISSAU: YOUTH FORGOTTEN IN GUINEA-BISSAU FOR SURVIVAL

Bissau, 20 March 2017 - BULLET holes still pockmark the presidential palace in Bissau, although the country's civil war was waged almost a decade ago.

The fighting raged during 11 months in 1998-1999, destroying the capital of the country, which has yet to completely recover.

A devastated economy, corruption and continuing instability, continue to erode the urban centre. There is social and political instability even today," said Guy De Araujo, Guinea-Bissau Representative for UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

"There aren't conditions for the international community to be confident in their investment. We simply don't have the resources to move forward with development.

Here, it is a fight for personal survival." Bissau was once known as one of the most picturesque of West Africa's costal capitals, and you can still

see the remnants of beauty in its crumbling facades covered with overgrown bougainvilleas and dotted with swaying palms.

In the cool season, a gentle breeze wafts the fragrance of frangipani blossoms through the downtown streets, now in a constant state of disrepair and scattered with enormous potholes.

Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 173 out of 177 countries in the UNDP Human Development Index for 2006.

More than two decades of political instability and mismanagement have undermined the economy, which is primarily based on cashew nut export.

Weak services and infrastructure destroyed over years of fighting contribute to poor social conditions.

The government often struggles to pay the wages of its military and civil servants.

In addition, skirmishes with Casamance separatists in neighbouring Senegal have caused thousands of civilians to flee border areas.

We cannot develop in conflict. We need to motivate our partners to invest in the country.

The people are tired of conflict. They want peace," said Mario Lopes Martins, Minister of Youth. "Young people are the most dynamic force in the country.

They realize they need peace and stability to develop the country. With instability, there will always be poverty."

But finding a solution to the youth unemployment problem is not so simple. Our situation is like that of many countries in the world," Martins said. "Our youth are demanding that the government train and give employment to young people.

Twenty-four-year-old Emmanuel, who works part-time at a radio station and is currently in his second year of university journalism studies, believes that the youth of Bissau can and should be active partners in development.

Youth associations are mobilizing HIV-positive youth to tell their stories to their peers to encourage them to avoid risky behaviour. They want to help reform school curriculums, which have not changed in more than two decades.

Now is the time to take advantage of the opportunity for peace to find a solution for the development of our country," said Emmanuel, dressed in the universal uniform of youth with his slick sneakers, stylishly faded jeans and mobile phone poised on his knee in anticipation of the next call. "I will continue to agitate to improve the maladies affecting our country."



It's becoming very serious. Young people are very susceptible to these bad influences," he said.

"Underemployment is an open door to drugs and prostitution. Youth delinquency, with people just sitting around with nothing to do, leads to risky behaviour."

Each month during the school year approximately 1,500 young people visit the youth centre, where they can receive confidential family planning services, as well as HIV prevention and counselling, from the centre's midwife and nurse, who work there part-time. Young people have problems talking about

these issues with their parents," said Joaquim Vicente Gomes, UNFPA Assistant Representative in Guinea-Bissau. "

Here, they can talk confidentially with people trained to talk to youth." The voices of youth must be heard, not just by governments, but by our

partners in development," Martins said. Young people are explaining their problems, their desires. It's up to governments and the international community to make them a reality."

[Daily News]

✓ LIBYA: WORKSHOPS DISCUSS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN LIBYA

Tripoli, 13 March 2017 - UNICEF organized two workshops in parallel in Hammamet, Tunisia to discuss the role of municipalities in youth development and creating opportunities for active participation through the UNICEF-EU programme "Towards Resilience and Social Inclusion of Adolescents and Young People in Libya".

The first workshop included youth from 11 municipalities, while the other workshop was attended by the GNA Minister of Local Government, president of the Local Governance Committee at the House of Representatives and the President of the Local Governance Committee in the Constitutional Drafting Assembly, as well as Mayors and members of the municipal councils of Al Bayda, Zintan, Zuwara and Sabha.

At the end, young people met with the Minister and municipal officials and exchanged views on youth programming in Libya.

It is noteworthy that the youth workshop started on 20 February, and covered during six days participatory research

methods and building the capacity of young people.

During the workshop, youth participants from the 11 cities were trained on conducting research among their peers and got introduced to the Engagement Monitoring System developed by UNICEF MENA Regional Office to measure Adolescent and Youth Engagement.

The activities are part of the three year UNICEF project for youth in Libya funded by the Delegation of the European Union to Libya.

[Libya Business News]

NEWS



✓ BERMUDA: ARGUS DONATION TO YOUTH COUNSELLING PROJECT

Hamilton, 19 March 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: NEW PROGRAM TO HELP LOCAL YOUTH OVERCOME EMPLOYMENT

Ottawa, 13 March 2017 - AS part of the Government of Canada's plan to strengthen the middle class and help those working hard to join it, Sault Ste. Marie youth are developing job skills and gaining hands-on work experience thanks to a new project supported with funding provided by the Government of Canada.

Terry Sheehan, Member of Parliament for Sault Ste. Marie, made the announcement today on behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour.

Youth will participate in the project, which will be delivered by the Sault Community Career Centre. Through workshops, they will develop skills to help them find and keep jobs, such as job search techniques, interview preparation and business communications.

They will have the

opportunity to participate in courses such as First Aid/CPR and employee safety.

Participants will also gain valuable work experience in various sectors of the local economy.

The Government of Canada will provide approximately \$440,000 in funding for this project through the Skills Link program, which supports projects that provide hands-on work experience, job search assistance and skills upgrading resources for youth facing barriers to employment.

This includes youth who are single parents, have disabilities, are newcomers, or live in rural and remote areas.

"Giving youth a strong start through this type of project will ensure that the next generation of capable workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, innovators and trades people achieve

success and grow our economy."

"Developing our youth is a priority. The Sault Community Career Centre's project is a concrete example of what we can achieve for youth by working in partnership with organizations across the riding.

Projects like this one can help put regular paycheques into the reach of those who need it. But more than that, they give young Canadians the chance to change their future."

"The Sault Community Career Centre will be delivering the Youth Employment Learning Opportunities (YELO) program.

This program, funded by Skills Link Canada, will engage females, ages 15 to 29, in creating a well informed and thoughtful action plan with the theme of finding sustainable and

meaningful employment.

Each youth will create their own 'employment tool box' where they will develop a broad range of skills, training, and knowledge in order to successfully participate in the current and future labour market.

YELO will support the participants in overcoming employment barriers and assist them in successfully reaching their future goals.

Plans may be; completing on the job training, finding immediate employment, deciding to open up their own business or continuing on in their education and skill development which we know can be key to participating effectively in the labour market.

Each youth's action plan will lead to their own personal success."

[sootoday.com]



✓ JAMAICA: AVASANT SCALES UP ITS YOUTH DIGITAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

Kingston, 12 March 2017 - TO support the development of the BPO industry in Jamaica, the Avasant Foundation and partners are scaling up the Avasant Youth Digital Employment Initiative.

The aim of the new programme is to train between 500 and 800 high potential youth to participate in the country's BPO sector, which aims to add 30,000 jobs by 2020.

Jamaica is implementing a strategy to become a nearshore location for the IT and Business Process (BPO) industry. The sector has seen steady growth in recent years, up 15% annually.

To further support the industry's growth, and to help reduce Jamaica's severe youth unemployment

rate of about 26%, the Avasant Youth Digital Employment Initiative was launched in 2015.

The initiative is the brainchild of the Avasant Foundation, the charity arm of global management consulting and outsourcing advisory firm Avasant, and Xerox.

The six-week programme aimed to support 30 youth, primarily disadvantaged but high potential youth, to gain the professional skills necessary for a career in ICT-enabled work.

The programme has thus far trained a total of 123 youth in Kingston and Montego Bay, Jamaica. More than half of whom have already secure positions at partner organisations, with most of the rest in the on boarding or interview stage.

As part of the development of the wider BPO industry in Jamaica, the Jamaica Promotion Corporation (JAMPRO) aims to create around 30,000 jobs in the Jamaican Business Process industry by 2020.

To support JAMPRO fill the positions, the Avasant Foundation, and its partners such as Jamaica's University of Technology*, are scaling up the training programme, under the FUTURE JAMAICA banner. The programme will equip between 500 and 800 people with the ICT skills necessary to work in the country's growing BPO sector - among others.

ChitraRajeshwari, Executive Director of Avasant Foundations, remarks, "I am extremely proud of all 123 students who have graduated through

our skills training program and are already working or soon to be employed in the contact center industry.

Now they can look ahead to a brighter future. I am very grateful to the BPO industry who believed in our program and our youth."

Professor Rosalea Hamilton who leads UTech's Community Service and Development Division reflects, "This Avasant Foundation initiative addresses the needs of our communities, especially our at-risk young women who need help to pursue opportunities to create income now and into the future."

[The Guardian]

✓ PERU: YOUTH GROUP HELPS PERU FOOD PANTRY

Lima, 11 March 2017 - WHILE the -30F wind chill put a damper on the outside Peru Winterfest activities, it was still a productive Saturday inside the Peru Community Center.

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

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

Food pantry Director Brenda Swan said the bags are brought in by people making food donations that keep the program operating.

Hours here are 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday and 9 to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

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

Cathy Hezelton, who has directed the youth group since 2000, said there were nine youths participating in the 30-hour famine program, in which the young people learn about the children they are helping as well as doing local service projects.

She said evidence of the positive way this program

affects the youth group is that former members Seth Tacheny, Vernan Farrar and Briant Hunt returned Saturday to assist with their service project.

[Peru this Week]



✓ USA: CELLULAR OFFERS \$1,000 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TO LOCAL YOUTH

Washington, D.C, 14 March 2017 - CELLULAR has announced the return of its “Community Connections” youth organization sponsorship program for the third consecutive year.

Since the program launched in 2015, the company has awarded nearly \$900,000 in sponsorship dollars to more than 2,200 school groups and youth sports teams.

West Plains Middle School Art Club was among the groups awarded funds last year.

Academic and athletic groups involving students in and around West Plains in grades kindergarten through 12 can sign up at www.pearup.com/uscellular to participate in Community Connections and become eligible to receive sponsorship to go towards group needs.

U.S. Cellular is excited to continue supporting local youth organizations through Community Connections.

This program rewards groups that provide youth with meaningful experiences and opportunities,” said Nakeita Stewart, director of sales for U.S. Cellular in Missouri.

“As we begin the third year of this program, it is clear that countless deserving organizations exist, and we are proud to be able to have a positive impact on the communities where we live and work.”

Through the Community Connections program, U.S. Cellular has sponsored thousands of local youth

groups, school programs and sports teams, such as little leagues, youth soccer clubs, school dance teams and bands.

Once an interested group signs up at the website, it has 10 days to raise support from neighbors, friends, family and community to earn money by completing simple tasks such as following U.S. Cellular on its social channels, watching a video or answering a short survey.

The money awarded goes directly to the organization or group, and each group can earn up to \$1,000 that can be used towards uniforms, equipment or other program needs.

The Community Connections program is collaboration between U.S. Cellular and Pear, an online platform that connects local brands with local community needs. In addition, in 2016 U.S. Cellular contributed \$1.3 million to K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M.) focused education programs through its partnerships with Boys & Girls Clubs of America and National 4-H Council.

[West Plains Daily Quill]

NEWS



✓ INDONESIA: YOGYAKARTA TO HOST ASIAN YOUTH DAY

Yogyakarta, 8 March 2017- YOGYAKARTA will host the seventh edition of Catholic youth gathering Asian Youth Day from July 30 to Aug. 9.

Over 3,000 participants from 29 countries will attend the gathering, titled Joyful Asian Youth: Living the Gospel in Multicultural

Asia. Indonesia Bishops Conference Chair Mgr. Ignatius Suharyo said Asian Youth Day had been held since 1999 to encourage young people to promote solidarity and build a deeper awareness of their responsibilities and contributions to society. “Hopefully, all participants

will be able to strengthen their understanding of the importance of harmony amid differences,” Suharyo said in a statement on Tuesday.

The event will be held in stages, including allowing participants to live in churches across Indonesia for several days and later

gather to share their experiences. As part of the pre-event campaign, the organizer will hold a run/walk sporting event on May 7 in Jakarta, which is expected to involve 5,000 participants.

[TheJakartaPost]

✓ MALAYSIA: YOUNG AND JOBLESS

Petaling Jaya, 27 March 2017 - THE youth unemployment rate in Malaysia has reached more than three times the national unemployment rate of 3.1%, due to the slower growth in hiring, according to Bank Negara in its 2016 annual report.

In 2015, the unemployment rate among youths was estimated to have reached 10.7%.

Bank Negara said youths represented more than half of unemployed workers, although it only made up a third of the labour force.

“In 2015, unemployment rate among youths increased by 1.2 percentage points from an estimated 9.5% to 10.7%, while national unemployment rate went up by only 0.2 percentage points (from 2.9% to 3.1%) during the same period (see chart).

“Cautious business sentiments and moderating economic performance have restrained businesses from expanding their workforce,” noted Bank Negara.

The central bank stressed that while youths were the most vulnerable to these

trends, they were perhaps the last to be hired and first to be made redundant due to a lack of experience, higher information asymmetry on the labour market and poor communication skills.

“Slower hiring has had a wider impact on the economy, affecting particularly youth and new jobseekers,” it added.

In terms of employability, the central bank said that youths with tertiary education were the highest among the unemployed at 15.3%.

About 16% of those aged 15 to 24 years have tertiary education.

The highest level of schooling attained by the remaining 84% was secondary education, said the central bank.

Among regional economies, Malaysia’s youth unemployment were in the double-digits, despite an overall low unemployment rate.

But interestingly, this trend does not appear to be unique to Malaysia.

“Among regional

economies, unemployment rates for young graduates also tend to be higher than non-graduates.

“This observation appears to be counter intuitive to the economic wisdom of increasing returns to educational attainment and seems to be the opposite of the experience in advanced economies,” it said.

These trends were likely to be related to the nature of global supply chains and ensuing patterns of job creation in the emerging economies.

Thus far, research on factors driving comparative trends on graduate versus non-graduate youth unemployment in advanced and emerging economies have been scant.

These developments in graduate unemployment have raised several key policy questions for emerging economies, with regards to enhancing the quality and relevance of education systems to prepare for rapidly evolving industries, the types of jobs being created and the readiness of the human capital base, apart from measures to enhance

matching in the labour market, among others.

[The Star Online]



✓ NEPAL: MOBILIZE YOUTHS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH ECONOMISTS

Kathmandu, 7 March 2017 - ECONOMISTS have said that the country needs to mobilize youths in different sectors to achieve higher economic growth.

They also said that the increasing number of youths going to foreign countries for employment opportunities has decreased country's productivity.

Speaking at a session of Uniglobe International Management Conference-IV in Kathmandu on Monday, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister Sri Ram Poudel said that the country should create a good environment for youths to work in Nepal.

"The government should also work for bringing the youths, who are plying their trade in foreign countries, back to the country," he said, adding that the country like Nepal should retain youths and encourage them to work in their homeland.

"Nepal should increase industrial production to achieve higher economic growth rate. And it won't be possible without

mobilization of youths," he added.

Poudel also said that the government should invest in agricultural sector to increase income and living standard of farmers. "Investments in agricultural sector help in poverty reduction," he said.

He also said that the government should invest in infrastructure development to facilitate trade and industrial sector.

"The government should use foreign aid that it has been receiving to enhance connectivity with our neighboring countries," Poudel suggested.

"The country has been unable to utilize the foreign aid due to lack of good policy and the determination of government," he said, urging the government to organize various programs to increase financial literacy among rural population.

Likewise, Senior Economist Madan Kumar Dahal said that Nepal has been unable to mobilize youths in

agricultural sector.

Agriculture is the main sector which helps to grow economy faster and smoother, he said, adding that the country must achieve economic growth of 8-9 percent to graduate to the league of developing countries by 2022.

"The government should complete reconstruction and rehabilitation work within next two to three years to return back to normal economic situation.

The government should develop national economic policy to build strong economic country by involving every citizen," he added.

Dahal also said that the government should invest in tourism, hydropower and agriculture, among other sectors, to create enough employment opportunities for youths.

The conference was organized jointly by Uniglobe College and Global College.

According to the organizers, the main aim of the conference is to bring educationists, scholars, professors and economists from across the world to discuss on developing talent, building organization and creating future.

Speakers from India, Bangladesh, Slovenia and Nepal are scheduled to address the conference which concludes on Tuesday.

The conference will have sessions on human resource management, corporate governance issues and challenges, finance and marketing management issues, and financial services management issues and challenges, according to the organizers.

[My Republica]

✓ PHILIPPINES : YOUTH MUST RAISE ASEAN AWARENESS

Iloilo City, 1 March 2017- THE ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) community offers a haven of opportunities for harnessing the immense potential of the youth in the region.

Krezyl Joyce Pugna, National Youth Commission (NYC) Iloilo area officer, said it is vital for the youth, particularly the Ilonggos, to build awareness on the ASEAN.

"They play an important role in further strengthening

cooperation among the ten member-countries," she said.

According to the website of the Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative (YSEALI), approximately 65 percent of people in the ASEAN region are under the age of 35.

Pugna said the young generation could play a significant role by sharing their stories of hopes, aspirations, and feedback in building a forward-looking ASEAN Community.

"The youth could contribute so much in attaining the goal of ASEAN," she said.

Pugna, who has attended fellowships and initiatives in Southeast Asia, said that the youth should look beyond themselves, see the needs of their communities, and work together towards building a stronger ASEAN. "There are various programs that the youth can take part such as the SSEAYP (Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program)

which promotes friendship and mutual understanding among the youth in the region," she said.

She said today's youth are beset with issues and challenges such as lack of education and employment. But they are also implementing initiatives and projects that can help address these challenges, Pugna said.

[Manila Bulletin]



✓ SINGAPORE: EDUCATION SYSTEM MUST HELP YOUTH BE ADAPTABLE

Singapore, 6 March 2017- SINGAPORE's educational system is effective in developing our youths' strengths.

This may affect their adaptability later in life, however, if they realise that they can pursue only certain careers.

Even pupils aged 14 are expected to choose a subject combination that will determine what courses they may take at junior college (JC) and university. This inflexibility may produce students who are not interested in learning beyond their chosen subjects.

By following the "path" they have decided is best for them, they are largely skilled in one particular field.

New graduates may find themselves unable to get a job in that field, however, owing to economic changes or if they are not the best in their specialisation.

As these unemployed graduates continue to look for jobs, does it occur to many of them to learn new skills?

They have possibly been conditioned to pursue only what they are certain they can succeed in instead.

This can be traced back to their subject combination in secondary school.

Pupils are usually not encouraged to pursue something they are not good at, and in JC, they are no longer allowed to explore subjects they had not chosen.

We believe that a love of learning must be cultivated

in each pupil.

Usually, students are so focused on getting good grades that they lose that love of learning new things and thus end up lacking in various skills that could potentially help them find a job in future.

Pupils may lack the confidence to try something new because they are afraid of failure.

We students must be willing to take risks and explore new opportunities. After all, our potential jobs are at risk.

[TODAY online]

NEWS



✓ GERMANY: YOUTH BETWEEN MARGINALIZATION AND CONTRIBUTION

Berlin, 18 March 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]

✓ NETHERLANDS: YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN LIFE LESSONS BY TACKLING CHALLENGES

Geneva, 8 March 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 ScieMy 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]

✓ ROMANIA: BANCPOST SENDS YOUNG ROMANIAN IT SPECIALISTS

Bucharest, 6 of March 2017 - BANCPOST sends the most talented IT specialists from Romania to the competition "Beyond Hackathon" dedicated to young IT specialists (software developer, designer, marketer, business developer), an event to be held between 17-19 March 2017 in Athens.

The Bank supports thus the IT industry, offering young talents real chances to national and international recognition.

The competition aims to promote innovative ideas and projects which can make a difference in the

field of financial services and products and can thus influence the future of banking.

Beyond Hackathon is now at its second edition and is organised by Eurobank Group in a partnership with Foundation M.P. and The Cube Workspace M.I.K.E. and with Eurobank Group subsidiaries in the region Bancpost SA (Romania), Eurobank Bulgaria AD and Eurobank Cyprus Ltd.

This year's novelty is that start-ups may also participate in the competition - companies in this field with maximum 5

years' experience.

During three days IT specialists - programmers, software developers, designers and business developers - will participate in workshops held by international leaders in FinTech and will have the opportunity to interact with experts in various fields (business, design, technology and communications).

The final objective is to generate innovative ideas which can materialise in future banking products and services.

First 10 Romanian

specialists registered in the competition will benefit from free participation (within the limit of 500 Euro/participant), according to terms and conditions of the campaign „Bancpost sends you to Beyond Hackathon”.

In the end participants will be able to present their ideas before a jury, and the first three projects will be granted money awards (€5,000, €3,000 and €2,000 respectively), as well as the opportunity to implement the projects with Eurobank support.

[The Daily Star]

✓ SPAIN: EDUCATION STRIKE FOR BETTER FUTURE OF SPAIN'S YOUTH

Madrid, 9 March 2017 - F.E.CC.OO., FeSP-UGT and STEs-Intersindical, the ETUCE member organisations in Spain, together with students and parents are organising the education strike to demand the Spanish authorities to:

- repeal RD 14/2012 that leads to severe cuts in the Spanish education sector;

- withdraw the appeal to the Constitutional Court against the cessation of the LOMCE;

-repeal the LOMCE that fosters inequality in education and leads to

segregation in Spanish society;

reverse cuts in the education sector and improve education personnel's working conditions; guarantee collective bargaining on all issues affecting education personnel;

- involve education social partners in the negotiations on an Education Pact.

Dissatisfied education personnel, students and teachers are protesting against education personnel's precarious

working conditions, low salaries or salaries that have been frozen for several years, large classroom sizes and dismissals in Spain that pose a severe threat to the future of the teaching profession in Spain and jeopardise the future of Spain's youth.

As education social partners, we believe that without guaranteeing decent working conditions for education personnel and involving education social partners in decision-making, the delivery of high quality education is going to be compromised.

We strongly support our

Spanish sister organisations in their appeal to the Spanish government to respect and promote the rights of Spanish education personnel", said Susan Flocken, ETUCE European Director.

ETUCE stands firmly with its member organisations, their affiliates and all demonstrating people in their fight for quality education, education personnel's rights and better future for Spain.



The demands of the ETUCE member organisations in Spain are fully in line with the main message of the

Europe-wide campaign “Europe Needs a Pay Rise”. The campaign was launched by ETUC in February 2017

to tackle rising inequalities and in-work poverty, through effective social dialogue and the full

restoration of collective bargaining.

[Daily Mail]



UNITED KINGDOM: COMPULSORY SEX EDUCATION IN ALL SCHOOLS WELCOME

London, 2 March 2017 - JUSTINE Greening, Secretary of State for Education, has announced plans for the Government to introduce legislation that will see every child from the age of 4 taught sex education.

Following years of campaigning, UK Youth Parliament welcomes the news that more young people will receive sex education and warns it must be implemented through a youth-led UK-wide review.

UK Youth Parliament has been calling for a ‘curriculum for life’ for a number of years.

We’ve argued that a radical overhaul of citizenship education and PSHE is needed to ensure schools prepare students for life.

Both PSHE and citizenship are really important for young people’s growth and development as they teach vital life skills and can be the first steps to engaging young people in political life.

This year, UK Youth Parliament will be working to achieve an adequate curriculum for life, following a vote by Members of Youth Parliament in the House of Commons last year, which saw the issue chosen as the priority campaign for England.

UK Youth Parliament be-

lieves every young person across the UK should receive the same high-level standard of sex and relationship education in schools.

It is nonetheless vitally important PSHE includes opportunities to learn about politics, cultural awareness, community cohesion, sustainable living and personal finance.

It’s become increasingly apparent that young people have felt the current citizenship education and PSHE provisions are inadequate for today’s generation of students.

Young people have repeatedly called for a curriculum for life, most recently in UK Youth Parliament’s 2016 Make Your Mark ballot of 978,216 young people, when the issue was voted a top priority.

However, it’s important to note a curriculum for life has become a recurring issue, topping the Make Your Mark on four occasions in the last 5 years.

The British Youth Council have also been working to convince the Government to introduce statutory and compulsory high-quality citizenship and sex and relationship education to the curriculum for a number of years.

In 2013, the British Youth

Council’s Youth Select Committee report ‘A Curriculum for Life’ concluded life skills education in schools fell well short of its full potential and little has been done to address the report’s findings since.

According to political commentators, it is likely that the introduction of a compulsory sex education would also include a change in teacher training.

UK Youth Parliament believes it is paramount teaching staff are specifically trained to a national standard to deliver PSHE and citizenship education.

[ukyouthparliament.org.uk]





✓ AUSTRALIA: AUSTRALIA REALLY NEEDS A MINISTER FOR YOUTH, MPS SAY

Canberra, 27 March 2017 - THE federal government is under pressure to revive the scrapped cabinet position of Minister for Youth, as MPs speak out against a "war on young people" under the current Coalition government.

Nick Xenophon Team MP Rebekha Sharkie and Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore, and independent MP Cath McGowan, have teamed up to present motions in both houses of parliament this

week calling on Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to name a specific minister in charge of youth affairs. The position was junked by former PM Tony Abbott in 2013, and while Labor also dropped the role from their shadow ministry, they brought it back briefly between October 2015 and July 2016, naming Senator Sam Dastyari the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for School Education and Youth.

However, Labor have

sidelined the youth portfolio since then.

On the same day a Brotherhood of St Laurence analysis reported youth underemployment was at its highest levels on record at 18 percent, and youth unemployment was also far above the national average at 13.5 percent, the trio of parliamentarians said it was necessary for someone in government to be advocating for Australia's young people.

"Children and young people feel like they're being

spoken at, not spoken with by the federal government.

As policy makers, we have a responsibility to ensure any proposals that are put through from a policy perspective take into account what those policies mean for young people," Kakoschke-Moore said at a press conference on Monday.

[Huffington Post Australia]

✓ FIJI: SAMABULA YOUTH CLUB FIGHTS THE BITE

Suva, 12 March 2017 - MEMBERS of the United Samabula Youth North Club in partnership with the Fiji Police Force took the initiative to clean up their community in a bid to prevent any outbreak of dengue fever.

The clean up was conducted in Bureta Street and surrounding areas.

Retired officer, Kelepi Gucake says the event also gave them an opportunity to allow their young community members to

build a working relationship with Police.

Gucake says they want to show the children that they do not have to wait for things to be done by others and if it is something concerning their health and their community then rightfully so they should take the lead role and do something first.

He says gradually with the help of officers from the Southern Division Community Policing they will drive the same sense of

belonging with regards to keeping Bureta Street and Samabula away from criminal activity.

Samabula District Coordinator Sergeant Pio Sovalevu says it was encouraging to see the turnout.

He says any community activity that has a large turnout of young children is always great because it shows that they have the interest to do something that will benefit their community.

Sovalevu says this is a great platform for them to develop their Duavata Community Policing so that they grow up knowing the importance of working with Police in keeping their community safe.

He says they are also working with other stakeholders to use sports as a means of engagement as it has proven to be successful in other communities.

[fjivillage.com]

✓ GUAM: YOUTH CLUB LAUNCHED IN DEDENO

Hagåtña, 13 March 2017 - A youth club in Dededo was officially launched on Friday night after doing community work from last year.

Youth Club President said the idea of the youth club came about as a result of trying to develop youths in their neighbourhood.

"We are really happy about becoming an organization

and our main goals this year is to do more community work in this area.

He said being able to keep kids away from crime and be swayed by peer pressure in the notorious Hagatna suburb was the ultimate goal for the formation of the club.

Developing the skills and talents of their members is also a goal.

They would be doing visitation to senior citizens around their area as well.

The Youth club has about 20 members made up of boy's with age range from 8 -17.

The club will be touring to Australia later this year.

They are now officially registered under the Ministry of Youth and

Sports.

The club did a clean-up campaign on Saturday, in February which was published by the Guam Sun the next day.

[Pacific Daily News]



✓ NEW ZEALAND: \$65K FOR 640 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Wellington, 30 March 2017

- SEVEN youth sector organisations will share a total of \$65,000 funding to help them provide new youth development opportunities for around 640 young people, Youth Minister Nikki Kaye announced today.

“This funding is about supporting more leadership, volunteering and mentoring opportunities for young people across New Zealand,” says Ms Kaye.

“The opportunities cover a broad spectrum, from supporting young people to reduce online bullying and move away from at-risk behavior, to enabling them to explore potential career paths and support young disabled people and those living with cancer.

“It’s great to be able to support the many organisations out there doing fantastic work for our young people, and enabling them to provide hundreds more opportunities at the same time.

“There are new opportunities created from Northland to Otago, and these will enable more young people to develop their own skills and leadership and also contribute to other young people and their communities.”

The organisations and initiatives benefitting from this funding are: Sticks ‘n Stones - \$12,000 to support 150 young people in Otago to become ambassadors for ‘responsible digital citizenship’, by running community events and activities for other young people to address the issue of online bullying.

Central Otago REAP - \$12,000 to support 40 rural young people from Central Otago to receive one-on-one and group mentoring, to help them reduce at-risk behaviours by building positive relationships and skills such as resilience and decision-making.

Phab - \$10,000 to support 100 young disabled

people from Auckland to become leaders who act as advocates and supporters for other young people living with a disability.

CCS Disability Action \$7,000 to support 40 young disabled people from Northland to be part of a youth steering group and contribute to the goal of ensuring that those living with a disability are involved in decision-making and ‘in the driver’s seat’ of their lives.

Tauranga Youth Development Team \$10,000 to support 100 Bay of Plenty young people to be part of a project developing a series of local youth events, including workshops, team building and social events. Canteen - \$7000 to support 140 young Aucklanders to become leaders and mentors supporting young people living with cancer.

Taranaki Futures - \$7000 to enable 70 young people living in the Taranaki region to participate in the

Accelerator programme, which partners young people with business mentors and provides actual workplace experience to help formulate potential career paths.

The new opportunities announced today are part of a focus on increasing youth development opportunities from 50,000 to 70,000 annually, and increasing the funds targeting disadvantaged youth from 18 to 30 per cent.

“A leadership, mentoring or volunteering opportunity can turn young people around and open up new directions and possibilities.

This is about giving more young people the chance to develop their skills and build a path to a successful future,” says Ms Kaye.

[Scoop.co.nz]

✓ PAPUA NEW GUINEA: YOUTHS NAMED FOR COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AWARDS

Port Moresby, 14 March 2017 - Port Moresby, youth leaders from Papua New Guinea were named as finalists in the 2017 Commonwealth Youth Awards.

The founder of a youth-led organisation in PNG that uses sport as tool to end violence against women Jacqueline Joseph and architect Raylance Mesa are among 17 young

change-makers from 13 countries are in the running to be named

Commonwealth Young Person of the Year at an awards ceremony.

The Commonwealth Youth Awards for excellence in development work celebrate outstanding adolescents and young adults aged 15–29 from Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Americas, Africa and Europe, who are leading initiatives ranging

from poverty alleviation to peace-building.

This year’s group of finalists are recognised for spearheading projects that will contribute to the sustainable development goals – a set of 17 global targets that governments have committed to achieve by 2030.

Commonwealth Secretariat youth director Katherine Ellis said: “Through their

own initiative, young leaders in communities across the world are delivering on the ambitious agenda set by governments on everything from eliminating hunger to protecting the environment. in schools.



She created Equal Playing Field for school (EPF4S), an eight-week respectful relationships programme that uses sport to engage with adolescent boys and girls to promote gender equality.

Through the programme, Joseph educates around two thousand 13 to 15-year-old girls and boys in schools in Port Moresby each year about the importance of respectful relationships as a way to reduce family and sexual violence.

He programmes fulfil one of the sustainable development goals (5) which gender equality. While Raylance Mesa is an architect working to promote quality education for rural schools while also building critical infrastructure such as libraries, schools and housing for teachers.

She also led awareness raising campaigns on climate change resulting in island communities building sea walls constructed from dead coral reefs, coconut trunks and logs.

Mesa's programme accounts to fulfil one of the sustainable development goal (4) which is quality education.

[Papua New Guinea Today]

NEWS

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