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NEW ZEALAND: Awards Shine Light On Inspiring Hastings Youth

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INFO

✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2019

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
2 October 2019	International Day of Non-Violence	Melaka, Malaysia
5 October 2019	World Teachers' Day	Melaka, Malaysia
7 October 2019	World Habitat Day	Melaka, Malaysia
10 October 2019	World Mental Health Day	Melaka, Malaysia
13 October 2019	International Day for Disaster Reduction	Melaka, Malaysia
16 October 2018	World Food Day	Melaka, Malaysia
16 October 2019	World Food Day	Melaka, Malaysia
17 October 2019	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Melaka, Malaysia
24 October 2019	United Nations Day	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ GAMBIA: NEDI TRAINS YOUTH ON FOOD PROCESSING

Banjul, 19 September 2019

- NATIONAL Enterprise Development Initiative (NEDI) in partnership with GIZ; a European Union trust fund project recently concluded ten days food processing training for forty youth, drawn from across the country.

Held at Rural Development Institute in Mansakonko, Lower River Region, the project aimed to train youth on agro-food processing and entrepreneurship.

Participants were divided into two badges of twenty, for five days per group.

The training is also meant to encourage young people to venture into agriculture and business to reduce unemployment in The Gambia. It was conducted by food technology service unit of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Abass Bah, General Manager of NEDI said the training is in line with his institution's mandate to provide young people with entrepreneurship skills and

opportunities.

"Training youth and women in agro-food processing will also contribute to agricultural development and economic growth," he said.

Pa Sait Ceesay, Chief Executive Officer of Mansakonko Area Council advised the young people to make the best use of the conducive environment and institutions created for their empowerment.

"Institutions such as NEDI and GIZ are collaborating to empower the young people of the country through enterprise development as well as mentorship programs and create access to financial support," he explained.

Momodou Lamin Fofana, senior youth coordinator in LRR, deputizing the governor of the region said such trainings are in line with government objectives on youth empowerment and national development.

He urged youth to take ownership of the training

and take advantage of the opportunities provided to them by government.

"Youth empowerment and development is a key priority of the government and we are very much committed to that at all times," he assured.

Mariam Drammeh, representative of GIZ, assured the youth of the project's commitment to their empowerment through skills and enterprise development.

She called on participants to use their new skills to improve their entrepreneurship development within their communities and beyond.

Mustapha Badjie, program manager of NEDI and representative of the regional youth office Nyanya Mbye both acknowledged the importance of such trainings to youth empowerment.

They advised participants to take the training seriously

and to make the best use of their new skills at the end of the program to improve their economic status.

Omar Sanneh, a participant, thanked the organizers for the initiative. He said their new skills on agro-food processing will enable them to become entrepreneurs and contribute to national development through the creation of jobs while improving their lives and livelihoods with their families.

Vice Principal of RDI Ousman Sonko spoke on the importance of skills training in enhancing socio-economic growth.

Participants were awarded certificates at the end of the training to acknowledge their participation and the success of the NEDI-GIZ partnership training on agro food processing and entrepreneurship.

[The Point]

✓ KENYA: PSC TO INTERVIEW 8,000 YOUTHS FOR GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIPS

Nairobi, 3 September 2019 - PSC Chairperson Stephen Kirogo accompanied by CEO Simon Rotich will launch the exercise at Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology in Nakuru county on Tuesday at 9am," Browne Kutswa, PSC's Deputy Director of Public Communication said in a statement dispatched Tuesday morning.

"The Commission has dispatched several teams led by commissioners to various centres across the

country to interview over 8000 shortlisted candidates who applied for the positions that were advertised in the press in July this year," he added.

The placements will last between 12 to 18 months.

According to PSC, the National Assembly will support the Public Service Internship Programme (PSIP) with an allocation of Sh1 billion.

PSIP is among initiatives unveiled in the governing

Jubilee Party 2017 presidential campaign manifesto as part of the Uhuru Kenyatta-led administration commitment to youth empowerment.

The government pledged to offer 100,000 internship opportunities every year.

The National Employment Authority (NEA) submitted a raft of regulations to guide placements in government ministries, departments and agencies in June 2019 paving the way for the

rollout of PSIP.

In January, the National Youth Council (NYC) also announced that graduates with internship experience will qualify for entry level government jobs.



NYC Chairperson, Fatuma Abubakar, said the move was among reforms undertaken following consultations with NEA to ensure youths are graduating from tertiary institutions are absorbed in the job market.

“The issue of young people being told that they need three years’ experience

before being promoted will be a thing of the past,” she said during a ceremony when the inaugural NYC CEO, Raymond Ochieng, handed over to Roy Sasaka.

“Through county forums, we will sensitize young people, tell them about job placements, and about technical and vocational educational training

programmes,” she added.

Kenyan universities produce over 50,000 graduates annually with a similar number graduating from Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.

Roy Sasaka said when he took over from Ochieng in

January NYC will expedite the finalization and review of the National Youth Policy and the operationalization of the National Youth Council Act

[Capital FM Kenya]

✓ MALAWI: YOUTHS ENCOURAGED TO DONATE BLOOD

Lilongwe, 17 September 2019 - AN organization called Research Institute and Youth Empowerment (RIYE) conducted a blood donation event in Lilongwe where it encouraged young people to donate blood.

The grouping on Friday mobilized youths from various areas in Lilongwe to donate blood.

Speaking with reporters, the

group’s Executive Director Alick Kamanga said the event was the first one as they are planning to launch youth clubs in Blantyre, Balaka, Mzuzu and Lilongwe.

Kamanga added that the youths will be donating blood every three months and they are expecting 200 youths to be donating.

He added that the

organization is also trying to create an environment where youths will be able to voice out their day to day problems and finding solutions.

One of the blood donors, Lyton Phiri, said he decided to donate blood to save lives of people who cannot be able to access blood when needed.

Phiri then encouraged his

fellow youths to do the same by going to MBTS offices.

Malawi Blood Transfusion (MBTS) is an organization that collects blood through blood donors and donate it to government hospitals.

[Malawi24]

✓ NAMIBIA: UNEMPLOYMENT HITS NAMIBIAN YOUTH

Windhoek, 16 September 2019 - NAMIBIA was urged by its Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation Erkki Nghimtina to seek out means to tackle its unemployment crisis.

In the country, young people are suffering from lack of job opportunities due to un-education or a lack of basic skills for the market.

Economic growth in Namibia ought to become stronger and a fourth generation economy should be implemented to fight the issue, the minister affirmed.

At the moment, Nghimtina noted, unemployment rate in the country stood at 28

percent to impact vulnerable groups.

"Unemployment has grown because of a failure by different stakeholders in finding solutions. Namibia needs to put employment creation at the center of its national policies, create investment incentives and also conjure up public-private partnership," he added.

[Menafn.com]



✓ ZAMBIA: NEW DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM TARGETS YOUTH IN ZAMBIA

Lusaka, 12 September 2019

- ZAMBIAN social enterprise, Asikana Network has partnered with Facebook to launch a digital literacy program in Zambia.

eZibo Digital Literacy aims to train youth between the ages of 13-18 in Zambian schools.

The programme will challenge students in understanding how they can stay safe online and provide practical tips and guides.

It will educate the youth in secondary schools on topics around self-awareness online, and how to behave online as a good digital citizen.

“The Internet is a gateway to a world of economic opportunities, educational possibilities and friendships for many young Zambians,” says Emilar Gandhi, Head of Public Policy for the SADC region at Facebook.

“But it is also important for them to learn how to protect their personal information and to safeguard themselves online. Increasing awareness and ensuring that young people feel empowered is important and something we’re committed to.”

Asikana Network will be responsible for administering the basic curriculum of eZibo as well as Facebook’s lessons on safety and the resources available to learners.

The program will involve delivery of set materials provided by Asikana Network and Facebook through a 2 hr/day session

after-school hours between September and December.

This training will be carried out in 30 schools in 6 provinces namely Lusaka, Central, Eastern, Southern, Western and Copperbelt, as well 6 community schools across those provinces where the training will also be open to the general public.

[IT News Africa]

NEWS



✓ BERMUDA: ARGUS DONATION TO YOUTH COUNSELLING PROJECT

GAMBIA: NEDI TRAINS
Hamilton, 19 September
2019 - 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

YOUTH ON FOOD 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

PROCESSING 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]

✓ BARBADOS: YOUTH NEED EARLIER EXPOSURE TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Bridgetown, 27 September
2019 - IF Barbadian youth can get exposure to vocational training from an early age, they stand a better chance of competing on the global stage in an excellent fashion, in various programmes requiring them to display their skills.

Dr. Romel Springer, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training suggested the above, as he delivered remarks during a presentation ceremony held by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council for the Barbados delegation that attended the WorldSkills Kazan 2019 Competition. That ceremony was held yesterday, in the Education Ministry's Main Conference Room.

"The Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training has agreed to collaborate with

the TVET Council to stage the inaugural WorldSkills Barbados Juniors Competition and this will take place during the month of November from the 26th to 28th, 2019 at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre," Dr. Springer announced.

"This decision has resulted in post-competition research and analysis carried out by the TVET Council, after the WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017 Competition.

It shows that countries with successful TVET systems exposed youth to TVET at a much younger age than Barbados did," he explained. "WorldSkills Barbados Juniors will offer four skilled areas initially and these will include Cabinet Making, Cooking, Electrical Installation and Hairdressing. These will be open to all secondary schools, targeting students ages 14 to 16 years old," he continued.

"We are recognising that if

you want individuals to have the opportunity to develop excellence in a particular skill, then you need to start training and preparation at a much earlier age than what currently obtains in Barbados.

If we can get our young people to strive for excellence from as young as let's say 14 or 15 years old, it provides them with a better chance to meet global standards from an earlier age," Springer further commented.

He meanwhile observed that young people who compete at the WorldSkills competition, which targets persons between the ages of 16 and 22, are already skilled professionals with at least four years of apprenticeship in post-secondary or tertiary training, under the adults.

"So by introducing WorldSkills Barbados Juniors to the 14 and 16 years age group, we are

enabling our young people to start vocational training earlier, based on a standard of excellence.

Similarly, this will complement the expansion of the National Vocational Qualifications or NVQs and the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications or CVQs, which facilitate access to competency-based TVET across all secondary schools.

The introduction of the WorldSkills Barbados Juniors, together with the NVQs and CVQs, will enable the general improvement of the quality in the national TVET system," Dr. Springer asserted, even as he congratulated the six competitors and the delegation in general for their participation in this year's WorldSkills programme.

[Barbados Advocate]



As far as capacity is concerned, last year, CYEN was approved by YOUNGO, the Children and Youth constituency to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to undertake a Conference of Youth in the countries where CYEN operates. CYEN's website reflects a presence in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia, among others.

Jackson added that the activity was used to assist in further building the current participatory environmental awareness programmes for young citizens of Guyana.

"We have also been engaging in a series of panel discussions, in an effort to inform and educate young people on the Sustainable Development Goals," Jackson said.

"The last talk would have been on Goal 13 (Climate Action). Based on the feedback of these activities, we have recognised that young people in Guyana, have robust and innovative ideas and we have been working on creating a platform for them to showcase their ideas or projects that guarantee the strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change in Guyana."

In addition to facilitating larger scale education and awareness, Jackson believes more attention should be given to ensuring adequate and appropriate infrastructure and housing that can withstand, as far as possible, the perils of climate change.

Guyana is plagued by poorly-maintained drainage and sea defence infrastructure.

The low coastal plain which houses the capital Georgetown, and where a large percentage of the population resides, is below sea level and at high risk of flooding.

"With the effects of climate change becoming even more present through intensifying natural disasters, more should be done to prepare this region for what seems to be inevitable," Jackson said.

In addition to being prone to flooding, Guyana is also affected by drought.

[Stabroek News]

✓ JAMAICA: CORPORATE JAMAICA URGED TO HELP TRAIN YOUNG PEOPLE

Kingston, 14 September 2019 - INDUSTRY, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, Audley Shaw, has called for Corporate Jamaica to partner with the Government to help more of the nation's youth acquire skills and competencies as part of the development of the country's human capital.

He was delivering the keynote address at the graduation ceremony for the CAC 2000 Foundation/ Jamaica Social Investment Fund's (JSIF) Air-Conditioning Technicians Training Programme at the AC Hotel in Kingston on Thursday (September 12).

Minister Shaw argued that the country's greatest crisis was not crime but the issue of human underdevelopment.

"By far, the most fundamental crisis that we face as a country is a crisis of human

underdevelopment and where there is human underdevelopment there is the alternative development programme murder, mayhem, lotto scamming and so we have some work to do," he said.

Mr. Shaw noted that the example demonstrated by the CAC 2000 Foundation in partnering with JSIF to train 132 youth from communities in Kingston, St. Catherine and St. James should be a source of inspiration for Corporate Jamaica to get involved in the process of human development.

"This is the kind of partnership that I need to see, that we need to see more of in Jamaica partnership between the public sector and the private sector.

"It's the partnerships that can work, it's a model that I would like to have spread across the country like a

tsunami, and it has to be done with a sense of urgency," he stressed.

The Minister, during his address, lauded the 72 graduates, who completed the five to six-month-long air-conditioning course in seven batches. There were 10 dropouts, while 50 other youth, who have not yet qualified for graduation, will continue in the programme.

The training, which falls under the Alternative Livelihood Skills Programme, is a sub-project under JSIF's \$69-million Integrated Community Development Project, which seeks to provide 3,000 youths with skills training, employability enhancement and employment.

The programme targets young people aged 17 to 29 from 18 underserved communities across the island.

[Loop News Jamaica]



✓ PERU: UNESCO'S MAB PROGRAMME TO ENGAGE YOUTH IN BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Lima, 27 September 2019 - UNESCO's MAB Programme started with a project that is the first of its kind to actively engage youth in the MAB Programme and its biosphere reserves.

This project, funded by the Flemish government of Belgium, aims to improve the socio-economic development of young people living in biosphere reserves in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

The main objective of this project is to establish an overall framework to improve the socio-economic development of young people living in UNESCO biosphere reserves.

The project will work closely with the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean region to identify the main challenges they face.

However, the project is fully cognizant of regional, national and local differences, as well as the fact that youth is not a homogeneous group and includes differences in age, religion, gender and education, among others.

The overall framework should, therefore, be viewed as a guideline for use afterwards in other regions to help them identify and address their main challenges.

A call for 5 projects from different countries was made for young people and youth organizations of the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region, active in biosphere reserves. Otis Jeffers from Saint Mary's Biosphere Reserve in Saint Kitts & Nevis is one of the selected participants to implement his own youth project.

With 'Bee the Buzz of the Reserve', Otis will promote pollinators for crop

production and various products of honey bees.

This activity will teach young people in a practical manner how to produce honey, wax and other bi-products by creating a demonstration unit.

It will contribute to the green economy by giving young people the opportunity to be entrepreneurs in bee-keeping, and will provide employment opportunities.

The other selected projects are:

Strengthening capacities to provide ecotourism services for young people in the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta Biosphere Reserve (Colombia).

Integral management of plastic waste generated on the banks of the Napo River through the strengthening of youth groups in the Limoncocha area of Yasuni

Biosphere Reserve (Ecuador).

Creation of a radio program to promote effective communication of ecological initiatives and environmental activities oriented towards young people in the Huayabamba river basin (Gran Pajaten BR - Peru).

The developed local and regional projects by the participants are linked to the core topics of UNESCO's Natural Science Sector.

It is important to note that the selected projects are not only on youth, they are also led by young people.

[Devdiscourse]

✓ TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: 'YOUTH GOVT' SEEKS TO BE POWERFUL PLATFORM

Port of Spain, 8 September 2019 - A group calling itself the Youth Government of Trinidad and Tobago (YGTT) was launched on Friday at the Central Bank Auditorium, in the presence of Senate Vice President Nigel de Freitas, Deputy Speaker Esmond Forde, Port of Spain Mayor Joel Martinez and Adrian Leonce, parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities.

YGTT head Brian Benoit told Sunday Newsday

YGTT's formation had been inspired by a similar group in Tatarstan in Russia.

Asked about YGTT calling itself a "government," Benoit assured it was not trying to displace the elected government but simply give youngsters a platform by which to express their views.

He said the group was not linked to the TT Youth Parliament nor the PNM.

Benoit, a music teacher at

the Education Ministry, said he had set up the group by inviting applications from young people on several social media platforms.

During Friday's inauguration, the group's Joseph Lopez said 50 individuals age 18-35 would be appointed to different portfolios respectively as governors, deputy governors and members.

He said YGTT participants had been trained in leadership,

public speaking and social media management.

The best organisations have a mix of experience and youth, he said.

A leader should empower others and so help to inspire others to also become leaders.

He urged all to build a better community, better society and better country.

[Trinidad News]



✓ BANGLADESH: PM HASINA RECEIVES UNICEF AWARD FOR YOUTH SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Dhaka, 26 September 2019

- UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta H Fore handed the 'Champion of Skill Development for Youth' award to the prime minister at a ceremony in New York.

Hasina thanked UNICEF and dedicated the prize to the people of Bangladesh and especially to children all over the world.

“Millions of young people are using their skills to make our lives easier. This recognition is a testament to our firm steps towards creating a responsible and knowledge-based society,” she said.

The executive director of UNICEF highlighted the Bangladesh leader's role in creating a bright future for the youth during the event.

One in five people in Bangladesh is aged between 15 to 24 years and one fourth of the population belong to the age group of less than 14 years, she said. These young people are looking to contribute to their families and the society in future. They need education and employment for that.

Henrietta lauded Hasina's government for its emphasis on education and for implementing 'National Skill Development Policy'.

Foreign Minister Abdul Momen and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador cricketer Shakib Al Hasan also spoke on the occasion.

“This honour doesn't just belong to me but to Bangladesh, as the people of country have given me the

opportunity to serve them by electing me,” said Hasina.

Highlighting the crucial role of the country's youth in building the nation, the prime minister noted, “Our youth have always played a courageous role during all national crises.”

“Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman realised that no progress would take place without tapping into the potential of the young people.”

“We are determined to create a knowledgeable young generation who can face the challenges and help to create the golden Bangladesh that he envisaged.”

At least 2 million young people enter the Bangladesh workforce every year, said Hasina. “We are focusing on the skill development of the young people and have taken different initiatives to instill proper knowledge and skills in them,” she said.

Her government has emphasised technical and vocational education and training to meet the demands of the local and international job market, said the prime minister. Bangladesh has established 100 technical schools and colleges across 100 upazilas and the programme is set to expand.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports has initiated a project to transform unemployed and untrained youths into skilled manpower, said Hasina.

She also stressed that the government's development programme is designed to ensure that no-one is left out.

Hasina thanked UNICEF for assistance in the country's education sector along with the development of women and children.

UNICEF official Henrietta praised the progress made by Bangladesh under the dynamic leadership of Hasina in her speech. She also applauded Bangladesh for providing shelter to the Rohingyas who fled Myanmar in the face of persecution.

Bangladesh has achieved 'great progress' in reducing child mortality rate, increasing rate of education and ensuring gender equality, said national Test and T20I cricket Captain Shakib Al Hasan.

“And it is our prime minister who has been leading the endeavor,” he said.

[bdnews24.com]



✓ INDIA: YOUTH DEMAND EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL

New Delhi, 28 September 2019 - ON the 112th birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, volunteers of the All India Students Federation (AISF) and the All India Youth Federation (AIYF) organised a state-level convention at the Desh Bhagat Yadgaar Hall here today to raise the demand for the Bhagat Singh National Employment Guarantee Act (BNEGA).

Heartfelt tributes were paid to the martyr who sacrificed his life for the motherland. While a march in favour of the Act, which promises employment to all unemployed youth in the

country, was also taken out. It started from the Desh Bhagat Yadgaar Hall and passed through all prominent chowks and markets.

A large number of students participated in the march and they raised slogans, praising the legendary revolutionary and criticised the state government for ignoring demands of the youth.

Addressing the gathering, the AISF state president Sukhdev Singh Dharmwala said: "The youth of the state and the country are facing extreme problem of unemployment. Youngsters in a large number are

unemployed in the state and such a situation is giving open chance to private and corporate sector for exploitation of labour.

For such youngsters, 'BNEGA' will act as a ray of hope."

He said besides BNEGA Act, the students' federation demands free education for students in the state as well as equal work opportunities.

The student groups said engineering passouts in the state were running pillar to post to find good jobs while a large number of graduates were sitting idle at home or doing jobs as food delivery

persons or are forced to work as peons or security guards.

The members of the AISF and the AIYF also announced that the youth and students of the state would observe a fortnight dedicated to the 550th Parkash Purb of Guru Nanak Dev and various activities would be conducted across the state, including kirtan darbars, shabad gayan and seminars, to propagate the Sikh Master's Gurbani and philosophy.

[The Tribune]

✓ MALAYSIA: YOUTHS VITAL IN IMPLEMENTING SDGS

Kuala Lumpur, 30 September 2019 - THIS September marks the fourth anniversary of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, where world leaders established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030.

Malaysia's delegation to the meeting in New York was led by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. And, as young Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg expressed so powerfully to world leaders at the UN climate summit in New York, global challenges to the environment and development are relevant for children and youth.

There are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10 and 24, the largest generation in history. Close to 90 per cent live in developing countries, and their numbers are expected to grow.

Connected via high technology like never before, young people want to and contribute to the resilience of their communities, proposing solutions, driving social progress and inspiring change.

Investing in youth is fundamental to implement the SDGs. This is especially true in the Asia-Pacific region, home to about 700 million youths, 200 million of whom are from Asean.

The National Statistics Department said there are 14.6 million Malaysians aged between 15 and 39, or 45.4 per cent of the population.

The Malaysian Productivity Centre said these young people are our hope for ensuring a stable future for our economy based on a long-lasting workforce and a sizeable market to support our businesses.

All businesses, infrastructure, systems and policies will be supported, used, maintained and executed by our youths for decades to come.

It is these young people who will start businesses, work in factories, build homes, take loans, study, become consumers of our goods and services, and be our leaders. With the skills and opportunities to reach their potential, they can drive development and contribute to peace and security.

We must encourage and empower young people to help translate the SDGs into policy at every level, to help implement, monitor and review progress, and to hold governments accountable.

May our youths be more vocal in expressing their concerns and grievances and taking up the call to engage in shaping the

destiny ahead.

[New Straits Times Online]



✓ PAKISTAN: YOUTH SHOULD BE TRAINED IN NEW-AGE TECHNOLOGIES: ASAD UMAR

Peshawar, 30 September 2019 - Former Federal Finance Minister and senior leader of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf Asad Umar participated in the Digital Youth Summit and said that Information technology is his preferred sector as in present times country's development depends on information technology.

He congratulated the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government for the arrangement of a successful IT summit.

While addressing the participants, the former minister said that 'Young people have to showcase their skills in this field. They can get jobs because of their IT skills,' Umar said in his addressing

adding that IT can also develop other fields in any country.

Asad said that we have to prepare young people to compete in the field of information technology that can bring a positive change in the country 'Nation can win all-time wars and competition if its youth are expert in Information technology,' the PTI leader said.

The DYS is an initiative by the KP IT Board and the World Bank being organized every year in Peshawar by a local IT organisation, Peshawar 2.0. The DYS provides opportunities for budding start-up owners to present their unique ideas and attract investors.

The young IT experts seek guidance from reputed IT specialists, technologists from global companies participating at the summit to empower and educate young minds in the field of information technology.

This year the three days event, held in a local hotel which was attended by local experts, students and youth entrepreneurs from across the country.

The experts discussed the importance of technology in every sphere of life. They guided the youth on how to better utilize technology for launching startups.

The provincial Minister for Local Government Shahram Khan Tarakai, Tourism, Youth and Sports Minister

Atif Khan, Finance Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra, representatives of the World Bank and IT experts also attended the inaugural ceremony of the three-day event.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Local Government Shahram Khan Tarakai said that the projects of the provincial government have started yielding results.

He said that KP is a good market for information technology and appreciated the KPIT board for organising such a successful summit.

[MENAFN - Tribal News Network]

✓ QATAR: PARTICIPATES IN UN YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

Doha, 22 September 2019 - THE State of Qatar participated in the United Nations (UN) Youth Climate Summit held in New York City, USA, as part of the Climate Action Summit 2019.

The Qatari delegation to the summit included representatives from the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, Qatar University, Qatar Petroleum and a group of young people interested in climate change.

The summit began with a speech by H.E. Secretary-General of the UN Antonio Guterres, in which he stressed the importance of the role of youth in addressing the phenomenon of climate change.

The one-day summit saw many programs bringing together activists,

innovators and young change-makers who are committed to tackling climate change at the speed and level needed.

Several experiences and ideas were highlighted through presentations and discussions with representatives of governments, civil society, and youth.

The summit is a platform for young leaders who are leading climate action to showcase their work and solutions at the United Nations and to share with decision-makers the issues of the day.

[ILoveQatar.net]



✓ AZERBAIJAIN: UNESCO'S MAB PROGRAMME TO ENGAGE YOUTH IN BIO SPHERE

Baku, 13 September 2019 - A labor fair with the organization and assistance of the Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan was held in Baku to address issues of youth employment in tourism, Sakina Babayeva, the head of the association, told Trend.

She noted that the two-day event was held as part of a youth project that is implemented by the Public Association "Supporting Youth Solidarity".

"The fair took place on April 12-13 and it is obvious that it aroused great interest among young people.

Through such events, young people are given a real opportunity to get the necessary and interesting information related to employment," Babayeva said.

The youth project, as part of which the fair was held, is aimed at enhancing the role of the tourism sector in improving the business environment in Azerbaijan, she added.

The fair was held on April 12-13 in the Agro Mall shopping center with the participation of representatives of the Confederation of Entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan, Baku Textile Factory, as well as employees of many travel and consulting companies.

[AzerNews]

✓ BELGIUM: YOUTH FOR CLIMATE LAUNCHES PLATFORM TO GATHER CITIZEN IDEAS

City of Brussels, 23 September 2019 - THE movement at the root of the so-called pro-climate "school strikes", Youth for Climate, is launching an online platform, intended for compiling citizen ideas to limit global warming.

The solutions proposed will be submitted to the authorities, "the idleness" of which youngsters are denouncing every week in the streets.

Flowing from the demonstration this Thursday, the fourth organised in Brussels by Youth For Climate, the collective has unveiled its new platform. "We will continue our demonstrations until we are sure that we have been heard.

However, we also wish to give people who are not (yet) engaging in climate initiatives, the opportunity to make their voice heard," indicates the collective.

"It is not simply youngsters' ideas any longer, indeed everyone can post suggestions there," states the French-speaking coordinator, Adélaïde Charlier.

The deadline for the submission of ideas is fixed as 31 March 2019.

These will be analysed by a committee which will assess their given feasibility.

Internet surfers will then be able to vote for those which, in their view, must be the priorities for the next parliament.

The most successful ideas will be submitted to the authorities. "We hope that politicians will be inspired by some of these ideas," adds Dries Cornelissens, of Youth for Climate.

On Thursday, some 12,500 youngsters, once again, demonstrated in the streets of the capital demanding significant political measures to fight climate change.

Although less numerous than last week, youngsters nevertheless continued to demonstrate. "The movement is not crumbling as such but it is dispersing," states Adélaïde Charlier.

For example in Liège, more than 15,000 students also walked through the streets.

[The Brussels Times]

✓ BULGARIA: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN BULGARIA

Sofia, 1 September 2019 - UNEMPLOYMENT in Bulgaria was 4.7 per cent in February 2019, down from 5.4 per cent in February 2018 and unchanged from January, according to seasonally-adjusted figures released by European Union statistics agency Eurostat on April 1.

Bulgaria's unemployment rate in February 2019 represented about 157 000 people, down from about 182 000 the same month a year earlier, Eurostat said.

February 2019 was the latest in a succession of months that Bulgaria's unemployment rate was below the EU average, which was 6.5 per cent the lowest across the 28 member states of the EU since the start of the monthly unemployment series in January 2000, the statistics agency said.

In Bulgaria, youth unemployment in February 2019 was 12.4 per cent, down from 12.7 per cent in February 2018. This represented about 18 000 Bulgarian under-25s, compared with 20 000 a year earlier.

[The Sofia Globe]



✓ GERMANY: 'SKILFUL YOUTH CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Berlin, 10 September 2019 - SKILFUL Pakistani youth can take the advantage of business opportunities available in the West, especially in Germany.

This was stated by Chief Operating Officer (CEO) of GoNetwork Germany Zeshan Pasha while addressing an even titled "Innovative Business Models for Youth and Business Opportunities in Germany for Pakistan."

Pasha said that he started his journey in Germany by distributing newspapers but with the passage of time, he started a small business by investing 25,000 euros and now within just 10 years his company is providing jobs to dozens of people in Germany and company is expanding operations to Pakistan.

"To have a successful business, one needs innovative thinking,

courage, determination and commitment. Anybody equipped with these tools with sound technological knowledge has vast opportunities in Germany," he said.

Pasha said that his company wants to expand business in Pakistan especially in real state sector, adding that authorities in Pakistan need to formulate business friendly policies and must encourage those who want to invest.

Many German companies can be convinced to invest in Pakistan if suitable business opportunities are provided as Pakistan is a huge market. Pakistanis in Germany will serve as a bridge in this regard, he said.

[Business Recorder]

✓ ROMANIA: BANCPOST SENDS YOUNG ROMANIAN IT SPECIALISTS

Bucharest, 6 September 2019 - 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]



✓ AUSTRALIA: MISSION AUSTRALIA URGES DUBBO YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN SURVEY

Canberra, 1 September 2019 - A 2018 Mission Australia survey has revealed the top three issues of national significance according to Dubbo youth were mental health, alcohol and drugs and bullying.

Twice the proportion of last years female survey

participants from Dubbo highlighting mental health as an important issue.

Dubbo Mission Australia Area Manager Megan Boshell is asking Dubbo youth aged between 15 to 19-years-old to help them by speaking out about personal concerns and broader issues across

Australia. The national Christian charity is urging participants to complete their online Youth Survey for 2019 before August 16, which will be used to advocate on behalf of Australia's youth.

The annual survey provides a valuable outlook into the

issues and concerns of young Australians and further offers essential insights to Mission Australia and other community groups as well as important government decision-makers.

[Daily Liberal]

✓ FIJI: YOUTHS URGED TO SAY NO TO THE RACE CARD: BALA

Suva, 8 September 2019 - YOUNG men and women are urged to refrain from being engaged to activities that will encourage racial and gender discrimination.

The sentiment was revealed by Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Bala while responding to a post on social media made by Opposition

MP Moses Bilitavu.

Bala says such acts is unbecoming of a public figure that may drive youth onto a wrong direction.

“I urge all young people to reject such statements and by extension ways or behavior for being racist. Say no the race card. Say no to racist comments. And I

say this to all our youths and to all our Fijians”.

He adds that “this foreign behavior is not iTaukei, nor Christian” perspective made by Bilitavu will build a weak foundation for peace, prosperity and harmony in any multiracial society.

“The words and sentiments expressed by Honourable

Bilitavu are designed to extract maximum damage to race relations in Fiji”.

Bala says the statements made by Bilitavu have also attacked the dignity and integrity of all women in Fiji.

[FBC News]

✓ GUAM: FSM TO FUND YOUTH PROGRAMS ON GUAM

Hagåtña, 19 September 2019 - SPEAKER Tina Rose Muña Barnes on Monday received a visit from Speaker Wesley W. Simina of the FSM Congress who shared that the FSM National Congress is cognizant of the issues on Guam with regards to COFA migrants.

As a result of the updates that the National Congress has received through their Consul General on Guam, Ms. Teresa Filepin, the FSM Congress has approved funding to implement programs that would directly benefit the youth of their community on Guam, the Speaker's office announced.

In addition, seed money has been approved by the FSM Congress to fund a youth

summit on Guam for the FSM community who have made Guam their home.

This youth summit focus on seven areas that have been identified as “hotspots” on Guam. They will also be implementing a program called the “7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens.”

Moreover, the Consul General will be working with the youth in her community to adopt certain parks aimed at instilling a sense of ownership.

In an interview with Patti Arroyo on NewsTalk K57, Speaker Muña Barnes said the meeting was very fruitful and the talks focused on issues that affected the FSM community on Guam.

[Pacific News Center]



✓ NEW ZEALAND: AWARDS SHINE LIGHT ON INSPIRING HASTINGS YOUTH

Wellington, 5 September 2019 - AT a special awards evening at Waipatu Marae this week, 24 deserving young people were recognised for their achievements against the odds at the 2019 Youth Potential Awards.

Now in their 13th year, the annual Hastings District Council-run Ngā Tohu Aumangea Youth Potential Awards were instigated as way to acknowledge the efforts of young people who, despite challenging circumstances, were setting and achieving their goals.

Aged between 13 and 19, the awards were in three categories (tane (male), wahine (female) and roopu (group)) and the recipients were nominated by the likes of local services providers, youth groups, marae and schools who could see that this kind of acknowledgement would further encourage them to pursue success.

The evening was made extra special due to the surprise appearance of home-grown international basketball superstar Steven Adams.

His attendance was kept under wraps until the moment the awards were about to be presented when he appeared on stage alongside Hastings Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst and MC for the evening Hastings ambassador and councillor Henare O'Keefe.

After a waiata from the Hastings Intermediate School kapa haka group, the award recipients conducted a quick question and answer session with Adams where the audience learnt one of his role models growing up aside from his Dad was Gordon Ramsay, and that the main things he missed about New Zealand was the culture and the people.

The recipients then went on stage to receive their award

and a specially designed and signed basketball singlet, and to have a photo taken with Adams and the mayor.

One of those to receive an award was Year 9 Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Wānanga Whare Tapere o Takitimu student Pania Paku, aged 13.

She prompted a laugh with Adams on stage, who towered above her when presenting her award, and ahead of the ceremony shared her ambition to one day become a hairdresser like her sister.

Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst said these awards were a highlight event of the council calendar, and that the aim was to support and encourage young people like Pania to reach their potential and achieve their ambitions.

"Some of our other award

recipients want to go on to become surgeons and study languages, which is amazing given the enormous difficulties they have overcome. Sometimes life is not very easy and it takes courage to face the

challenges in front of you these awards are about recognising your attitude of strength in the face of challenging times," she said.

"We are hugely grateful to Steven Adams for taking the time to give back to our young people. He was inspiring in that he has amazing talent but also works incredibly hard."

The celebration ended with more waiata, a group photo with Adams, and a meal.

[Scoop.co.nz]

✓ SAMOA: SAMOA'S YOUTH HONOURED WITH INTERNATIONAL WETLANDS PRIZE

Apia, 20 September 2019 - IN May this year, Samoa's Youth in Climate Action Network (Y.C.A.N.) learned they had won a Ramsar Wetland Conservation award of US\$10,000 (T\$26,609).

President Samantha Kwan, still very much taken aback by the win, travelled to Dubai yesterday to accept the prize.

The group has been hard at work since 2015 replanting and restoring mangroves and rehabilitating coral reefs on Samoa's borders.

"Most of our members live

on the coastline," Ms. Kwan said.

With the Ramsar prize, the group will reach more youth to enable greater action against an unliveable planet. More funding means more training and capacity building, not only for youth to know how to restore mangroves or plant more trees, but understand why, and how to pass on that information on to their communities, Ms. Kwan said.

The Ramsar Conservation is an award for Young Wetlands Champions. Ms. Kwan said it's great to see youth in particular being honoured.

As a conservation officer at the Ministry of Resources and Natural Environment, Ms. Kwan said she used to see the voices of youth ignored in the conservation policy space or brought in as tokenistic gestures.

"But there has definitely been a huge shift since we started Y.C.A.N.," she said. "We're actually a partner to M.N.R.E. to implement the National Environment Sector Plan for 2017-2020 because they see the work we do on the ground."

Y.C.A.N. is a three-year old youth group working on defending Samoa's coastal

areas from pollution, reef degradation, species loss and more.

The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards were established in 1996 to recognise and work to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Ramsar is the oldest of the modern global intergovernmental environmental agreements and was negotiated through the 1960's. It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

[Samoa Observer]

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