



# DECENT WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Youth Employment Network



## The Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network (YEN) Newsletter, September 2006

### News Flash

#### Turkey joins the YEN as a Lead Country

The YEN is pleased to announce that Turkey has become the latest Lead Country, following Georgia, to join the Network. The community now stands at 19.

#### Youth Employment at ECOSOC High Level Segment

Opening the ECOSOC High Level Segment on 3 July in Geneva, UN Deputy Secretary General Mark Malloch-Brown highlighted youth employment. "Youth unemployment has many faces...yet, common to them all are: adapting to a global economy and dramatic pace of change, employment oriented growth strategies, training and education, and, above all, new job creation." Malloch-Brown advocated a multi-pronged approach to address the differing situations faced by youth seeking employment: support for youth entrepreneurship, training and education, and the inclusion of vulnerable groups in employment strategies. He also stressed the importance of leadership from the ECOSOC delegates: "The UN System is working with member states to address this challenge through the Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network...the issue is one where ECOSOC can provide crucial leadership; it can guide policy, influence action and oversee implementation."

Finnish Minister of Labour Tarja Filatov also highlighted the necessity of confronting the youth employment issue. Ms. Filatov noted that youth integration into the labour market was a "priority challenge," and expressed support for the YEN's employment strategy: employability, equal

opportunities, entrepreneurship, and employment creation. She also referenced her country's strong support for the YEN.

The YEN's Youth Consultative Group (YCG) organized a workshop on youth employment as part of the Civil Society Forum to the ECOSOC Summit, held in Geneva on 29-30 June. The workshop, attended by organizations including the Arab Scout Bureau, Forca Sindical Brazil, Pax Romana and a representative of the Swiss Development Group, saw presentations from policy and practice that reflected the challenges of successful youth employment policy and its implementation.

Hany Abdul Monem from the Arab Scout Bureau shared the positive progress made towards youth participation in the formation of a National Action Plan in Egypt; other representatives emphasized the need to learn from unsuccessful policies of the past. The discussion culminated with a series of recommendations formulated by participants and aimed at addressing the youth employment challenge.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) hosted a roundtable breakfast on 4 July to discuss youth employment in West Africa. Discussions emphasized the role of cooperation amongst international organizations. Representatives from Sweden, the UK, the World Bank and the private sector stated their support for the YEN and the planned establishment of a YEN Secretariat/UNOWA Youth Employment Unit in West Africa, to be placed in Dakar, Senegal. Swedish and UK political and financial support has been key to operationalizing the recommendations of

“Youth Unemployment and Regional Insecurity in West Africa” (UNOWA Report, December 2005.)

[Address by the Deputy Secretary-General](#)

[Speech by the Finnish Minister of Labour](#)

[Recommendations from youth employment workshop](#)

### **Sweden renews its support to the YEN Secretariat**

The Government of Sweden has renewed its support to the YEN Secretariat through the provision of a funding package, three years after providing initial seed funding to the start up of the YEN. This three year support will allow the YEN Secretariat fulfilment of its continued mandate to create opportunities for decent and productive employment for youth and to respond to requests by constituents and partners in the field, the YEN’s High-Level Panel, the Youth Consultative Group, and the donor community.

The new project, “Promoting decent and productive work for young women and men through support to the Youth Employment Network Secretariat,” includes two major components. One is support to Lead Countries in developing National Action Plans on Youth Employment. The other is the support of the YEN /UNOWA unit for youth employment and regional security in West Africa. The project will be implemented by the YEN Secretariat, its core partners- the ILO, the World Bank, and the UN-, the Youth Consultative Group, youth organizations and other partners of the YEN.

### **Core Partner Activities**



### **UN Youth Leadership Summit advocates sport and youth employment links**

Young leaders from across the European Union stressed the relationship between

sports and youth employment in the ‘Vienna Declaration,’ a series of commitments released at the close of the UN Youth Leadership Summit, held on 19-21 June in Vienna. The event, organized with the help of the entire UN System, was attended by two youth leaders from the 27 countries of the European Union. The leaders ‘encouraged the use of Physical Education (PE) in schools to nurture and inspire employable skills and hence the personal development of youth.’ The final report also included support for entrepreneurial initiatives from state and national governments, as well as a call to governments to back youth employment initiatives through networking with youth NGOs.

The summit was the fourth in the series of regional summits, following Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. A culminating, first ever Global Youth Summit will be held in New York on 30 October-1 November 2006.

[Summit Website](#)

### **UNDP releases report on Arab Youth Development**

[“Arab Youth Strategising for the Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)”](#) is based on three workshops devoted to the impact of globalisation on Arab youth. These workshops were organized by the UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Arab States (UNDP/RBAS) in collaboration with UNDESA. The report offers suggestions to increase youth employment and places an emphasis on effective governance as a ‘necessary pillar of the development process.’ It also provides recommendations on youth participation in policy creation.

### **Expert Group Meeting held on developmental challenges for youth in Asia**

Organized by UNDESA, this Expert Group Meeting was held in Bangkok from March 28 to 30 as a preparation to the publication of the 2007 World Youth Report. Representatives from UN Agencies and member countries as well as

intergovernmental organizations and academia attended. Four topics were identified as central issues for youth in Asia: globalisation, urbanization, education, and information and communication technologies. Presentations on globalisation highlighted the issue of youth relocating from their home nations to find work; similar concerns were expressed in the debate on urbanization, where trends show increasing numbers of youth seeking employment in cities. Strategies to address these issues, as well as the employment issue as a whole in Asia, were discussed. The need to create job opportunities for rural youth, following examples of best practice from rural youth organizations and regional agencies, was emphasized.

### [Expert Group Meeting Report](#)

#### **UNICEF Voices of Youth provides media guidance**

Voices of Youth recently launched a programme to provide guidance and resources to youth pursuing careers in the media. VOY Media Magic provides examples of youth-led media projects as well as a database of best practises and the latest trends in youth media. The site also offers hands-on resources including a 'media tool-kit' to assist youth in media production.

UNICEF has also released a publication entitled 'Adolescent Development: Perspectives and Frameworks.' The publication explores under-researched issues on adolescent development.

### [UNICEF Voices of Youth](#)



#### **Briefing the development community on the World Development Report**

The World Bank, in collaboration with the YEN, co-hosted a seminar at ILO headquarters in Geneva to share some of the themes of the upcoming "World

Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation." Citing the significance of current world demographic trends, as well as the importance of providing a smooth transition for youth into the labour market, the Bank has dedicated the theme of next year's report to youth.

As this briefing the chief author of the report, Manuel Jimenez, stressed the necessity of youth participation at all stages of policy development, stating examples of good practice as well as the need for encouragement to involve youth in this process. Jimenez also emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration amongst youth organizations. The WDR will include a section on 'entering the labour market.'

Following this presentation José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director of the ILOs Employment Sector, chaired a lively discussion involving discussants including Azita Berar-Awad of the ILO, Diane Widdus of UNICEF, and Jenny Aris of the YMCA

#### **New World Bank fund launched focusing on capacity building youth organizations**

In line with the conviction that young people represent a powerful force for change and that they need to be empowered to participate actively in development the World Bank has launched a Trust Fund which will support training and capacity building activities to strengthen youth organisations to become actively involved in decision-making processes affecting their lives.

The first tranche of this multilateral trust fund has been financed by the German Government. The trust funds' activities will start in selected countries shortly after the launch of the WDR 07 and will comprise:

- A mapping of projects and activities supporting youth development being carried out by youth groups and donor organisations
- A needs assessment of youth organisations based from this mapping
- Customized design and implementation of training and capacity building activities

- Sharing of experiences on a regional basis



## **ILO publishes new study on youth entrepreneurship**

The study entitled 'Stimulating Youth Entrepreneurship: Barriers and Incentives to Enterprise Start-ups by Young People', written by Dr. Ulrich Schoof of the [Bertelsmann Foundation's Economic and Social Affairs program](#), publishes data from surveys with young entrepreneurs around the world. A Small Enterprise Development (SEED) working paper, it establishes five priority areas for entrepreneurial engagement:

- (i). Social & cultural attitudes towards youth entrepreneurship,
- (ii). Entrepreneurship education,
- (iii). Access to finance,
- (iv). Administrative & regulatory framework,
- (v). Business assistance & support.

The paper examines the difficulties faced by youth entrepreneurs in starting and growing their businesses as well as ways to 'foster entrepreneurial initiative' in young people.

## **Report published on youth employment and the sports sector**

["Beyond the Scoreboard: Youth employment opportunities and skills development in the sports sector,"](#) edited by Giovanni di Cola, examines the role of sport in social and economic development, incorporating research from international, governmental and academic experts. The report studies employment opportunities in the sports sector as well as the ability of sports to create leadership and employability skills in youth.

## **News from Lead Countries**

### **Azerbaijan**

The Ministry of Labour in collaboration with government and workers and employers organizations is developing a

National Employment Programme (NEP) to serve as an operational tool of the National Employment Strategy (NES), developed last year. The ILO Sub-Regional Office based in Moscow is supporting these programmes in addition to specific activities on youth employment, including labour force and school-to-work transition surveys, entrepreneurial and modular skills training, and other activities that implement labour-intensive strategies. Azerbaijan has also committed to formulate a National Action Plan on youth employment to serve as an integral part of its overall NES.

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

The ILO, the UN and the World Bank are developing a joint project on youth employment to provide support to the Ministry of Labor in developing a National Action Plan on Youth Employment (NAP). A youth coalition, led by YWCA National President Alice Mirimo, has pledged its active support to the NAP process. The coalition is currently sensitizing national stakeholders to the need for urgent action on youth employment.

The coalition reaches out to youth via print and radio media, seminars, and through a recent survey on employment.

### [Youth Survey \(Francais\)](#)

### **Egypt**

Following the creation of a National Action Plan Steering Committee (NAP-SC) as the inter-institutional mechanism to supervise the drafting and implementation of the NAP in May strong progress continues to be made. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Migration and Manpower (MOMM) a smaller working level inter-ministerial Technical Commission (NAP-TC) was formed in June with the responsibility of drafting the NAP, in consultation with and for submission to the NAP-SC.

Furthermore a NAP Secretariat has been formed within MOMM as a coordinating body for the NAP.

The NAP process continues to be supported by the YEN Secretariat, as well as strong technical assistance coming from the ILO and active participation from the World Bank, UNDP and UNICEF. GTZ and other bilateral partners including USAID and CIDA are also engaged in developments as well as the social partners and youth organisations.

## **Senegal**

A revised version of Senegal's NAP, or *Plan d'Actions National pour l'Emploi des Jeunes (PANEJ)*, is currently being evaluated. A revised version will be finalized during the next two months through consultations with relevant stakeholders including youth. The development of the PANEJ is a part of the BMZ (German Government) funded project, 'Support for lead countries of the Youth Employment Network,' which is also active in Sri Lanka. The YEN Secretariat is coordinating the project, which is being implemented by the ILO and the World Bank, in collaboration with national stakeholders in Senegal. The objective is to promote decent work for young women and young men in Senegal through assistance in the finalization of the National Action Plan on youth employment, stocktaking and knowledge management, networking and exchange of ideas and experiences, and dissemination and capacity building, especially of youth organizations.

## **Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka is in the final stages of developing its NAP. NAP formulation has been a thorough undertaking, including the production of 13 issue papers, discussion with constituents and working groups, and the establishment of a YEN-Sri Lanka Task Force (YEN-SL) uniting government, youth organizations, trade unions, and representatives from the ILO and the World Bank. The YEN-SL is also conducting consultations with youth. The process will culminate with the NAP's submission to parliament next month.

## **United Kingdom**

The UK Department of Work and Pensions is working alongside the governments of Ghana and the Netherlands to establish a vocational skills training center in Tema, Ghana by the end of this year. The Ghana Industrial Skills Training Center will provide vocational training to men and women seeking jobs in the industrial sector, as well as opportunities for young entrepreneurs working in the informal sector to gain technical skills. The center is also being supported by the Business Action for Africa network. This network was founded out of the Blair Commission for Africa through decisions made at the 2005 Gleneagles G8 Summit, and is supported by multi-national companies and local businesses.

At a UK Ministerial visit to Ghana in July, the Ministers discussed the possibility of Ghana joining the YEN as a Lead Country, as well as the development of the planned YEN/UNOWA Youth Employment Unit and the Tema skills centre.

A new White Paper by the UK Government's Department for International Development references youth employment in its forward by UK Development Cooperation Minister Hillary Brown.

'A generation of teenagers is entering the workforce in developing economies. By 2010, 733 million more people will be of working age, compared to 50 million more in the rich world. Many of them will migrate - internally and abroad - in search of a better life. But, by 2030, two billion people could also be living in slums without access to healthcare, education or sanitation. If ways of earning a living aren't available to help this new generation to realise their dreams, then their bitterness and anger at a world that has let them down could lead instead to political instability and radicalization.'

[White Paper](#)  
[DFID Website](#)

## News from around the globe

### Liberia

In recognition of Liberia's high unemployment rate, which stands at 85 percent, the UN Special Envoy for Liberia has committed USD 1 million for job creation within the country. The grant coincided with the launch of the Liberian Emergency Employment Programme (LEEP) by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. At the launch, attended by government and UN officials as well as the ILO Director for West Africa, the President encouraged youth to utilize the employment opportunities created by the new programme. LEEP will be implemented over the next eighteen months and aims to create a host of labor-intensive employment opportunities for youth.

#### [Press Release](#)

### Zimbabwe

A proposal to confront the youth employment challenge in the country has been developed by the Zimbabwean Government.

The overall objective of the project is to create an enabling and conducive environment to strengthen national institutional capacity for the promotion of youth employment and enterprise development to support poverty reduction initiatives in Zimbabwe. The proposal is currently undergoing a review process by national stakeholders. The YEN and ILO have been asked for their input into this proposal.

## News from the YEN Secretariat

### **YEN Secretariat researches barriers to entrepreneurship in West Africa**

The YEN is researching the barriers and constraints impeding young people from starting and running businesses in West Africa, focussing in particular on Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal building on using previous work undertaken by the ILO (see pg. 4, 'study on youth entrepreneurship.')

The body of evidence will be used by the new YEN/UNOWA youth employment unit for West Africa (see pg. 2).

This Unit would look to build on these research findings when engaging with policy makers in these four countries and beyond in the sub region to develop crucial responses to the problems that hinder entrepreneurial engagement by youth.

A questionnaire has been developed to elicit responses from youth entrepreneurs and organisations serving young entrepreneurs. We encourage these organizations in the countries listed above to kindly distribute this questionnaire to help assist in the YEN's research.

#### [Questionnaire/Introduction Note](#)

### **YEN-ACYF Partnership office Annual Review Meeting & International Symposium on Entrepreneurship Education for Youth**

Organized by the All-China Youth Federation, this meeting, held in Beijing August 9-11, 2006 commemorated the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the YEN-ACYF Partnership office in China.

Representatives from the YEN and its core partners, governmental officials, research fellows, university teachers, business leaders and youth employment service providers attended the meeting. Participants reviewed the work of the Office, particularly regarding the [ILOs "Know About Business"](#) tool currently being implemented in Chinese schools, as well as sharing experiences on entrepreneurship education, and setting a strategic plan for promoting entrepreneurship and employability in China and Asia. The meeting also opened a potentially new area of consideration: young, rural, migrant women.

## News from YEN Partners

### **Canada's CIDA supports intern placement in eight Lead Countries**

The Government of Canada funds an annual international internship placement

programme - International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) under the Youth Action Group of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). As a part of the IYIP programme, CIDA has agreed to fund the placement of 8 Canadian interns or "YEN Associates" in 8 YEN Lead countries. The internships are being coordinated by the Canadian based Institute for Leadership Development of the World Trade University Global Secretariat in partnership with the YEN Secretariat.

The YEN interns will assist Lead Country partners with ongoing activities to meet their overarching objectives and time lines with regard to the development and implementation of National Youth Action Plans on youth employment.

These interns commenced an orientation in Canada on August 21, and will be starting their assignments a week later. The overseas term for each intern ends in March 2007. Final reports will be published and available online shortly thereafter.

The YEN Secretariat welcomes this support from the Government of Canada and looks forward to continuing this important partnership and work in the future.

### **LEAP Africa to award youth leaders in Nigeria**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Youth Leadership Awards will be given to Nigerian youth who have demonstrated leadership in their community towards creating positive social and economic change. Ten youth will be selected as exemplary leaders on November 16, 2006. Nokia is funding the award with the support of the International Youth Foundation.

### [LEAP Leadership Awards](#)

### **Business Action for Africa promotes ICT technology investment**

Business Action for Africa has united businesses to increase private sector

investment in Africa. Microsoft, a BAA partner, has joined in a public-private Leadership Forum run by the Kenyan government to increase ICT capability in Kenya's schools. Microsoft is currently helping the country to set up computer laboratories and train secondary school teachers to use the technology. In the future it will help to develop an effective ICT digital curriculum in order to provide students with a digital education.

### [Business Action for Africa](#)

### **Council of Europe North-South Centre to hold training course for youth**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Africa-Europe training course, held in Almada Portugal from 22 to 29 July, united youth participants from both continents to educate them in methods of poverty reduction. The course emphasized sharing of experiences to encourage co-operation between societies in Africa and Europe and develop a common understanding. It helped youth increase leadership skills and gain experience working with youth policy.

### **Citizens Pact for SEE sponsors youth employment campaign**

The Citizens Pact for South East Europe, a group of NGOs and municipalities, and EXIT, the largest music festival in southeast Europe, sponsored a joint campaign to boost youth employment. The MTV Foundation and the ILO's Youth Employment Programme supported the campaign to increase public awareness of youth employment as a key development issue. According to estimates of the National Employment Office, young people make up one-third of all unemployed people in Serbia. Each year the EXIT festival provides hundreds of jobs to young people.

### **Rotary Clubs International support to NAP initiatives**

Rotary International committed to strengthening and deepening its partnership with the YEN at its annual conference in Copenhagen on 11-14 June. Rotary members serve as mentors and trustees to local businesses not only within their home

countries, but also in several YEN Lead Countries, as well as countries interested in pursuing National Action Plans. Rotary members provide trustees and funds to local youth organizations as well as support for young trainees. This support is also evident in a strong partnership with Youth Business International.

### **News from the Youth Employment Summit (YES):**

#### **YES Network Global Summit**

The YES network's 3<sup>rd</sup> global summit will be held this September 13-16 in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of this year's summit is 'creating markets unleashing entrepreneurship.' Sessions will discuss issues including building trade capacity, attracting foreign investment, and grassroots techniques, in addition to capacity building workshops. The YES network expects over 2000 delegates from 120 countries to attend. The YEN Secretariat is leading workshops and Core Partners, the ILO and the World Bank, also plan to attend.

[YES Website](#)  
[Summit Brochure](#)

#### **YES Network Nigeria policy review toolkit launched**

The YES Network in Nigeria held a test of its policy review toolkit for youth on June 26<sup>th</sup> in the World Bank country office. The toolkit allows youth to review the current Nigerian Employment Policy and apply it to their everyday lives, encouraging them to get involved in youth employment. High-level officials from the Nigerian government attended the test as well as NGOs and World Bank representatives.

In other news, YEN Partner, and LEAP Africa's CEO, Ms. Ndidi Nwuneli has recently been asked to assist in transforming the education sector in Nigeria. Ms. Nwuneli will be working with the Ministry of Education for five months to track the 'products of the Nigerian educational sector' - dropouts, unemployed graduates (estimated at 70%), etc. and to provide hope, equip them with skills and implement high

impact strategies to assist them in obtaining jobs.

### **International Youth Foundation focuses on career guidance for Egyptian Youth**

Through its [Egyptian Education and Employability Alliance \(EEEEA\)](#), a national programme of a global USAID supported initiative, IYF is supporting the establishment of Career Development Centers at the Faculties of Engineering at each of Cairo and Ain Shams Universities. These Centers, to be located directly on campus through donations of space and other resources by each University, will work with multinational and Egyptian companies to develop and provide students with training courses, mentorship opportunities, internships, and entrepreneurship competitions that run parallel to academic coursework and help students develop the skills most needed by employers.

### **News from Youth**

#### **European Youth Pact implementation discussed**

The European Youth Forum, a member of the YEN's Youth Consultative Group, in collaboration with the National Youth Council of Austria, recently discussed the implementation of the European Youth Pact, agreed upon in March by EU Heads of State and government. Recommendations include the necessity of quality job creation, recognition of non-formal education, engagement of youth organizations, and legislation against discrimination. They also stressed inclusion measures to 'eliminate the outdated perception that exclusion is the result of individual failure.'

[Press Release](#)

#### **Press round up**

Access to Finance, Mentorship Concern for South Africa's Youth  
All Africa  
15 June, 2006

[Business matters to be taught in schools this year](#)

June 21, 2006  
Manila Bulletin (Philippines)

[SLUG- ILO proffers solutions to youth unemployment](#)

June 28, 2006-08-09  
Vanguard (Nigeria)

A Brighter Future for the Youths of Latin America

June 28, 2006  
Financial Times (UK)

[The Challenge of Youth Unemployment](#)

July 7, 2006  
The Sentinel (India)

Youth unemployment the focus of five year co-operation programme

Vietnam News Agency  
14 July, 2006

[Zimbabwe: 'Involve Youths in Nation Building'](#)

July 25, 2006  
The Nation (Zimbabwe)

**Calendar**

[Fourteenth Asian Regional Meeting of the ILO](#)

29 Aug 2006 - 1 Sep 2006  
Busan, Republic of Korea,

[YES Global Summit](#)

September 13-16  
Nairobi, Kenya

[Private Sector Development and Peace Building – Exploring Local and International Perspective](#)

September 14-15  
Berlin, Germany

Regional Experts Meeting on Integrated Employment Promotion Policies and Programmes

Windhoek, Namibia  
11-13 September 2006

[World Scouting Report Launch](#)

September 28, 2006  
Geneva, Switzerland

[African Development Forum V](#) (UN

Economic Commission for Africa)  
25 to 28 October 2006  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

[Global Youth Leadership Summit](#) (UN New

York Office of Sport for Development and Peace)  
30 October-1 November, 2006  
New York, USA

**YEN Associates Corner**

As highlighted on page 6-7, under a YEN-Canadian CIDA partnership agreement, 8 Canadian interns or “YEN Associates” in have been placed in 8 YEN Lead countries for 8 months to assist Lead Country partners with ongoing activities related to the development and implementation of National Youth Action Plans on youth employment.

Over the coming months this section of the newsletter will profile each Associates work and experiences in their respective Lead Country. The 8 are:

**Ms.Sofia Jadvaji (Sri Lanka)**

**Ms.Robyn Agoston (Namibia)**

**Ms.Nermeen Mouftah (Egypt)**

**Mr. Mohamed Sultan (Senegal)**

**Ms. Robyn Davis (Brazil)**

**Ms.Rachel Gottfried (Rwanda)**

**Mr. Trafton Koenig (Azerbaijan)**

**Ms. Amrit Atwal (Jamaica)**

We welcome both feedback and contributions. We would like to hear from you at [monticone@ilo.org](mailto:monticone@ilo.org) and encourage you to share this Newsletter with colleagues and friends.