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editorial

Dear Reader of the YEN Newsletter,

In this editorial I would like to highlight two important milestones YEN realized in the last quarter.

For the first time in its history YEN got a private sector sponsor on board. We recently signed an agreement with the consultancy giant Accenture for developing a web based marketplace brokering partnerships on youth employment. One of our strategic objectives for the forthcoming years is to do more of this and to mobilize further support from the private sector, be it for altruistic reasons or because youth are the future customers and employees of companies.

In August, we started the first rigorous impact evaluation of a YEN project. As you read in the last newsletter, we are trying to promote this type of evaluation through our YEN Evaluation Clinics which provides technical advice on how to design impact evaluations on youth employment projects. As we thought we should also do what we preach we initiated the evaluation of one of our own projects under the competitive grant scheme for youth organizations - a training program for young women in Monrovia, Liberia. Read more about this challenging task in this issue of the newsletter.

With best regards

Markus Pilgrim  
YEN Manager

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YEN is a global platform dedicated to developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work. YEN's work is made possible thanks to support from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

We welcome both feedback and contributions to this newsletter:  
[YENetwork@ilo.org](mailto:YENetwork@ilo.org)

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## YEN Grant Scheme Winner Profile: Kafoima Youth Development Organization

**Building on the announcement of the winners of the competitive grant scheme on youth employment for the Mano River Union published in the last issue of the YEN newsletter this article profiles one of the 15 youth organizations that won a grant for implementing their project. The 15 winners were selected out of 270 proposal received from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.**

In this issue we profile one of YEN's Competitive Grant Scheme winners, the Kafoima Youth Development Organisation (KaYDO) in Sierra Leone. KaYDO was awarded \$48,800 to build a training, production and marketing centre for youth in rural Sierra Leone. The Youth Center will engage in small scale manufacturing and distribution of their products locally and internationally through e-trade.

The youth-led organization hopes to create new employment opportunities in Mapaki, a rural town in the Northern Province. Mapaki is located in one of the poorest chiefdoms in Sierra Leone. According to KaYDO, youth in the area have few opportunities apart from subsistence agriculture and consequently many choose to migrate to urban areas. KaYDO hopes to change this by giving youth a good reason to stay.

KaYDO's project places a strong emphasis on ensuring the training of the 100 beneficiaries leads to employment. Their project offers youth 3 employment streams following training. The more entrepreneurial youth will receive a micro-loan for setting up their own business. Those youth trained in construction will receive both on-the-job training as they assist in building KaYDO's Youth Center and the opportunity to be hired by one of KaYDO's partner, a local construction company. The remaining youth will be

Youth at the training centre will also receive training on internet-based promotion, marketing and communications through KaYDO's wired community library.

KaYDO's project has gotten off to a strong start. On August 25 KaYDO held an official ceremony presided by the Sierra Leonean Minister of Education Youth and Sports, Dr Minkialu Bah where he laid the foundation stone for the construction of two structures for the Kafoima Youths Development



Construction of the Kafoima Youth Development Centre

Skills Training and Manufacturing Centre. He pledged the Government's support for the project and the provision of follow-up services to the center.

KaYDO hopes to complete construction in December and begin training early next year. Hopes are high for youth in Mapaki who welcome new employment opportunities being created in

their rural town.

employed by KaYDO's production and marketing center which will produce goods for sale through their network of fair trade distributors in North America which includes Just Us, Thousand Villages and Mame Maternity Clothes Inc.

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## SPOTLIGHT:

## An Innovative Private partnership with Accenture

**YEN recently agreed on a Development Partnership with the consulting giant Accenture on the creation of new webportal called the "YEN Marketplace". The partnership demonstrates the growing importance of public-private partnership in international cooperation and development. We interviewed Roger Ford, Chief Operating Officer of Accenture Development Partnerships, about the new relationship with YEN and what business can bring to the development agenda.**



### Why was Accenture Development Partnerships (ADP) created?

Accenture Development Partnerships was created in 2002 to provide affordable and sustainable management consulting and technology services to organizations working in the international development sector. ADP utilizes an innovative, not-for-profit business model, which enables them to deliver services on a global basis to organizations with the greatest need and least resources. To date, ADP has completed over 300 projects in over 60 countries with 75+ clients.

### Why did ADP develop a partnership with YEN?

ADP seeks to partner with innovative, development-focused organizations that are driving programs capable of transforming and improving the lives of end beneficiaries in the developing world. We feel the YEN has the potential to make this a substantial impact on the important issue of youth employment by facilitating and brokering new relationships amongst key stakeholders, which ultimately should drive job growth and sustainable economic development.

### What will be the major achievement resulting from the partnership between ADP and YEN for you?

ADP is solely focused on making a long-term, sustainable impact in international development. In this regard, we hope that the YEN project will help us broker new cross-sectoral partnerships and public-private linkages which will prove effective and valuable to YEN stakeholders and end beneficiaries.

### Are international agencies or NGOs hesitant to work with the private sector and if yes, why?

Over the past five years we have seen the hesitation of NGO's and development agencies to work with the private sector greatly diminish. Most international development organizations are beginning to understand that a key to their long term sustainable growth is to effectively broker and leverage public-private partnerships. Technology and globalization have made cross-sector partnerships practical and efficient combining the business acumen and innovation of the private sector with the programmatic and social development expertise from the development community. Although

we are only at the beginning of this global convergence journey, we truly believe public-private partnerships are the future of development and will drive efficiency and global impact.

### What benefits can working with business bring?

Partnering with organizations like Accenture which has over 185,000 employees and works with the many of the Global 500 companies, offers development sector programme's like YEN the ability to leverage the latest expertise, technology and experience. This collaboration should facilitate networking and create linkages, which could not be achieved solely within the boundaries of the development sector.

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## Growing number of Lead Countries in Youth Employment

**In February of this year, the YEN Secretariat completed its revision of the Lead Country Network**, the flagship programme for the promotion of youth employment opportunities worldwide. Lead Countries that renew their status in the revised Network as well as new members will receive technical assistance in the development of youth employment policies and pro-

grams, capacity-building on developing youth participation, and access to experiences and good practices from other countries. These benefits are balanced with a number of commitments from the countries, including regular reporting on the new benchmarking indicators comparing the performance of the lead countries in the area of youth employment.

Since our last newsletter, four more countries have joined YEN's revised network of Lead Countries. Two of them, Ecuador and Sri Lanka, renewed their membership, while the other two, Liberia and Zambia, became new network members. Overall, 16 Lead Countries have become members of the revised network.

## Training offered for YEN Lead Country Focal points

**On July 31st, the YEN secretariat joined hands with the ILO office for Indonesia and the Indonesian chapter of YEN (I-YEN), to deliver a pilot training for YEN focal points on reporting tools for Lead Countries.**

Indonesia was one of the first nations to become a YEN Lead Country in 2002, subsequently developing a National Action Plan on Youth Em-

population. The Government's recommitment to the Lead Country process and preparation of a new Action Plan covering 2009-2012 demonstrate its renewed dedication its large youth population. The training focused on two reporting tools that have been designed to help lead countries in their assessment of the youth labor market and the identification of good practices:

**1) Youth labor market indicators:** a set of 7 youth employment indicators which provide overall assessment of a country's youth employment situation. The indicators will be used to monitor and benchmark progress.

**2) Policy and institutional achievements:**

a narrative report designed to monitor youth employment policy, institutional and programmatic

achievements laying the groundwork for shared learning among Lead Countries.

The workshop provided guidance to I-YEN on how to complete the reporting requirements. The Indonesian statistical office offered to take the lead on reporting on youth employment indicators as they administer annually a National Labour Force Survey and a National Household Survey which provides for all of the required statistics. Indonesia is scheduled to deliver their first report by February 2010.

The successful delivery of this pilot training means that a global training will be offered for all Lead Country focal points. The training is scheduled to take place in Lusaka, Zambia on 7-8 December 2009.

For more information visit the [Lead Country webpage](#) or contact Susana Puerto at [puerto-gonzalez@ilo.org](mailto:puerto-gonzalez@ilo.org)



Participants in the pilot training from the Indonesian-YEN

ployment for 2004-2007. With over 40 million young people, Indonesia has the world's fourth largest youth

## YEN's Impact Evaluation in Liberia

Two important topics have dominated YEN's agenda this year: our aim to foster evidence based programming of youth employment initiatives and the promotion of youth participation in the development of youth employment projects in developing countries. This timely combination has brought YEN to plan for a rigorous evaluation of one selected project sponsored through the Competitive Grant Scheme in Monrovia, Liberia.

The project is the "Center for Women's Empowerment", designed and implemented by Youth Action International, Inc. Liberia. The Center aims to improve self-employment opportunities of 300 disadvantaged young women, 18 to 30 years of age, from the poorest communities in Monrovia, through a comprehensive array of services, namely: in-classroom skills training, on-the-job training, and an exit strategy.

The objective of the impact evaluation is to contribute to filling the knowledge gap on what works on youth employment by focusing on the effect of the project on the labor market outcomes of beneficiaries. The evaluation will provide valuable hands-on experience to YEN in designing and conducting rigorous assessments which will be shared with a wider network of practitioners, youth organizations, and other implementing agencies.



Young women queuing to participate in the random selection of beneficiaries

The evaluation will follow an experimental design by which 300 women are randomly selected from a pool of qualified applicants. This design will later on allow for plausible comparisons of labour market outcomes among project participants and a similar group of non-participants. The first information gathering from applicants – baseline survey – took place in Mid September 2009. Training courses started on October 2nd 2009.

Contact: Susana Puerto Gonzalez at [puerto-gonzalez@ilo.org](mailto:puerto-gonzalez@ilo.org)

## Global Partnership on Youth Employment and Employability – Year 2 activities

For the second straight year, YEN will join 3 other global organizations as part of the Global Partnership on Youth Employment and Employability (GPP), an initiative financed by the World Bank's Development Grant Facility. Joining YEN in the partnership include the Arab Urban Development Institute on MENA Children and Youth (MENA CPI), Understanding Child Work (UCW) and the International Youth Foundation (IYF). The GPP builds upon

the World Development Report 2007 main call to invest into the more than 1 billion young people living in developing countries.

The partnership has set an ambitious agenda for 2010 with the objective of building and disseminating evidence on youth employment outcomes and what works to improve them. Activities for 2010 include studies to inform policy-makers; impact evaluations of partner-supported youth training

programs; tools and workshops to promote effective monitoring and evaluation for youth training programs.

Under the Partnership agreement for 2010, YEN will organize Evaluation Clinics for youth employment project managers teaching approaches and methodologies for impact evaluations as well as contributing to a resource guide on effective M&E in youth employment.

