

The Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network (YEN) Newsletter February, 2008

Breaking News

YEN Youth Guide Launched on Three Continents

Building on their global work, the YEN's Youth Consultative Group, with the support of the YEN Secretariat, has produced a guide: [*Joining Forces with Young People: A Practical Guide to Collaboration for Youth Employment.*](#)

The publication is designed as a tool to facilitate young peoples' participation in youth employment policy-making and to provide guidance for stakeholders, primarily governments, on engaging with youth.

Events in **New York, Dakar and Brussels** included both an official launch of the publication and a moderated panel discussion based on the key themes addressed in the guide including: the value of youth participation, strategies for effective engagement between youth and policymakers, and how youth organizations can contribute to addressing the youth employment challenge.

In **New York**, the launch was held on 9 October 2007 at a side event during the 62nd United Nations General Assembly.

The panel discussion included representatives of YCG member organizations, UN youth delegates, and YEN Lead Countries with respondents from the YEN Core Partners.

Ms. Patience Stevens, Head of the UN Programme on Youth, hosted the event and welcomed the guide as "important and timely" particularly given that it underscored that "youth are an asset in development processes."

The panel also included H.E. Prof. Joseph Nsengimana, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations. Ambassador Nsengimana highlighted the priority that his country was placing on youth employment, and informed participants that efforts are currently underway to ensure youth are involved in the development of employment policies.

A short video of this event, prepared by the German delegate to the UNGA can be found by [clicking here](#).

In **Dakar**, the French version of the guide was launched on 13 December 2007 at an event hosted by the Youth Employment Network for West Africa (YEN-WA)

The event brought together over 60 representatives from governments, NGOs and youth associations from Francophone West Africa.

The event was officially opened by the Senegalese Minister of Youth and Employment, Mamadou Lamine Keita. In his opening address the Minister stressed the vital role young people play in developing a nation and the need to

equip and support youth to allow them to fully contribute to this process.

A panel, which included representatives from the National Agency for Youth Employment Senegal (ANEJ), the National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment in Mali (APEJ), the Scouts, and Senegalese NGO Mouvement Citoyen offered examples of partnerships which had been created with young people to ensure their engagement in policies and projects tackling youth unemployment.

[Meeting Report](#)

In **Brussels** the event was hosted by the European Youth Forum (YFJ) on 19 December 2007. The discussion centred around the theme “Youth Employment & Development.”

The panellists included Mr. Budi Tjahjono, Pax Romana, Mr. Thomas Haahr, Human Development, Social Cohesion and Employment, European Commission, and Mr. Christopher Grønstad of the European Youth Forum.

Mr. Grønstad supported the publication of the guide emphasising, “We are proud of being part of the Youth Consultative Group offering this guide to governments that are eager to work on youth employment in cooperation with youth organisations”,

Picking up on one of the main themes of the guide - motivating governments to value the involvement of youth in policymaking processes - he made a strong call for, “National Youth Councils and other youth structures in Europe and globally to be heard when national governments deal with employment.”

Mr. Haahr underlined the importance of youth participation, referring to the recent EU-Africa Youth Forum which preceded the EU-Africa Summit of

Heads of State as an example of how the EC supports youth exchanges. He invited youth organisations, both in Africa and in Europe, to play an active role in the implementation of the joint EU-Africa Partnership.

Youth Employment Network – West Africa (YEN-WA)

Private Sector Initiative (PSI) for West Africa

Activities under the YEN-WA’s Private Sector Initiative (PSI) began to build momentum at the end of 2007. In recognizing the importance of youth employment both as a factor of business growth and of wider development goals, the PSI promotes and facilitates partnerships between the private sector, government and civil society organizations in the promotion of youth employment in West Africa. As part of the *research and knowledge development phase*, the [“PSI Brochure”](#) was developed to demonstrate to business the benefits of engaging with youth on issues related to employment. The best practice case studies contained within the brochure were based on valuable input from private sector partners including Shell International, Vlisco Helmond B.V. and the World Cocoa Foundation, all of whom are supporting youth employment projects in the region.

Inventory of youth employment initiatives in West Africa

YEN-WA has begun mapping youth employment initiatives across West Africa. This mapping documents project details and contact information of existing and planned youth employment initiatives being carried out by key stakeholders. This database will serve as a valuable resource, enabling YEN-WA to create synergies between

organisations and find ways to connect those working on youth employment across West Africa.

Any readers who wish to include their organisation in this database should email YEN-WA at yen-wa@un.org with request for survey. Include the organisation name in the subject line.

Core Partner Activities



United Nations

The World Youth Report 2007 launched

Today's young people are overall the best educated generation of youth in history. However, for many young people, the transition to adulthood is slowed down by poverty and their inability to find decent work. The World Youth Report 2007, *[Young People's Transition to Adulthood: Progress and Challenges](#)*, examines the challenges and opportunities existing for the roughly 1.2 billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in the world, of which 633 million are estimated to be employed or looking for work. Distinct from the 2003 and 2005 editions, it provides a regional overview based on the recognition that progress of challenges in the transition to adulthood may be highly specific to the area in which they live.

UN General Assembly adopts resolution on youth participation in social and economic development

The 62nd session of the UN General Assembly adopted a comprehensive resolution entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy - youth participation in social and economic development"

(A/62/342). Youth delegates representing their Governments in the General Assembly participated actively in the negotiations and contributed to the text of the resolution that calls for stronger measures by Governments to address youth issues to protect and promote their well-being in the changing global economy. The resolution recognizes that while youth today are better placed than ever before to participate in and benefit from global development, many young people remain marginalized, disconnected or excluded from the opportunities that globalization offers.

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) focuses on full employment and decent work.

The [forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development](#) (6-15 February, 2008) follows up on its 2007-2008 priority theme of "Full employment and decent work for all."

The 2007 Commission undertook an evaluation of progress in achieving the goals of full employment and decent work, and their impact on poverty eradication and social integration. The 2008 Commission focuses on policy options and practical measures to achieve full employment and decent work.

A high-level panel discussion on the priority theme will address the national and regional policies as well as best practices for the promotion of full employment and decent work, including youth employment. In addition, UNDESA, is organizing two side events addressing youth issues. The report of the Secretary-General on "Promoting full employment and decent work for all" submitted to the 46th session of the Commission is available at www.un.org/youth

New MDG Target on Youth Employment

A revised MDG monitoring framework, recently adopted, includes a new target on achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people, under Goal 1. The inclusion of this new target is a major achievement as it establishes the importance of decent and productive work as an effective anti-poverty instrument.

The previous target on developing decent and productive work for youth under Millennium Development Goal 8 is to be encompassed by the new target. In his 2007 Report of the Work of the Organization (A/62/1), the Secretary-General presented the [revised monitoring framework](#) to the General Assembly and indicated that all MDG targets and indicators would be renumbered.

EU statement of support for the YEN at CSocD

At the opening of the Commission, an EU statement called for the strengthening of the YEN; "In order to implement the decent work agenda, which also includes prevention of child labour, exploitation both in the formal and the informal economy and discrimination on any basis, it is of utmost importance to give renewed impetus to the United Nations Secretary General's Youth Employment Network (YEN). Their recommendations and guidelines concerning employment of young people should to a great extent be included in strategies for the prevention of social exclusion and poverty as this is crucial to achieve the Millennium Development Goals."



World Bank

New Youth Employment website
<http://go.worldbank.org/VIPJ2OLH80>

New youth employment study completed by the Bank.

Using funds provided through the YEN partnership the World Bank's Labor Markets Team has produced a new study, the [Global Inventory of Interventions to Support Young Workers](#).

The Inventory has been compiled to improve the evidence base for making decisions about how to address the problem of youth employment. As policy-makers consider measures to help young people make the transition into the labor market and obtain decent work, they are hampered by a lack of information on what their options are, what works in different situations, and what has been tried and failed. To respond to this situation, the World Bank has compiled a world-wide inventory of interventions designed to integrate young people into the labor market. This Youth Employment Inventory (YEI) is based on available documentation of current and past programs and includes evidence from 289 studies of interventions from 84 countries in all regions of the world. The interventions included in the YEI have been analyzed to (i) document the types of programs that have been implemented to support young workers to find work; and (ii) identify what appears to work in terms of improving employment outcomes for youth.



ILO

New Decent Work report for Latin America

In September 2007, the ILO launched a regional report entitled [*Decent Work and Youth – Latin America*](#). The report covers issues such as the social inclusion of at-risk youth, vocational education and training, youth entrepreneurship development and the enabling regulatory framework for combining youth employment promotion with young workers' protection.

Decent Work for Young People in South-East Europe

[*A Subregional Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Decent Employment for Young People*](#) took place on 6-7 December 2007 in Ljubljana (Slovenia). The meeting was organized by the ILO in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs of Slovenia. It brought together experts from seven countries of the Western Balkans and Slovenia to discuss how economic growth can be accompanied by the creation of decent employment for young people.

Guide for the preparation of National Action Plans on Youth Employment

[*The Guide for the preparation of National Action Plans on Youth Employment*](#) was released in January 2008. It has been developed to lead and inform ILO policy advice to constituents in member States for the development of NAPs. The Guide is also useful to policy-makers, employers' and workers' organizations, youth groups and development actors as a framework to steer their action towards the goal of

productive employment and decent work for young women and men.

News from Youth

Youth organisations prioritise youth employment at (CSocD)

In a series of statements that will be presented at the current 43rd CSocD (see page 4), the YMCA, the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Pax Romana and the [*European Youth Forum*](#) remind the international community and the UN in particular of its commitments to ensure full and decent work for all young people.

The statements call on the Member States of the CSocD to integrate and protect youth in the global economy, through policies that give them a real opportunity to find full and productive employment.

Furthermore the statements ask Member States to recognise the contributions of the YEN and request the Secretary-General to reinforce the Network, ensuring its capacity to reach out to and work with youth and youth-led organisations and support their initiatives to strengthen national youth employment policies

These statements also ask the core agency partners of the YEN to work with youth-led organisations to further develop and implement goals and targets to involve young people in the formal economy on the national level.

European Youth Forum (YFJ) lobbies EU Institutions and the EU Member States on “Youth Pact”

Following the EU Spring Summit in March 2007, the YFJ has developed a lobbying strategy to raise awareness among the EU Institutions and EU

Member States about the need to give a new impetus to the '[European Youth Pact](#).' This builds on the revision of the '[Lisbon Integrated Guidelines on Growth and Jobs](#)' and draws on the 'Lisbon Strategy 2008-2010'.

The Pact stresses that Europe's young people must benefit from a fully integrated set of policies aimed at improving their education, training, mobility, vocational integration and social inclusion. It also recognises the need to involve young people themselves as crucial players in the Pact and Lisbon Strategy.

In a press release, Bettina Schwarzmayr, President of the YFJ, highlighted that the YCG Guide(see p.1) offered, "a unique opportunity to present the latest achievements of the YFJ's advocacy strategy on the European Youth Pact in 2007 at the United Nations General Assembly."

Yen Associates

Under a second year of a YEN-Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) partnership agreement, seven young Canadians have been placed in seven YEN Lead countries as YEN Associates for a period of eight months. The names of each YEN Associate and their in-country host agencies are listed below followed by updates on the Lead Countries where they are based. The Associates [full profiles](#) can be found on the YEN website

- **Ms. Jenna Shervil** (*ILO, Brazil*)
- **Ms. Mariam Abu-El-Magd** (*Ministry of Manpower and Migration, Egypt*)
- **Ms. Nicole Bachynski** (*Jamaica Employers Federation, Jamaica*)
- **Ms. Caroline Vavro** (*ILO, Mali*)

- **Ms. Dana Higgins** (*Ministry of National Youth Service, Sport and Culture, Namibia*)
- **Ms. Aminah Hussian** (*Ministry of Labour and Skills, Rwanda*)
- **Mr. Drew Gardiner** (*YEN Office for West Africa, Senegal*)

News from Lead Countries

Brazil

YEN Associate, **Ms. Jenna-Dawn Shervill**, is working within ILO Brazil to support the ILO's work on youth employment.

She has participated in the drafting of a joint UN Country Team (UNCT) concept note on youth, employment and migration in Brazil for submission to the UNDP coordinated Spanish Millennium Development Goals Fund (MDG-F).

Jenna lent support to the organisation of ILO "Decent Work and Youth" workshop which brought together key players at the international, state, and grassroots levels, to discuss and develop strategies to improve youth employment opportunities in Brazil. She also assisted the ILO in the promotion and dissemination of the recent ILO report on "Decent Work and Youth" in Latin America.

She has promoted an ongoing open dialogue on the definition of "decent work" for youth in Brazil, assisting the ILO by scheduling meetings with key players at the state and NGO levels in preparation for the workshop related to this field. She also worked on ILO-Brazil's first South-South Cooperation Initiative against Child Labour.

Jenna provided comments and edits on

the Spanish version of the YCG's Youth Guide. She is currently supporting the implementation of the ILOs "Project to Promote Jobs for Youths in Latin America" (PREJAL) in Brazil.

Egypt

Following the completion of a comprehensive situation analysis of young people in the Egyptian labour market, the Ministry of Manpower and Migration (MoMM) with the support of the ILO and the YEN Secretariat, is in the process of finalising a National Action Plan (NAP) on youth employment.

YEN Associate, **Ms. Mariam Abu El-Magd**, is working within the NAP Secretariat on facilitating effective communication and efficient collaboration between the MoMM and NAP stakeholders, both national and international. She has participated in the drafting of a joint UN Country Team (UNCT) concept note on youth, employment and migration in Egypt for submission to the UNDP coordinated Spanish MDG-F.

She worked with ILO Cairo and the Ministry to prepare a presentation of the NAP process for Egyptian youth during the League of Arab States Youth Forum 18 – 22 November 2007.

Mariam is supporting the ongoing capacity building and development of the Egyptian Youth Consultative Group, the official body endorsed by the Government to represent youth perspectives in the NAP process. Within the MoMM, she is assisting in the training of government employees on the NAP and youth employment issues, and is working to establish the Secretariat as a national public information point on youth employment and the NAP initiative.

Jamaica

YEN Associate, **Ms. Nicole Bachynski**, is working within the Jamaica Employers Forum (JEF) to support the work of the Jamaica Youth Employment Network (JYEN), a national initiative hosted by JEF.

Nicole has been involved in coordinating the JYEN Steering Committee and four sub-committees. In working with the Steering Committee, made-up of representation from 20 youth employment related organizations, she successfully secured new funding for the JYEN for the period December 07 – March 08. She has also developed promotional press materials and participated in an interview on a national news programme promoting JYEN.

She is currently developing content and a youth employment registry for a JYEN website. This website will provide online information relating to youth employment, as well as gather information from youth to be compiled in a database. Nicole is facilitating the establishment of four JYEN Cyber-Centres located island-wide. The Cyber-Centres will provide youth with internet access to the JYEN website and other online youth employment resources. Planned activities include the creation of a wide range of JYEN information and promotion materials, as well as hosting of employability and entrepreneurship training workshops and an Entrepreneurship Symposium.

Namibia

Namibia is set to hold a National Symposium on Youth Employment in February 2008.

Coordinated by the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture (MYNSSC), in partnership with the core YEN partners, key national stakeholders,

and the YEN Secretariat, the Symposium is intended to provide the needed momentum and national consensus for the development of a comprehensive National Action Plan on youth employment (NAP). Moreover, the Symposium will be the first time Namibian stakeholders have been brought together on this scale to discuss youth employment issues as well as their contribution to the NAP. Special consideration and efforts will be given to the inclusion of youth from all thirteen regions of Namibia in the Symposium and the entire NAP development and implementation process.

YEN Associate, **Ms. Dana Higgins**, has been working within MYNSSC to support their efforts. She is providing support to the Ministry in the planning and organisation of the forthcoming Symposium.

She has participated in the finalisation of a joint UN Country Team (UNCT) concept note on youth, employment and migration in Namibia for submission to the MDG-F. Dana has organised and conducted a series of youth workshops in the 13 regions of Namibia to get information on youth employment issues. Results and feedback from these workshops will contribute to February's Symposium.

Mali

YEN Associate, **Ms. Caroline Vavro**, has been working with the ILO Mali programme *d'Appui à la Promotion de l'Emploi et la Reduction de la Pauvreté* (APERP) to assist the Malian Government's *Agence pour la Promotion de l'Emploi Jeunes* (APEJ) develop and implement youth employment strategies.

She is working with Rotary International, local Rotary chapters in Bamako, the ILO, La Banque Malienne

de Solidarité and the Fond Auto Renouvelable pour l'emploi (FARE) to strengthen the APEJ's national youth entrepreneur scheme. Rotarian support will come in the form of assistance to business plan development, mentoring and business support services to 100 young entrepreneurs.

Caroline is assisting APEJ to revise the format and content of its youth employment website in order to make it more relevant to youth in their job searches.

She assisted APEJ to inform and gain the support of the private sector regarding the APEJ Youth Vocational Internship Scheme. She has developed a range of communications materials for use by the APEJ regional offices for presentation of the internship scheme to the private sector. In addition, she is working with APEJ to improve the evaluation techniques used to determine the effectiveness of the program.

Caroline is also helping with the development of criteria for the selection of applicants for a new APEJ job creation scheme focused on bakery deliveries in Bamako. She is seeking funding for the program.

Finally Caroline is assisting the YEN-WA with their report on youth employment in Mali and in researching public-private partnerships for youth employment in Mali for a YEN-WA study on private sector engagement in youth employment.

Rwanda

The Rwandan Cabinet formally endorsed its National Action Plan on Youth Employment (NAP) in March 2007.

Building on work by previous YEN Associates, **Ms. Aminah Husain** has

been helping the Rwanda Ministry of Public Service, Skills Development, Vocational Training & Labour (MIFOTRA) develop a strategy for implementing various elements of the NAP.

She has been providing assistance to MIFOTRA in research and planning for the possible creation of a National Employment Agency and a National Youth Employment Fund promoting and supporting youth self-employment schemes.

Aminah has been gathering good practices on youth employment projects and programme delivery by Rwandan youth organisations, creating an online database and finalizing a resource guide on youth employment for Rwandan youth.

Based on the above two products, she has been tasked by the Ministry with the organisation of a provincial best practice and capacity building training for youth organizations in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, National Youth Council and Provincial/District Government.

In November 2007 the ILO in collaboration with MIFOTRA held a conference with young workers in Rwanda "A generation free of HIV/AIDS – what the world of work can do in HIV/AIDS prevention," in which Aminah and the former YEN Associate were involved.

Aminah attended and presented the 'Case of Rwanda' during the League of Arab States Youth Forum 18-22 November 2007 in Cairo, Egypt.

Aminah is also assisting MIFOTRA in implementing a Ministry and Public Agencies Internship Program.

YEN Office for West Africa (YEN-WA), Senegal

YEN Associate, **Mr, Drew Gardner**, has been working with YEN Office for West Africa (YEN-WA) since September 2007.

He has been primarily working on the YEN-WA's UK funded Private Sector Initiative on youth Employment (see page 3).

He has, amongst other activities, created a database of relevant private sector contacts in West Africa, compiled a series of case studies / best practices on private sector support to youth employment, and produced a range of communications products such as flyers and information sheets, designed to motivate greater private sector interest in the initiative

Drew is currently preparing a study on private sector support to youth employment which will serve as a knowledge base with which to build further interventions, including private sector roundtable meetings and country level pilot activities.

He also represented the YEN-WA at ILO hosted Sub Regional Forum of National Youth Promotion Agencies in Autumn 2007 making a presentation on behalf of the YEN-WA.

Other Lead Country News

Indonesia

With support from the Dutch Government, the ILO is seeking to further support the government of Indonesia in addressing the challenges of youth employment.

At the national level, the ILO is helping to strengthen the capacity of the Indonesia-YEN, which currently consists of an inter-ministerial committee chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and a technical I-YEN Secretariat, headed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Labour. This support includes the development of a national employment strategy and an action programme for the implementation of the East Java Youth Employment Strategy, using locally-driven partnership-based economic development programmes benefiting youth.

The ILO is also supporting the Government of Indonesia to improve the quality of education and skills training through the EAST programme in 6 provinces in East Indonesia (a result of the survey on child labour and youth employment focusing on out of school youth in 2006).

Regular meetings are being organized between the ILO and World Bank to explore synergies and seek opportunities for collaboration on youth employment initiatives in Indonesia.

Senegal

The Senegalese Government has made youth employment a priority on both the national and international arena and recently decided to create a separate Ministry for Youth Employment, dividing the previous *Ministère de la Jeunesse et de l'Emploi*. Within this new Ministry sits both the *Agence Nationale pour l'Emploi des Jeunes (ANEJ)* and a *Fonds National de Promotion des Jeunes (FNPJ)*

The ANEJ launched the *Reseau pour l'Emploi des Jeunes (REJ) au Senegal*, in December 2007. This is a network of youth organizations working for youth employment in Senegal. The REJ will

focus on and provide a forum for consultations with youth groups.

The FNPJ which was created in 2001 to provide direct financing to youth. In 2006 it expanded its activities to include a fund for guarantees and a fund for participation or co-financing youth entrepreneurs.

The World Bank in Dakar has recently published a Country Study on the labour market in Senegal "[*Looking for Work – The Road to Prosperity*](#)." The report argues that 97 per cent of job increases are in the informal economy and that the major factors that hinder economic growth and productivity increases are low levels of education as well as skills mismatch.

Sri Lanka

The Youth Employment Network of Sri Lanka (YENSL), a multi-stakeholder initiative coordinated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, and supported by the ILO and the World Bank, launched Sri Lanka's NAP in September 2007. The [*Youth Parliament of Sri Lanka*](#) was engaged in the NAP development process and is seeking continued collaboration with the YENSL.

During the period August to December 2007 the work of the YENSL focused on a Media Programme to change attitudes towards employment choices, including a national media campaign promoting private sector employment and entrepreneurship as viable livelihood options. YENSL collaborated with Young Asia Television (YA-TV) and International Alert (IA) on this campaign. A series of Street Drama performances have also been developed. The production work has already started and telecasting will begin shortly.

Another major activity currently being implemented under the NAP is the

District Youth Training Plan, which involves a rapid assessment to develop a profile of youth in the District of Rathnapura and a Training Opportunity matrix, including training needs assessment of the district. Finally, a handbook on youth training guidance for youth career centres is under preparation.

Secretariat News

Changes at the YEN Secretariat

Regina Monticone resigned as Secretary of the YEN in August 2007 and has taken on a new challenge at the ILO. Justin Sykes returned to the UK in September 2007, establishing a consultancy company. The Secretariat welcomes Markus Pilgrim who joins us this month as the Manager, Coordinating Secretariat of the YEN.

Other News

Mekong Youth Forum

In September 2007, children and youth from the six countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Yunnan Province, China) met in Bangkok for a week-long intensive consultation on human trafficking. The forum gave young people the opportunity to discuss their views about human trafficking, while presenting new ideas on how to prevent the exploitation.

The event was supported by the UN Inter-agency Project to Combat Trafficking in the GMS, the ILO, Save the Children UK and World Vision.

As part of the forum, the Royal Thai Government hosted a dialogue between the young people and representatives from all the GMS countries, during which the young participants presented a series of recommendations. These ranged from increased protection of migrant children, better access to quality education, recognition of the right to a birth certificate for any child born within a GMS country, improved methods to support young victims and prevent them from further abuse and exploitation when they return to their homes, and the need for more outreach networks to help raise awareness about the dangers of trafficking.

<http://www.mekongyouthforum.com>

Schumacher Briefing on youth-led development

The latest Schumacher Briefing, a bi-annual publication of the [Schumacher Society](#) focuses on youth-led development. Entitled [Harnessing the Energy of Youth to Make Poverty History](#) it is authored by David Woolcombe, Founder of PeaceChild International. In this briefing, David argues that youth should be at the centre of all development policy and offers examples of where young people's interventions are most effective.

Related Issues

Global Youth Employment Initiative launched during first Alliance of Civilizations Forum

H.H. Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser-el-Missned, the first lady of the Gulf State of Qatar announced a \$100 million investment in Silatech, a global youth employment initiative aimed at “connecting young people to each other, to capital, to industry, to opportunity.” Her Highness added, “By investing in

our youth, we are investing in the security of our nations, and only secure and confident nations can build alliances based on mutual respect and common objectives.”

Hosted by the government of Spain, the [Forum](#), held 14-15 January 2008, brought together an influential network of political leaders, media heads, youth and civil society leaders, corporate and film industry executives, and religious figures. During the Forum they explored ways of building partnerships to promote greater understanding and respect among cultures.

Calendar

12-15 February 2008: [Meeting of the African Union Youth Ministers](#)

31 March-6 April 2008: [UN Habitat's Act! Speak! Build! Week](#)

25-28 April 2008: [Global Youth Service Day](#).

27-30 April 2008: [Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting](#)

10-21 August 2008: [4th World Youth Congress](#).

19-22 August 2008: [3rd International Young Professionals Summit \(IYPS\)](#).

24-27 September 2008: [YES Summit, Baku, Azerbaijan](#)

Course: Tackling youth employment problems

7-16 July 2008 (English),
15-24 September 2008 (French)
ILO International Training Centre,
Turin, Italy

Following the policy cycle, and in the framework of the ILO's Global Employment Agenda, participants will

examine the latest thinking and practice in the promotion of youth employment.

Contact: emp@itcilo.org www.itcilo.org

Press round up

[Korea's Youth Employment Rate Lower Than OECD Average](#) Donga.com, South Korea - 23 Dec 2007

[Azerbaijan-YES /WRD Baku to host fourth global youth employment summit](#) Islamic Republic News Agency, Iran - 25 Dec 2007

[Government to formulate a national plan of action](#), The Namibian, 10 January, 2008

[Qatar donates 100 million dollars to MENA youth employment plan](#) AFP - January 15, 2008

[Employment scarce for youth](#) Turkish Daily News, 17 January 2008

We welcome both feedback and contributions. We would like to hear from you at YENetwork@ilo.org and encourage you to share this Newsletter with colleagues and friends