

POSTCARD FROM...VANUATU

[From APYN member: Shaun Kennedy / shaun@ilo.org]

Greetings from Vanuatu. We are a small country in the south Pacific Ocean, located approximately two thousand kilometers from the east coast of Australia and to the north west of Fiji.

The country of Vanuatu is actually an archipelago of 83 islands. The total population of Vanuatu is approximately 240,000 people, of which approximately 30 per cent are aged between 15 and 24 years.

The capital city is Port Vila, located on the island of Efate. Approximately 50,000 people live in Port Vila. This population will seem very small to many readers in some Asian countries. But a small population and a scattered island geography in the vast Pacific ocean presents a number of complex and unique challenges for youth and our efforts at securing employment.



Our formal economy is very small and creates very few new jobs to absorb school leavers. The tourism industry is the main employer. Self employment is the only option for many youth, but access to finance and markets for small business is very difficult.

We have only few opportunities for migration to other countries to earn money. Currently only New Zealand provides employment opportunities for a few thousand ni-Vanuatu workers each year.

Our land is the most important resource to support our livelihoods. There are many opportunities for employment and good income from agricultural activities in Vanuatu, but too many of our youth reject this option and prefer to travel to Port Vila in search of casual labour and quick cash. Port Vila is becoming very overcrowded and more and more youth are being caught up in problems related to drugs and alcohol. This is one of the challenges we hope to work with the APYouthNet community on to address.

We hope you can visit Vanuatu some day. We have a beautiful country and very friendly people. We are proud of our rich culture. Our communities are strong and we have a very positive approach to life. For more information on youth in Vanuatu please contact vanuatu.nationalyouthcouncil@gmail.com.

APYOUTHNET REJUVENATION WORKSHOP

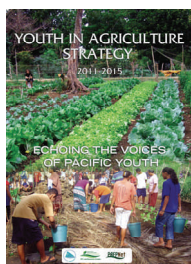
Jakarta, Indonesia / 25-28 January 2011

APYouthNet will host a rejuvenation event to take stock of the progress made in the community since its launch 2 years ago. The event will serve as an opportunity to engage members from the government, workers' and employers' organizations to develop the network further and adapt it to their local contexts. It will also address the issue of impact assessment for Youth Employment programmes, benefiting from the presence of an international expert and sharing of best practices and experiences from the region and beyond.

Identified representatives (tripartite) from seven countries (China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) will participate in the event. A report of the proceedings and the new APYouthNet roadmap will be shared with the community in due course.

YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

[From APYN member: Miri Kunawave / lrdhelpdesk@spc.int]



Unemployment is a great issue that is faced by many of our youths in the world today and more so for the Pacific Islands. The Pacific Agricultural and Forestry Policy Network (PAFPNet) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) developed this resource to recommend actions and initiatives that all stakeholders can pursue to encourage the active engagement of youth in agriculture across the region and the development of young agricultural entrepreneurs. Learn more by [clicking here](#).

PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUES OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

[From APYN member: Susan Gunn and Martijn Hoffman]

Youth often experience stress at work but many people are reluctant to talk about it. ILO-IPEC has just finished a review of literature which can be shared with anyone interested. While there are some interesting studies, it shows that there is not enough being done to find out how serious stress is for youth, what effects it has or what can be done about it. It confirms that work under harmful and stressful circumstances can have a negative impact on the mental health of young people and cause psychological problems. However, some young people seem to be able to cope much better with stress in the workplace than others. Some aspects of work could even have positive consequences like building up self-esteem.

What do you find stressful in your work? How are psychological problems of youth perceived by your adult co-workers? And what suggestions do you have to improve psychosocial conditions for youth at work? ...Topics for 2011 e-discussion forums have not yet been decided but this will be included as one of the possible options. Stay tuned!