

YOUTH BULLETIN

April 2011

Bringing Youth News From Around The World

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UPCOMING EVENTS—APRIL-JUNE

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	MAIN ORGANISERS	ABOUT	CONTACT
27-29 JUNE	11th Melaka International Youth Dialogue	Melaka, Malaysia	World Assembly of Youth	Website	+60-62322711/1817 office@way.org.my

BOTSWANA: The new broom at BNYC

FRANCISTOWN, Apr 4 - The newly elected chairperson of the Botswana National Youth Council (BNYC), Metlha Ishmael Mokwena, has his work cut out for him.

The organisation has been troubled for a long time and previous attempts to quell the situation have failed. Mokwena's task is to breathe life into the BNYC, which is one of the country's oldest and most crucial organisations.

Born on December 21, 1984 in Tonota Village which lies 40 kilometres south of Francistown, Mokwena says he is aware of the mammoth task he is faced with at the BNYC.

Infact, he is quick to point out that as a professional, he has always shied away from contesting for the BNYC chairmanship because of the power struggles that have bedevilled the organisation.

However, he also viewed BNYC as a big organisation that should represent every young person in Botswana, hence he felt the urge to come on board to about bring change. Another reason he ran for the chairmanship is that he was impressed by the way the interim committee, that was appointed in September last year, went about its work and the

amount of change and stability it brought.

"It showed me that the organisation can be professionally conducted and that stability is possible," he enthuses.

The youthful Mokwena says now that he is chairperson, he intends to protect the image of BNYC and identifies corruption and malpractice as the two maladies that have tarnished the image of the organisation.

"I am going to put in controls to ensure good utilisation of resources through the treasurer," he warns. "Any member of the board or secretariat who is tempted to be or is involved in corruption will have stern measures taken against them."

Mokwena says he will define the structures of BNYC because he has realised that there has been confusion of roles between the office and the committees.

He also intends to make the BNYC visible to young Batswana and the nation at large. He will focus on youth empowerment by availing information lobbying authorities to give young people positions of leadership.

Mokwena is a qualified accountant who holds a Chartered Institute of Management Accounts (CIMA) and an Association of Accounting Tech-

nicians (AAT) both from the Botswana Accountancy College (BAC). He says he will ensure that when his term comes to an end in three years, BNYC will be a highly accountable organisation and will have made returns on the sponsorships and donations it receives.

By the end of his term, BNYC will be such a brand that the government and the private sector will be willing to associate with it, while a lot of young people, including professionals and academics, will have an interest to serve the Youth Council.

He says he intends to achieve all these by building strong partnership BNYC and the media. "I want the media to be quick to report the good achievements within the BNYC instead of trying to pick the shortfalls," he says. "I also want the media to show a high sense of patriotism by protecting the image of our country as a whole."

Mokwena is currently employed as an accountant by Gaborone-based First Class Accountants. His interest in leadership dates back to his days as a young boy. As the only male child in his family, he says he was by nature brought up to be a leader and had a lot of responsibilities at home.

Mokwena has been a pre-

fect throughout his academic life. "I was also Chairperson of the Assemblies of God youth, Deputy Chairperson of the Gaborone West Assemblies of God and Chairperson of the BAC Christian Fellowship," he says.

A devoted Christian, Mokwena says he spends most of his free time at church. He is the second-born in a family of four children born to Reuben and Keboe Mokwena.

His father passed on some years ago, leaving his mother to look after him and his sisters. He says his favourite sport is chess and that he also enjoys swimming. According to Mokwena, his victory last weekend means a lot to him "and hopefully to the youth". He says it gives him an opportunity to make a mark in the transformation of his country.

As a last word to the youth, he quoted a verse from the Bible: "When the righteous lead, the people rejoice." He adds: "Now that I am a leader, young people have the opportunity to rejoice since their interests will be served diligently."

[mmegi online]

GHANA: NPP Youth Wing urges candidates to desist from malpractices

ACCRA, Apr 11 - The New Patriotic Party (NPP) Youth Wing on Monday urged candidates sitting the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) to desist from taking part in any malpractices during the examinations which began earlier in the day. In a statement signed by Mr Anthony Karbo, National Youth Organiser, the NPP asked the candidates to stick to the established rules and regulations clearly laid out by the

West African Examinations Council (WAEC).

It also called on the various school authorities to do all they can to ensure that this year's examinations end without incident. "The Wing is hopeful that despite the various strike actions by our hardworking teachers, mostly between last year and this year, as a result of Government's failure to pay attention to their concerns, the candidates would still come out with flying colours as a result

of the remarkable efforts that our teachers nonetheless put in, and the impressive efforts of the candidates themselves in committing to their books," the statement said.

"The NPP and its Youth Wing wish to assure all students, teachers, parents and indeed the whole nation that we are coming back, by the grace of God, with quality ideas, solutions, programmes and policies aimed at addressing the

challenges in our educational system, to harness the remarkable potential of our youth and maximising it for the development of our nation and humanity at large," it said.

[ghanaweb]

KENYA: Days Numbered for Lazy MPs

NAIROBI, Apr 25 – The ongoing campaigns for National Youth Council Election in Murang'a have vowed to dislodge non-performing MPs in 2012 for alleged misuse of the CDF.

More than a hundred candidates have announced their interest to vie for the seven parliamentary seats in the county next year. The youth leaders claimed that the CDF kitty in the region has been misused by MPs and their committees adding that huge sums of money has been allocated to ghost projects.

The ongoing campaigns

for National Youth Council Election in Murang'a have vowed to dislodge non-performing MPs in 2012 for alleged misuse of the CDF.

Led by Kiharu constituency candidate Stephen Mwangi, the youth told the press that they have hatched feasible plans to dislodge the incumbent and non-performing leaders in the 2012 General Elections. "As youth leaders from Murang'a, we are fed up with our leaders and come 2012, we want to do away with the current leaders and in their place elect vibrant and committed young leaders," Mwangi said.

At the same time, Murang'a East District youth officer Simon Kanyingi has expressed concerns over the low registration turn-out in the ongoing exercise ahead of the National Youth Council Election.

He said that only 6,000 youths have registered in the district adding that majority of the youth may be locked out if they don't meet the registration deadline which is April 30. "I am surprised by the low registration turnout yet the youth have been given a golden opportunity to take part in the country's leadership," Kanyiri said. The elections are scheduled

for May 20 and 21.

[allAfrica]

NAMIBIA: 'Youth have much to learn from China

APR 15 - How do you see the significance of the Africa-China Young Leaders Forum? What preparation work has Namibia done for the Forum?

I view the Africa-China Young Leaders Forum as a platform of laying a strong foundation for the future relationship between the youth of Africa and of China. Africa and China have a long history of friendship and cooperation.

China has played an important role in supporting Africa defeat colonialism and apartheid, our view as young Africans is that China will play a positive and constructive role in helping Africans to gain full value of their economic and natural resources.

SWAPO and its government are preparing for the historic Africa-China Young Leaders Forum. We have ensured as hosts, that the all our efforts as a nation have been harmonized to ensure the successful hosting of this historic meeting.

It is also important that we use the platform as an important tool to formalize relations between Chinese youth organisations and our own on the continent. In this regard we hope that the Pan-African Youth Union will feature more prominently in our engagements going forward.

What are your expectations of the Forum?

In particular, we expect the Forum to adopt a declaration encapsulating the aspirations of the African and Chinese youth for a lasting relationship technologically, culturally, socially, politically and economically. The 1955 Bandung Conference was a significant catalyst in strengthening the friendship of African and Asian people, particularly China.

The legacy of friendship left to us by Nyerere, Nujoma, Tambo, Mondlane, Neto, Kaunda on the African front and Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou Enlai on the Chinese side, as well as many other leaders, has been inspirational for us as African youth.

We have a strong foundation of political affinity and mutual dialogue, as youth from Africa and China we must now ensure that we continue to advance in the same spirit on other fronts.

How do the young people of Namibia see China and their Chinese counterparts?

At the moment a number of young people in Namibia see China in the lenses of stereotypes of the Western media. Many young Namibians view their Chinese counterparts with artificial suspicion and resentment.

Unfortunately, there

have been little efforts in our view to change this wrong perception of Namibian youth of China.

It is our view as the SWAPO Youth League that China has made significant and important contributions to world civilisation, and has continued this global leadership position by supporting Africa in its fight against colonisation and apartheid.

China without a doubt is the most significant driver of the nascent economic growth in Africa; China has tremendous challenges including the challenge of creating harmony amongst some 1.4 billion Chinese citizens.

SPYL and our counterparts in other parts of Africa are committed to ensuring that all African youth understand and see China in this light.

Our view is that a deliberate strategy needs to be devised for Namibian young people and their Chinese counterparts to step up exchange programmes beneficial to both countries and peoples.

How do you see the importance of the exchanges of young people between China and African countries?

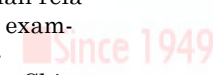
We regard it of paramount importance that young people of Africa and those of China seize upon the seeds of friendship planted by generations of African and Chi-

nese leaders during the days of European colonialism in Africa in order to forge genuine friendship and cooperation at all levels. It must be this friendship that must be transformed into a genuine friendship that benefits all African countries and people as well as the Peoples Republic of China.

It is the duty of each African country to ensure that the youth are granted the necessary space in which to realize the importance of preserving the integrity, dignity and respect of an African person who is residing upon the wealth of Africa.

The consolidation of economic, cultural and political ties between the African and the Chinese people is important for us as young people, our expectations is that the current generation of young leaders will fortify a new era of cooperation based on the principles of mutual coexistence on emerging fronts such as trade, technology, education and training and other areas as I have mentioned before. The existing business relations should be cascaded downwards so that young people also benefit from relations that are strong at party and government levels.

Chinese leaders indicated that Sino-Namibian relations have set an example of friendly cooperation between China and African countries, and even among all developing countries. How



can Sino-Namibian friendship benefit the exchanges among young people in our two countries?

African leaders, including Namibian leaders, must learn and adopt the decisiveness with which China pursues and protects its national interests.

Under the framework of FOCAC, it would be helpful of Namibian leaders at all level especially in all ministries/departments to utilize the co-operation so as to benefit our two peoples.

Specifically, the manner in which such a friendship is harnessed would greatly enhance the friendship and cultural exchanges for the benefit of our young people.

What are the roles of the young people in the political, economic and social life of Namibia? What does the government do to help young leaders in their growth?

Over half of Namibia's population is made up of young people. As such, they remain key players in the political, economic and social life of Namibia. During the 2009 Presidential and National Assembly elections, young Namibians born in a free and independent Namibia participated in elections for the first time.

They did so by asserting their maturity in the socio-political landscape of Namibia. To date at national, regional and local levels

there is an infusion of young people in positions of decision making. Furthermore, on its part, Government has established a ministry dealing with youth affairs and two statutory bodies geared towards molding the growth of young leaders.

These institutions are the National Youth Council of Namibia and the National Youth Service. In terms a particular or deliberate programme geared toward helping young leaders' growth, it is still work in progress in Namibia. But there has been some work in this area of leadership development and Entrepreneurship promotion, specifically The National Youth Council runs two initiatives in this regard called Youth Leadership

Development Program and the Credit for Youth in Business program. We have had exchanges programs in the past with various countries but funding is a challenge for our youth development initiatives.

The Ministry of Youth also makes provision for various exchange programs, and supports when resources allow our youth leaders to attend international conferences and workshops in order to develop their leadership skill.

[The Southern Times]

NIGERIA: ACN will pursue youth programs

IBADAN, Apr 4 - Vice presidential candidate of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), has assured that his party would pursue youth-oriented programmes if voted into power on April 16.

Speaking in Ibadan, Oyo State capital, at a Youth Engagement Forum on the 'National Youth Manifesto' organised by Initiative for Democratic and Economic Advancement Strategy, Adeola said the ACN as a welfarist party was aware of the challenges facing the Nigerian youth and was prepared to confront them positively.

The National Youth Man-

ifesto, which was adopted by the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) on January 7 in Kaduna, was according to Adeola, a very articulate document on the needs and aspirations of the Nigerian youth.

The ACN presidential running mate noted that employment, education, health and involvements in policy matters and fight against corruption which are highlighted in the Youth Manifesto are key in the agenda of the ACN.

He said ACN would provide qualitative free education up to secondary school level as currently being implemented in

Ekiti, Osun, Edo and Lagos states as well as pursue higher education that would turn out employable youths and job creators.

According to him, the nation's economy would receive a boost under a Ribadu/Adeola presidency through the creation of enabling environment for private sector and foreign investment as well as agricultural revolution to change the nation's mono-economy Zebulun Agomufortune. Adeola, who is also the founder of FATE Foundation, urged the youth who constitutes almost 70 percent of the electorate to wisely use their numerical strength in turning their woes into

fortune by voting the ACN at the presidential election.

Citing the establishment of EFCC by Nuhu Ribadu which in a short time reduced the nation's corruption index through successful prosecution of corrupt individuals, repatriation of huge laundered funds, debt cancellation and improved image for the country, he told the youth that the forthcoming election was an opportunity for a positive change for the country which must not be allowed to slip away. He cautioned the youth against being used as thugs by politicians to cause violence before, during and after elec-

tions, but to be courageous by voting for people of high integrity.

Earlier, Tola Adenekan, national coordinator of

the project, described the initiative as one that provided a platform for youths across the country to understand and exercise their civic rights in a

manner that will be beneficial to them.

[businessday]

SUDAN: Youth Creative Activities to Be Launched Under the Blessing of the President

KHARTOUM, Apr 18 — The President of the Republic, head of National Congress Party, Omar Al Bashir will honor the opening session the works of the National Youth Activities, organized by the Federation Youth Secretariat at the NCP, Tuesday at the

Friendship Hall, Khartoum.

The Press and Public Relations Secretary Abu Bakr Al-Obeid told the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) that the activities which will be under the slogan of "Youth to revamp renaissance" covers all States and will display different cultural aspects and continue through August. He said the

activities will start from the level of localities up to the state level, adding that this Youth Demonstration comes in the framework of NCP concern of supporting the cultural youth activities. He said the event will provide youth and creative persons with the opportunity to display their talents and creativity and to make use of the youth energy and insight in

development and progress of the homeland.

[sudanonline]

UGANDA: Youth leaders accuse politicians of manipulation

KAMPALA, Apr 27th — THE national youth leaders have accused politicians of using the plight of the youth to attain political capital.

They said it was unfair to take advantage of the troubles facing the youth to incite them into riots and demonstrations.

The chairman-elect of the National Youth Council, Samuel Kavuma, on

Tuesday told journalists at the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development that there were multitudes of unemployed youth, including professionals, on the streets.

"It is wrong for leaders who know these problems and have done nothing to start manipulating these youth to achieve political agendas," he said.

He said the youth were faced with unemployment, poverty, lack of access to financial services, lack of representation in government and little opportunity to social and economic amenities.

Kavuma said the above problems had made the youth prone to manipulation.

He asked the Govern-

ment to solve the problems by availing employment opportunities to the youth.

[New Vision]

BRUNEI: Brunei, China Delegates Look At Programs To Harness Potential Of Youths

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Apr 26 - The Youth and Sports Department along with the Brunei Youth Council hosted a dialogue session with delegates from the All-China Youth Federation at the Sultan Haji Has-sanal Bolkliah National Stadium yesterday.

The delegation of six people, led by Mr Chen Xiaodong, Vice President of the Chinese Young Entrepreneurs Association are currently in the Sultanate on a five-day working visit to commemorate the 20th anniversary

of diplomatic relations between Brunei and the People's Republic Of China.

Chairing the dialogue session was Hj Abdul Malek bin Hj Mohammad, the Acting Director of Youth and Sports Department while the Brunei Youth Council was represented by its Secretary General, Zefri Arief Hj Mohd Zain Arief.

At the beginning of the dialogue session, the Acting Director of Youth & Sports spoke and later briefed them on the roles and function of the de-

partment.

He also touched upon the active involvement of Brunei and China in many fields of activities hosted in both countries over the last few years.

Secretary-General of the Brunei Youth Council also gave a brief introduction of the council's history and roles and called on for more cooperation with the All China Youth Federation, not just in cultural exchange activities but also many other fields such as entrepreneurship for the

benefit of both organisations and youths.

The All-China Youth Federation also showed a video on its recent activities, roles and function towards developing and educating its youths.

The delegation from China also hopes to work closer with the Youth and Sports Department and the Brunei Youth Council in creating more programmes in diversified fields to harness our youths' potential in different aspects.

[bru direct]

INDIA: Petition in SC seeking ban on Endosulfan

NEW DELHI, Apr 26 - A petition has been moved in the Supreme Court seeking a ban on sale and production of the pesticide Endosulfan across the country.

The petition filed by Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), a youth wing of CPI(M), has sought a direction to the Centre to prohibit the sale of Endosulfan in its present form or any other derivatives in the market.

The organisation submitted that a large section of people was directly affected because of the use of Endosulfan which was already banned in 81 countries and the use of which was not permitted in another 12 countries.

The petitioner said several studies had document-

ed that Endosulfan could also affect human development and it gave example of serious health hazards caused in Kasaragod district.

"Researchers studying children from an isolated village in Kasaragod district, Kerala, India have linked Endosulfan exposure to delays in sexual maturity among boys.

Endosulfan is an off-patent organochlorine insecticide and acaricide.

"This colorless solid has emerged as a highly controversial agrichemical due to its acute toxicity, potential for bioaccumulation, and role as an endocrine disruptor," the petition said.

It said Endosulfan was the only pesticide applied to cashew plantations in

the hills for 20 years and had contaminated the village environment.

The filing of petition assumes significance as Left parties and organisations associated with them have been leading protest in several parts of the country for imposition of ban on Endosulfan.

A group of Left MPs today held a protest in Parliament House demanding a ban on Endosulfan pesticide and questioned whether the reluctance on part of the government to take action in this regard pointed to another "scam".

Kerala Chief Minister V S Achutanandan has led the agitation by going on a day-long fast on Monday.

The Government had yesterday said it would take a view on the issue "in the best interest of the country" after the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) submits its report.

"The use of Endosulfan has been banned in Kerala.

However, imposing a nationwide ban would require national consensus backed by scientific study," a PMO release had said yesterday.

An all-party delegation from Kerala had met the Prime Minister on February 22 and urged him to impose a nation-wide ban on the pesticide.

[moneycontrol]

PHILLIPINES: President Aquino Appoints New Officials At The National Youth Commission

Philippine President Benigno Simeon Aquino III recently appointed new officials at the National Youth Commission (NYC).

The new presidential appointments are Leon Flores III as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer; Percival Cendana as Commissioner-at-large; Georgina Nava as Commissioner representing Luzon; Edwin Andaya as Commissioner representing Visayas; and Earl Saavedra as Commissioner representing Mindanao. The new officials carry with them a wealth of experience and a variety of accomplishments on youth development.

Sangguniang Kabataan National Federation President Louise Gabriel del Rosario takes his post as the Ex-Officio Commissioner while Commissioner –at-Large Steve Laurence Arquiza and

Executive Director Apolonio B. Maleniza II retain their respective positions.

A simple turnover ceremony for the new NYC officials was held at the NYC Conference Room recently with Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman as Guest of Honor and Speaker.

In her message, Secretary Soliman underscored the importance of being creative in the delivery of services to the youth sector and to be sensitive to their needs so they would always feel that they have allies in the pursuit of their worthy endeavours.

Chairman Flores on the other hand, accepted the challenge that go with his appointment as the new NYC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and vowed to continue the

legacy of transparency, efficiency and servant leadership for the development of the Filipino youth as partners and stakeholders in nation building.

For his valedictory message, outgoing Chairman Christopher Lawrence Arnuco expressed gratitude to the officers and staff for their unremitting support to his leadership during his one year term and encouraged everyone to maintain the same dedication and zeal in the performance of their duties and responsibilities under the new NYC leadership.

On hand to witness the turnover rites were former NYC chairpersons Richard Alvin Nalupta, Paolo Benigno Aquino IV and Atty. Mabel Villarica-Mamba.

A testimonial program for

outgoing NYC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Christopher Lawrence Arnuco and Commissioner Benjie Oliva was also held.

The NYC was established by virtue of Republic Act 8044 otherwise known as the Youth in Nation Building Act of 1995. Its vision is to become the authority on youth participation policy and as a prime mover in inclusive youth development by 2016.

Among the NYC initiatives in the international arena is the incorporation and rationalisation of the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO ASEAN) Awards and Recognition Program in the ASEAN through its Chairmanship of the Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation (CAYC) from 2006 to 2010.

SINGAPORE: National Youth Council launches academy

SINGAPORE, Apr 16 - The National Youth Council (NYC) has launched its academy, targeted at capacity building for youth and youth sector organisations.

It is expected to train 4,560 youth leaders and youth developers over the

next three years.

The academy will be led by Mr Aaron Maniam, a member of the NYC Council, who mooted the idea of the academy.

He said the academy will provide a safe and supportive learning environment for youths to en-

hance their leadership skills.

In order to facilitate the academy's training programmes, the current *SCAPE Youth Centre at Somerset Road will be renamed to "NYC Academy".

[CNA]

YEMEN: Yemen Youth Union organizes environmental campaign

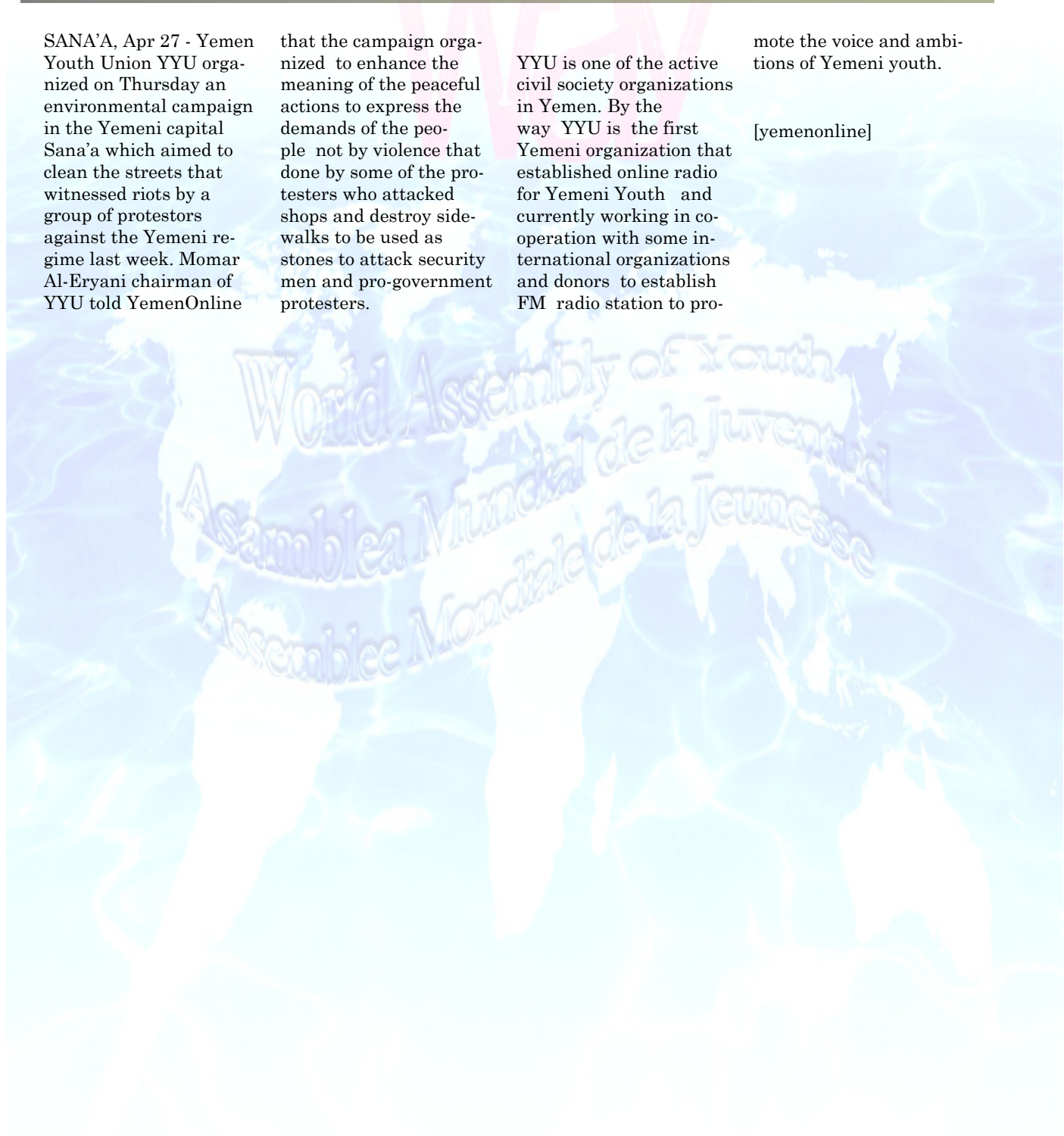
SANA'A, Apr 27 - Yemen Youth Union YYU organized on Thursday an environmental campaign in the Yemeni capital Sana'a which aimed to clean the streets that witnessed riots by a group of protestors against the Yemeni regime last week. Momar Al-Eryani chairman of YYU told YemenOnline

that the campaign organized to enhance the meaning of the peaceful actions to express the demands of the people not by violence that done by some of the protesters who attacked shops and destroy sidewalks to be used as stones to attack security men and pro-government protesters.

YYU is one of the active civil society organizations in Yemen. By the way YYU is the first Yemeni organization that established online radio for Yemeni Youth and currently working in cooperation with some international organizations and donors to establish FM radio station to pro-

mote the voice and ambitions of Yemeni youth.

[yemenonline]



■ In the service of youth

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ARMENIA: 'One Voice, One Cause' Unites Armenians to Celebrate Culture and Commemorate Genocide

GLENDAL, Apr 26 - The Armenian Youth Federation's "One Voice, One Cause" rally brought together community members highlighting the vibrant culture and resilience of the Armenian people a week prior to April 24 commemoration activities for the Armenian Genocide.

The event was held outside St. Mary's Armenian Church and was filled with traditional Armenian music featuring beloved Armenian singers Harout Pamboukjian, Armen Movsisyan, Armen Aloyan, Razmig Mansourian, Harut Hagopian, Raffi Semerjian as well as a performance by Dj Bei Ru.

Local artists and photographers also displayed their work for the public. Photos from Gyumri were on display showing the destruction in the aftermath of the 1988 earthquake. The photos also showed glimmers of hope, where Armenians came together to help

rebuild their ravished city.

AYF members Tro Krikorian and Sanan Shirinian each gave profound speeches which resonated with the crowd. Shirinian noted the strength, determination and courage of the Armenian people who despite having been nearly annihilated in the Genocide, are thriving today.

"Looking back on our history it is hard to deny that we have lost so much, we lost the greater part of our lands, our churches, millions of our people, so much wealth; but we have not, nor will we ever, lose our ability to survive, grow and create" said Shirinian as the crowd erupted into applause.

The AYF had set up a photo booth for remembrance where everyone was encouraged to write a message pertaining to the Genocide, and the photos were combined to make a slideshow playing throughout the event. Community mem-

bers young and old wrote messages calling for the recognition of the Genocide as well as their family's survival stories.

To further promote unity and rebirth in the community, the AYF recorded attendees saying a phrase of the famous William Saroyan quote, "Go ahead, destroy Armenia. See if you can do it. Send them into the desert without bread or water. Burn their homes and churches. Then see if they will not laugh, sing and pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a New Armenia". The video clip represents the strength and perseverance of the Armenian people today, after nearly being exterminated from the face of the Earth less than a century ago.

The impressive program ended with Harout Pamboukjian and his emotional closing with the singing of the Armenian

national anthem. "Now more than ever, we are laughing again, we are singing again and we will be home again," noted Shirinian in her speech.

"The event was altogether refreshing, both in the message of rebirth it relayed as well as in the demographics it attracted," said AYF Central Executive member Niree Kodaverdian. "It was great to see the community at large standing together, remembering their ancestor's strength of will and pride through music".

Founded in 1933, the Armenian Youth Federation is the largest and most influential Armenian American youth organization in the United States, working to advance the social, political, educational and cultural awareness of Armenian-American youth.

[Asbarez]

BELGIUM: The identity and role of the leader, Young Don Bosco Past-Pupils in Europe

LIEGE, Apr 11 - Between 7 and 10 April in Liege there was the I Annual Meeting from the three year programme of the Leadership School for young past-pupils of Europe (GEX) organised in accordance with the strategic plan of the World Confederation of Don

Bosco Past Pupils.

The 30 people who attended from Croatia, Italy, Poland, Spain and Slovakia were joined by Fr José Pastor Ramirez, World Delegate, Fr Enrico Peretti, Delegate for Italy, Fr Ivan Zitnansky, Delegate for Slovakia,

and Fr Jesus Guerra, Delegate for Spain. Under the guidance of the Vice President of World GEX Angel Gudiña they considered the three main pillars of the formation of a Past Pupil – being, doing and communicating - according to a special programme

aimed at a genuine human, Christian and Salesian development.

On the first day the systematic plan for the three year programme was presented and in the evening there was a pleasant social gathering.

On the following day Fri-

ENGLAND: Institute for Youth Work proposed to provide workforce with a 'strong voice'

LONDON, Apr 18 - A consortium of youth organisations is exploring the creation of an independent body to provide youth workers with a strong voice and set standards across the sector, CYP Now has learned.

The body has been given the provisional title of the Institute for Youth Work and would champion the role of a broad range of professionals and volunteers working with young people.

The proposal has been put forward by Catalyst, a consortium comprising the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS), the National Youth Agency (NYA), the Social Enterprise Coalition and the Young Foundation. Youth work training provider FPM is also supporting the concept.

The consortium was awarded £2.6m by the Department for Education (DfE) for the next two years in February as part of its voluntary and community grant scheme. While it is not clear how much is being spent on investigating

setting up the institute, the money will come from this DfE grant.

A Catalyst spokesman said: "As part of Catalyst's workforce development strand, there will be an opportunity to explore the possibilities for developing an Institute for Youth Work. This opportunity has been discussed in the sector for years and would be intended to provide a strong voice for the sector and those individuals within it. The establishment of an institute would develop a much-needed infrastructure at a time when other structures are rapidly changing or being dismantled."

Discussions about the body's exact remit are at an early stage, but it could include a register of youth workers and set standards and ethics. It could also lead to a licence to practice where workers could be struck off for malpractice.

The institute would rely on individual workers paying an annual membership fee, which would give it the freedom to be openly critical. Membership would potentially be

open not only to professionally qualified youth workers and youth work volunteers, but also to staff in the field of information, advice and guidance, youth justice and others working with young people.

A positive step

David Wright, chief executive of the Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services, described the move as a positive step. "The formation of an institute has arisen out of the work of the youth work stakeholder group and is a good example of the sector coming together to respond to demands."

Martin Lightfoot, outgoing chair of the National Association of Youth and Community Education Officers, said he hoped it would lead to the protection of the title of youth worker. "At the moment, anyone can claim to be a youth worker – trained or not," he said. "Youth workers don't even have a nationally agreed code of conduct."

But Doug Nicholls, national officer for community, youth workers and

not-for-profit sector at Unite, was critical. "It appears that organisations with vested interests in the privatisation of public services have taken an initiative without the support of the profession or any consultation with youth workers," he said. "It is likely that this could well be yet another money-spinner for cash-strapped organisations. The registration of workers and setting of standards is far too important to be left to unrepresentative bodies."

Fiona Blacke, chief executive of the NYA, said: "The NYA has worked with Unite and others in the early planning of this initiative. Now that the DfE has confirmed funding we look forward to moving this idea forward and we will certainly be consulting widely with the sector."

[cypnow]

ICELAND: Young Icelanders Review Constitution

IDNÓ, Apr 19 - A convention of the municipalities' youth councils entitled "Stjórnög unga fólksins" ("The young people's constitution"), organized by UNICEF, the Ombudsman for Children and the City of Reykjavík, took place in Idnó in [Reykjavik](#) last weekend.

According to *Morgunbladid*, the youth councils of 16 municipalities across the country participated in the debate.

A report will be made on the ideas discussed at the convention, which will be taken into consideration at the

Constitutional Council, which is currently reviewing the Constitution of Iceland and will propose amendments to it.

The youth councils concluded that the constitution must be written in clear language and be accessible and that its content be presented to children and teenagers.

"We are presented with the New Testament as a gift in elementary school; why not the Constitution?" one of the attendees commented.

"The convention exceeded my brightest hopes, it went fantastically,"

commented Vigdís Frída Thorvaldsdóttir, who is 15 and represented the municipality Árborg in south Iceland.

As for changes, she mentioned the importance of teaching finances in elementary school. "They teach us physics and lots of other stuff but they don't teach us how to handle money," she said.

Svanur Pálsson, who is 17 and represented [Ísafjörður](#) in the West Fjords, said it is difficult for young people to read the Constitution; it has to be rephrased. "It is the basic laws, after all."

As for other changes, he said the chapter on

human rights can be simplified; it should be enough to state that everyone is equal. He also believes that the clause on Iceland having a National Church does not belong in the Constitution.

Constitutional Council member Silja Bára Ómarsdóttir attended the convention and was impressed by the ideas discussed.

"For example that the president should be able to refer matters back to the parliament. It shows how teenagers are full of ideas and want to contribute," she said

[iceland review online]

SLOVENIA: HI Slovenia fights for students' rights

LJUBLJANA, Apr 20 - Students represent the majority of HI Slovenia's members and it is because of this that HI Slovenia decided to stand by its student members and help fight the proposed "Mini Jobs Act" law regarding labour, including student jobs.

In Slovenia, many students have to work to support themselves financially during their studies and of course to

allow them the freedom to travel and explore the world.

The new legislation, already passed in the Slovene parliament, was extremely unfriendly towards young students and those who are searching for first employment.

HI Slovenia, together with the Student Union and Trade Union amongst others, collected 40,000 officially verified signatures and demanded a referendum.

As a result, a referendum was held on Sun-

day, 10th of April 2011 and more than a third of all Slovenians with voting rights attended. The results were amazing, with more than 80% of the Slovene voters voting against the "Mini Jobs Act" law, that has already been passed in parliament.

This matter may not be resolved yet, but HI Slovenia is proud to have been a part of such a significant battle for young people and youth mobility.

[EUFED]

Since 1949

ANGUILLA: The Anguilla National Youth Council Announces General Elections for May 3, 2011.

THE VALLEY APR 11 - The Election Commissioner of the Anguilla National Youth Council Limited (ANYC Ltd) would like to announce General Elections for May 3, 2011 at the Soroptimist Centre beginning at 6:30pm. The movement of Anguilla and Anguillians towards social progress and a better quality of life depends heavily on the extent to which the youth, who make up the vast majority of our population, are able to face this challenge. Therefore, the ANYC Ltd., established in 1977, is the national representative organisation of the nation's youth; whose operations seek to protect the interests of all youth, youth groups, and affiliated organisations; and to advance and promote the general welfare and social progress of not only the youth, but also the people of Anguilla.

The ANYC Ltd. will be having its Annual General Meeting on May 3, 2011, at which time, general elections for the Board of Directors will be

held. All posts on the Board of Directors are elected posts. The Election Commissioner would like to publically announce that the following five positions are to be filled: President, Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. The commencement of the election process marks the expiry of the terms of the outgoing office bearers. These officers are:

President – Mr Kasseem Forde, member of Jesus Christ VIP's

Vice President – Ms. Shauna Richardson, member of Optimist Club of Anguilla

Treasurer – Mr. Jammarr Ruan, member of Anguilla Red Cross

Secretary – Mr. Philippe Delaney, member of Central Christian Youth Fellowship

Public Relations Of-

ficer – Ms. Janai Gumbs of the Anguilla Scouts Association

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer – Mr. Whaldama Brooks, member of the Anguilla Cricket Association

To be an eligible candidate for nomination to serve on the Board of Directors, the individual must meet all the eligibility criteria, which include the following:

- The individual must be between the ages of 13 to 30 years.
- Be a delegate from a member organisation (where member organisation or group means registered member of the ANYC Ltd.).
- The Board of Directors shall not consist of more than two representatives from any youth group or organisation that is a member of the ANYC Ltd.

The period for acceptance of nominations has been

opened and will close on May 2, 2011. Nomination forms shall be made available at selected stores; high school; public library; ANYC Ltd's website; and to each registered youth group or organisation. Please note that no individual can appoint him or herself for nomination and in cases for group nominations, both the President and Secretary must sign the nomination form. All members of the ANYC Ltd. have voting rights and can be involved in the voting process. Do not give up your voting right, be involved! Each member has one vote for each vacant position to be filled.

Youth groups or organisations are also strongly encouraged to become registered members of the ANYC Ltd to ensure they are able to participate in the upcoming election.

[anguillanews]

ANTIGUA: Youth Ambassadors Set for Washington

ST JOHN'S, Apr 12 – Antigua St John's - A contingent of 13 youth, led by mentors Karen-Mae Hill and Silvyn Farrell, will leave Antigua on Wednesday for the inaugural staging of the Partners of the Ameri-

cas' Youth Ambassadors Program, sponsored by the United States Department of State.

While in the United States, the Antiguan & Barbudan contingent will be joined by a Jamaican contingent.

The group will spend five days in Washington, DC from April 13 – 18, and will meet with congressional representatives and receive a Capitol tour that includes the Kennedy Center, State

Department, the National Archives, the American History Museum, and the Air and Space Museum.

The youth will be engaged in a conflict resolution discussion, Lead-

ership in Action workshops, and a documentary photography workshop. They will also participate in a volunteer service project. Another of the highlights of the Washington trip will be a baseball game: Washington Nationals vs Milwaukee Brewers.

After five days in Washington, the group will split in two; half will go to Rochester, New York, and the other will go to Laramie, Wyoming from April 18 – May 4, where

they will live with host families and learn more around the subthemes of “Environment and Agrobusiness”.

In Laramie, the youth will visit organisations that address the issue of environmental protection, and will learn about proper waste management and recycling, in order to share effective practices in Antigua & Barbuda. Youth ambassadors will also be introduced to a rural American education system at

the high school and university levels. Through a bio-jewelry project, they will learn about the development of a service project that uses natural resources to create a product and sell it.

The Rochester, New York programme meanwhile provides an opportunity for the youth to build understanding amongst peers, increase leadership skills, build entrepreneur skills, increase knowledge of agribusiness, science and

technology, and explore American history inclusive of slavery, woman suffrage, immigration and the growth of manufacturing. Youth ambassadors will be introduced to an urban American education system, health care services for the disabled, and partake in a community service project.

[Caribarena]

JAMAICA: 'Provide more funding for youths'

KINGSTONE, Apr 21 - The People's National Party Youth Organisation (PNPYO), says budget cuts to key youth development agencies demonstrates that the Government is not committed to the development of the nation's

young people.

Newly appointed acting President of the PNPYO, Junior Rose, said his analysis of the 2011-2012 Budget tabled in Parliament, showed that there has been cuts to the Ministry of Youth, the Na-

tional Youth Service and the National Council for Youth Development.

Speaking at a press conference at the People's National Party's Old Hope Road headquarters this morning, Rose said youth programmes are

incoherent and severely under-funded.

Rose is urging the government to provide more funding for youth development agencies, so they can return to their objectives of providing training and job placement for

USA: Auburn/Cayuga NAACP reignites youth involvement

AUBURN, Apr 30 - The Booker T. Washington Community Center on Chapman Avenue was closed Friday except for a small, but dedicated group of young people meeting for the annual

elections of officers for the Auburn/Cayuga chapter of the NAACP Youth Council.

Down the hall, a child was shooting hoops alone in the center's gym. He told adults advising the

Youth Council that he was new in town and didn't know anybody, so he didn't want to join the council's meeting. They let him stay to play basketball.

Eli Hernandez, president

of the Auburn/Cayuga National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (adult chapter), believes joining the NAACP Youth Council is exactly what the young man should be doing.

Hernandez attended Friday's meeting to provide advice and guidance to the members.

The Youth Council was started up again in Auburn last year after many years of inactivity. Four of the 36 members were at BTW and elected three officers who will serve for the next year.

- President: Imani Williams, 16
- Vice president: Jahmere Wilson, 17
- Treasurer: Anita Babb, 15

No secretary was voted in, so the position remains vacant until Williams can find someone willing to do the job and appoint him or her.

"I'm really excited," Wil-

liams said. "I want to make this year a great year and I want to get more of our peers involved and work together to make an impact."

Williams said the council's highest priorities this year will be to raise funds and increase council membership.

Youth advisor Rhoda Overstreet-Wilson said the local adult chapter of the NAACP is and will continue to be very supportive of the Youth Council.

She said the council has had consistent monthly meetings from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at the Booker T. Washington Community Center.

"It's been slow and steady," Overstreet-Wilson said. "Our board is really dedicated to the mission, which speaks about change and motivating the community to get together for whatever community causes are at hand."

She said the board participated in a school supply giveaway and also attended two NAACP state meetings in Rochester. The council will soon gear up for summer fundraising efforts, Overstreet-Wilson said.

She said it is often easier for youth to get involved as a group because of their unique perspective and their ability to influence one another.

"It is important because

the youth have a different perspective on things that directly affect them and the community," she said. "It takes youth to motivate one another."

Parent Haqqa Wishnoff said being involved in the NAACP Youth Council empowers children because they own what they do.

"This is for them, by them," she said.

Overstreet-Wilson said she wants the membership to grow this year.

"We really want the youth in our community to know we are a strong, proud organization," she said. "We really want them to join."

[auburnpub]

ABOUT WAY

The World Assembly of Youth (WAY) is the international coordinating body of national youth councils and organizations. The full members of WAY are national youth councils. WAY has 120 member organizations from all continents.

Founded in 1949, WAY has general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and works in close cooperation with several UN agencies including UNAIDS, UNEP, ILO UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO.

WAY works for promotion of youth and youth organizations in program areas such as: youth employment, environment, human rights, democracy, population, health, drugs, community development and leadership training.



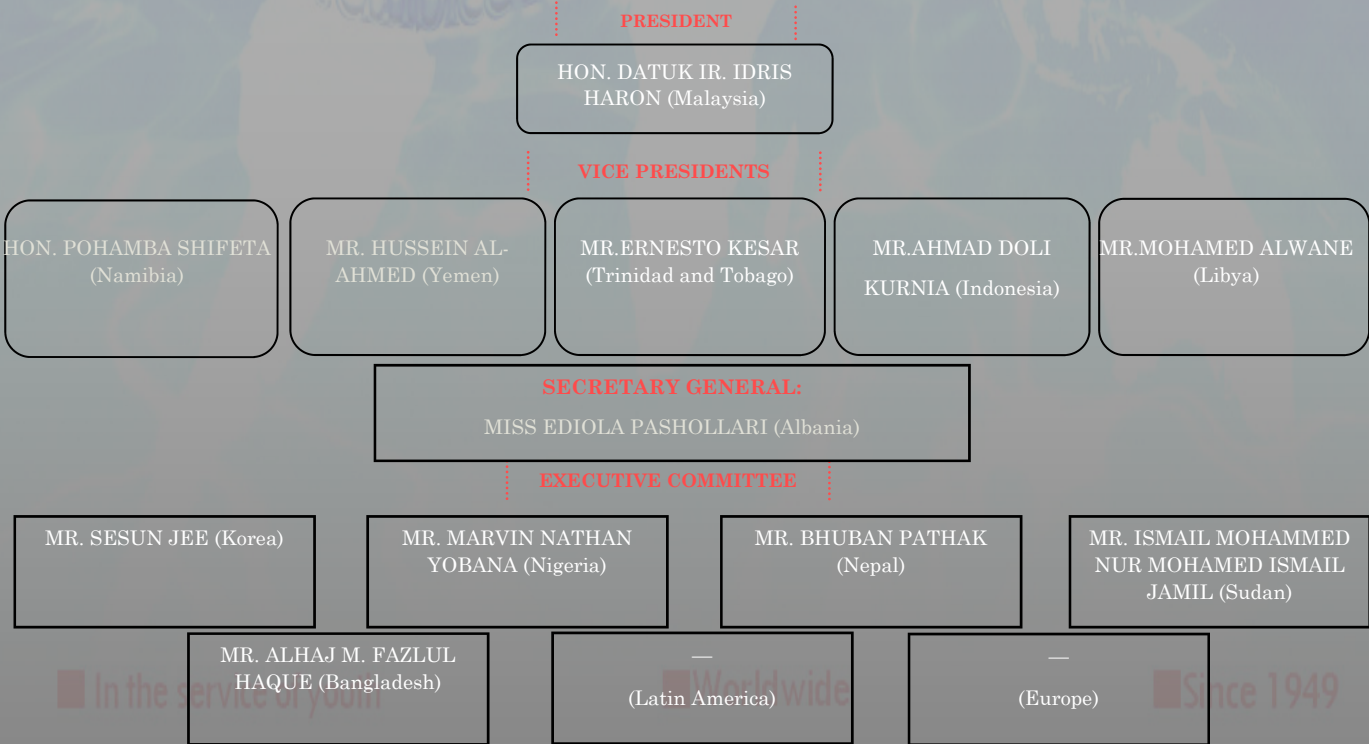
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World Assembly of Youth Organization Chart



In the Service of Youth Since 1949