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MEMO

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
1 Jan 2012	World Day of Peace	

GAMBIA: YMCA HOLDS NATIONAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

Kololi, 06 Dec. — THE junction with stakeholders youth organisations are taining process which trans-
YMCA in the Gambia held and partners. needed. forms information into
a three days National Youth knowledge and knowledge
Employment workshop, at Mr. Sam B Thorpe, Director In his presentation, Fa- into a way of life.
the Paradise Suite Hotel of YMCA, said this training bakary Kalleh of the Youth "Fundamentally, each soci-
from 29 November to 01 workshop is organised as Ambassador for Peaces, on ety must have a system of
December 2011. The aim of part of the last phase of the youth employment opportu- division of labour", he said.
the National Youth Work- big lottery funded project. nities in the Gambia, said He said society has change,
shop is to identify employ- He said this is part of the according to government as in early histories, they
ment challenges facing Gambia YMCA's contribu- statistics the situation of did not have what we have
young people in the Gambia tion in strengthening and under-employment among now, adding that human
with the view to device supporting the youth em- the youth is estimated at beings then were closer to
mechanisms in facilitating ployment crusade in the 40%. He also dilated on the nature and depended on
its reduction to create a plat- Gambia and that he is very positive and negative im- agriculture.
form for dialogue between optimistic that the already pacts of youth unemploy-
young people mobilized efforts will yield ment. He said youth unem- Halifa said what human
(beneficiaries) to interface greater dividend. ployment, in particular, can beings need now is the de-
with potential employers generate frustration, low mand to transform raw ma-
and to discuss the critical Mr. Thorpe further said self esteem and lead to in- terials to address the needs
impact of child labour, low these endeavours will be crease vulnerability to drug and aspirations of the peo-
wages and employment harnessed in the areas of use, disease and crime. He ple. He said they should
harassment of young peo- youth employment and its said the challenges should prepared every a child for
ple. related challenges and in be the mismatch of low the role one could play in
articulating the issues raised level of literacy, poor access society. Major Buba Bojang

In his opening remarks, in the National Youth Pol- to financial service and lack also made a presentation at
Joseph Peacock, the Pro- icy and the National Youth of entrepreneurship skills. the workshop.
gramme Coordinator, said profile, which is a study by Addressing the workshop,
they were trying to review the ministry for Youth and Halifa Sallah said human [All Africa]
the problems being faced by Sports. He said concerted beings must be prepared in
young people with a view to efforts through a strategic life time and that as a fun-
finding solutions in con- joint intervention of all damental learning is a con-

GHANA: 210 YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS REGISTERED WITH MINISTRY

Accra, 12 Dec. — THE ity (NYA) and other stake- youth registration software. according to their core ac-
Ministry of Youth and holders, has registered 210 The essence of the exercise tivity area for the NYA to
Sports, in collaboration with youth organizations in the was to categorize youth co-ordinate their activities.
the National Youth Author- country through an online groups and associations The sector Minister, Mr.

Clement Kofi Humado, who was a collaboration among gas training module at the fees paid by the ADB on announced this in Accra the ministry, the NYA, Par- Management Development behalf of the programme. Thursday when he took his liament and the Ministry of and Productivity Institute turn at the meet-the-press Local Government and Ru- (MDPI) to take advantage In accordance with that ar- series, also announced that ral Development, was of the opportunities envis- rangement, he said the min- the ministry had developed meant to educate and en- aged in the emerging oil and istry had terminated the advance financing of sala- youth networks categorized courage the youth to make gas industry. ry had terminated the advance financing of sala- under the priority areas of inputs into discussions on He said under the new pol- staff and beneficiaries and the National Youth Policy. policy issues and bills that He said under the new pol- arranged monthly payment He said the NYA had also fully participate in the coun- the ministry sought to move of GH¢1 million to the bank developed a website to im- try's democratic process. away from the over- until the entire debt was improve its relations with the Mr Humado indicated that emphasis on the traditional paid off. Mr Humado said public and clients and on the National Youth Employ- mode of funding the pro- plans were far advanced for which the authority would ment Programme (NYEP) gramme to seeking partner- Ghana to host the second provide a chat room for had so far recruited 232,910 ships and grants from the ECOWASâ€™Games in June discussions on youth issues beneficiaries, representing donor community. In fur- 2012. The games will bring which would be used to more than twice the recruit- therance of that objective, together the sporting youth gather the views of the ment level of about 108,000 he said the ministry had in all West African coun- disciplines, including athlet- youth on pending bills sub- at the end of 2008. established a Business Ad- tries to compete in selected mitted to Parliament. Mr visory Unit under the pro- disciplines, including athlet- Humado said views collated He said that significant suc- gramme to identify business ics and wrestling. would be submitted to com- cess chalked up by the pro- opportunities for beneficiar- He said the ministry would mittees of Parliament to gramme was due largely to ies and link them to micro- support the development of which such bills were re- the innovativeness of the credit schemes and markets the lesser known sporting referred, adding that at the leadership of the pro- under the World Bank. He the activities under the National district level the ministry gramme by expanding mod- announced that the ministry Sports Authority to make was partnering with the ules and changing its policy had brokered a debt re- them more attractive and UNFPA to develop district focus from the traditional scheduling agreement with acceptable to the public. youth forums that would modules which had payroll the Agricultural Develop- [Modern Ghana] also link with the sub- implications to the self- ment Bank (ADB) to pay off debts accrued to the metropolitan, municipal and dis- employment modules. Ac- programme since 2007 in respect of beneficiary al- trict assemblies (MMDAs). cording to him, currently 5,000 young people were respect of beneficiary al- He said that novelty, which being trained in the oil and lowances and management

MALAWI: INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME BRINGS HOPE FOR THE YOUTH

Lilongwe, 16 Dec. — THE strategy to compliment the up with this timely initia- from across the country in National Internship Pro- Malawi Growth and Devel- tive. work ethics and start up gram which is being imple- opment Strategy, which lists "As government we are business skills. mented by the National youth development as one pleased with such innova- "The government as well as Youth Council is bridging of the nine priorities within tive interventions and we the private sector should the gap that exists between priorities. "Investing in commend Unicef for sup- provide space where the the new graduands and the young people now will in- porting this program which internship will be provided industry, a senior govern- crease the GDP of Malawi is aimed at increasing the hence this will provide the ment official said. and the profit lines of the marketability and job entry much needed experience to private sector since the ma- skills for young people in the youth," Mhone said. The Principal Secretary for jority of the population will Malawi," he said. Speaking programme started this year Sports, Youth Development be able to afford the prod- at the function Advisory and its board comprises and Welfare, Alexander ucts and services being of- Board Chair for the pro- officials from the private as Mseka, said in Lilongwe fered," said Mseka. The PS gram, Pat Mhone said that well as the public sector. that the programme pro- commended the National the program has so far the program has so far trained 96 young people [The Daily Times] vides a new and unique Youth Council for coming

MOZAMBIQUE: POOR RETENTION IN SCHOOLS DUE TO EARLY PREGNANCIES

Maputo, 01 Dec. — MO- crimination in education Chilundo gave the example undoes all the efforts made ZAMBIQUE'S Deputy affects millions of girls and of Zambezia province by the state to train girls and Minister of Education, Ar- is most prominent when which records the largest wastes all the resources lindo Chilundo, said on they try to get beyond basic number of students enrolled poured into schools to this Wednesday that early preg- education. for general education in the end. nancy forced about 9,300 "The Ministry of Education out of girls there due to Chilundo added that girls girls to stop attending schools last year. statistics show that as the pregnancy was 4.4 per cent are still subject to violence schools Speaking at the opening of a school drop out rates in- increase, particularly in the and discrimination within the schools as well as forum for social reflection crease, particularly in the rural areas", Chilundo told within their home or com- on the theme "No to early the forum, which was or- munity. He added that early marriage and pregnancy", ganized by the international marriage and unwanted pregnancies are often the these students are among y NGO Action Aid, and by the Soico media group. He pointed out that in the school grades beyond pri- mary education there are consequences of such har- 211,400 Mozambican girls, who discontinued their studies in 2010 for various reasons. The Deputy Minis- ter said that gender dis- crimination in education affects millions of girls and is most prominent when they try to get beyond basic education. "The Ministry of Education statistics show that as the pupils get older, so the school drop out rates in- crease, particularly in the rural areas", Chilundo told the forum, which was or- ganized by the international NGO Action Aid, and by the Soico media group. He pointed out that in the school grades beyond pri- mary education there are more boys than girls. Chilundo gave the example of Zambezia province which records the largest number of students enrolled for general education in the country. The average drop out of girls there due to pregnancy was 4.4 per cent of the total drop-out rate in the last four years. "The drop out phenomenon affects the students and the State", he said, adding that when families become used to their daughters dropping out, they are contributing to depriving girls of the right to education. Furthermore, when girls drop out, this [All Africa]

NIGERIA: INDUSTRIALIZATION: LAWMAKER TASKS YOUTHS ON QUALITY

Benin City, 12 Dec. — courtesy call in his office. help drive the process of trator whose selfless and MEMBERS representing He urged the youths of Ovia participating in the agric- dynamic leadership at the Ovia South West Constitu- South West Local Govern- tural sector if they were able council helped developed eny at the Edo State House ment to shun all forms of to form co-operative the area. of Assembly Hon. Sunday social vices aimed at cutting groups. Agbedo has advised youths short their dreams just as he The acting chairman ap- from his constituency on the advised them to take advan- Earlier, the Acting Chair- pealed to the lawmaker to need to acquire quality edu- tage of the opportunities man of the NYCN, Ovia use his good offices to cation as an effective instru- inherent in Agricultural South West Branch, Com- evaluate and initiate youth ment to secure their future. sector as an alternative to grade Edohen Efosa observed development projects in the The lawmaker gave the ad- the unemployment problem that their visit to the office council area as well as en- monition recently when he in the country. Continuing, of the lawmaker was to in- sure standard of such pro- received members of the Hon. Aghedo assured the form him that the people of jects, executed, as part of National Youth Council of Youths of his co-operation Ovia South-West Council his oversight functions. Nigeria, Ovia South West in gaining access to facili- acknowledged this contribu- [Nigerian Observer] Chapter, who paid him a ties and loans that would tion as a seasoned adminis-

NIGERIA: YOUTHS PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR OSHIOMHOLE

Edo state, 18 Dec. — EDO Highlighting the place of to include, the state youth and re-affirmed their un- State chapter of the Na- youths in societal develop- employment scheme, en- flinching support and loy- tional Youth Council of ment, Comrade Solomon gagement of more teachers alty. Nigeria has acknowledged Idiogbe said unemployment as well as other categories the rare effort of the state has remained a major chal- of persons in the state pub- Comrade Idiogbe also governor, Comrade Adams lenge confronting this seg- lic service and the just con- placed on record the im- Oshiomhole to enhance the ment of the society. He cluded youth entrepreneu- mense assistance the State well being of youths in the expressed profound grati- rial skill training pro- Youth Council of Nigeria state. tude to Governor Adams grammes. Over thirty –five has enjoyed from the Secre- Oshiomhole in his unrelent- youths benefited and were tary to the State Govern- The State Chairman, Na- ing efforts to address unem- given take-off packages by ment Dr. Simon Imuekemhe tional Youth Council of ployment in Edo State the State Ministry of Youths in previous capacities in the Nigeria, Comrade Solomon through various policies. and Sports. The State Youth public sector as well as his Idiogbe stated this in Benin Comrade Idiogbe listed Council of Nigeria also monumental contribution to City at a session with the Comrade Idiogbe listed commended the numerous the development of the Secretary to the State Gov- some of the initiatives by developmental efforts of state. Secretary to the state ernment, Dr. Simon the state governor, to create Governor Adams Oshiom- government, Dr. Simon Imuekemhe. jobs for the teeming youths hole which are masses drive Imuekemhe said the

comrade Adams Oshiomhole administration recognizes the obvious fact that the only way to secure the future is to invest in human capital. He stressed the resolve of government to continue to make the desired positive impact on the lives of the people through the judicious use of available resources. Dr. Imuekemhe asserted that the developmental effort of the governor meet any standard available elsewhere in modern society [Nigerian Observer]

SIERRA LEONE: BRIGHTER FUTURE SCHOOL'S YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP

Kenema district, 21 Dec. — A Local Non Governmental organization Brighter Future Sierra Leone programme has ended two days of leadership training with youth groups in Kenema district at the City Council hall along show field road. The training is meant to promote youth in order to contribute to national development through participating in governance, decision making, and socio economic activities. In her statement the chairperson for the programme who also doubles as a Councilor of the Kenema City Council Yatta Sama expressed thanks and appreciation to Brighter Future Sierra Leone for their positive move taken toward the development of the nation. Yatta Sama said the training of the youth against violence is a positive move as their involvement in governance will enable them to know about their roles and responsibilities as nation builders. The councilor said she is impressed to see women participating with their male counterpart as its gender cohesive especially as the country approach the general election 2012. Madam Sama appealed to her colleague women folks to take the training seriously as she highlighted the essence of women participating in the development of any society, adding that advocacy should be one way to interact and lobby so that the goals of the organization can be achievable. In her statement the project coordinator for Brighter Future Louise Harvest Masago said the training is geared towards creating awareness for the youth against political violence and to expand their knowledge towards good governance. She said the training will also motivate youth to be determined in the development of their communities, adding that Brighter Future was able to secure funds from UK government Department for International Development (DIFID), European Union to undertake this training for the empowerment of the young people. She added that the project is focused on strengthening the fifteen existing youth groups in the three wards through leadership empowerment in governance and against violence in the country. Mr Sylvester Sidie Kallon from the Human Rights Commission commended the organizers for completing government efforts in engaging the youth in the country. He said the promotion of youth in governance and leadership will serve as a way of eradicating violence in the society. He stated that the United Nations general assembly defined youth to be backbone for any development in the country, adding that no nation will progress in development where the youth are left behind in decision making and governance as they are future leaders of the world. Mr. Kallon also said young people should be engaged in developmental activities, planning, researching and they should be involved in any national programme so they will be able to contribute positively so that their ideas can be put in to reality. [Awako]

UGANDA: YOUTHS VOW TO PUSH FOR THEIR POLITICAL INTERESTS

Kampala, 12 Dec. — Speaking during the Forum, name wasn't ascertained, dealt with comprehensively YOUTH leaders in Uganda the chairman National said the youth should bor- including corruption, high have resolved to use their Youth Council, Samuel row an example from level unemployment among big numbers to penetrate Kavuma said the youth are Masindi where 60% of the the youth, HIV/AIDS to government come 2016 in a situation which is hotter district council representa- mentation but a few. general polls in a bid to than fire with lack financial tion is youth. She says it have their issues addressed. resources to mobilize for was a result of thorough The meeting ended with a votes and run against elders. mobilization of the youth pledge by the participants to They resolved this during a during the last general elec- raise standards come 2016 national youth consultative He called on the youth to tions which can be done in elections by avoiding brib- forum in Kampala organ- instead resort to using num- the next polls and other eries. ized by Plan Uganda in con- bers to penetrate leadership competitions. She says if junction with the National so as to have their issues the youth participation in [UG Pulse] Youth Council under the pushed and prioritized. decision making is im- theme "status of youth par- A female youth representa- proved, most of the issues ticipation in Uganda". tive from Masindi, whose pressing this country will be

BANGLADESH: BANGLADESH YOUTH TAKE ON LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS

Baridhara, 15 Dec. — IT experiences of his personal standing and interpersonal tion of youth, when Sarah, a Was a special day on Sun- struggles of 'getting his communication skills to BBLT-6 graduate, brought day, December 11, 2011 at voice heard' while attending bridge relations with stu- up the issue of youth voice the Bangladesh Youth college at the age of 11 to dents and communities from getting through to the gov- Leadership Center later carrying out his work different backgrounds. ernment. (BYLC) as Special Advisor as a human rights activist, to the State for Global journalist, lawyer and gov- When Marjuk, a BBLT 2 After the hour and half long Youth Issues, Mr. Ronan ernment official. He pointed graduate, expressed his con- session with BYLC gradu- Farrow and Ms. Lauren out how important it is to cern on the disinterest of ates, Mr. Farrow expressed Lovelace, Director of the mobilize Bangladeshi youth youth to enter government his optimism for Bangla- American Center, visited to confront development jobs, Mr. Farrow shared desh and urged the partici- the institute in Baridhara. challenges and avoid de- how his personal motivation pants to continue to exercise Mr. Farrow gave a lecture structive behavior that is to work in government their leadership potential in and engaged in discussions often created from lack of came by harnessing his the country. It was indeed on global youth leadership economic opportunities. critical perspective on po- an inspirational and great issues with a classroom litical, social and economic learning experience for the packed with enthusiastic During the discussion ses- issues into the drive to gen- graduates as their active BYLC graduates. In his sion on youth issues in erate results in the existing participation and smiles address to the graduates, he Bangladesh, BYLC gradu- system. Ms. Lovelace also were prominent throughout expressed his strong belief ates conveyed their thoughts agreed and expressed the event! When Ejaj that they are to play a key and shared some ideas that "it is possible to bring Ahmad, President and role in confronting chal- which would help to change if you work with the Founder of BYLC, asked lenges of the world. He strengthen youth leadership right heart and prove excel- Mr. Farrow what advice he shared that one of the great- in the country. Sumaiya, lence when you come into would like to leave with the received is "the realization Leadership Training graduates, Farrow left a short yet powerful message, that how powerful youth (BBLT)-3 graduate, ex- Farrow suggested a solution quote: can be when given voice pressed how important it is to getting one's voice heard "Really believe in what you and equipped with tools." to encourage opportunities to political leaders is to are doing, and don't let anyone tell you that you Farrow, who is a Rhodes Farrow, who is a Rhodes to work with Civil Society can't, not even YOU." scholar-elect 2012, has ac- Organizations, if not gov- [World Bank] complished immense global academic and social back- to mobilize young people. He urged graduates to not lose sight of staying con- humanitarian work at the how the BBLT program has nected with the next genera- mere age of 23! He shared helped develop her under-

PAKISTAN: YOUTH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Islamabad, 18 Dec. — A technical institutions across and a 90 seconds presenta- Enterprise Award was im-
National level Youth Social Pakistan. During the com- tion. All the entries of the plemented in two phases.
Enterprise Challenge Com- petition, all the ten teams competition will be judged During the first phase, so-
petition 2011 was held here, were given a problem and by a panel of judges belong- cial acceptability of the pro-
says a press release. asked to come up with a ing to education and social gram was created by con-
Ten teams of young people unique and innovative idea sector. ducting a series of sensitiza-
were selected to participate for improving the situation Before the competition, one tion sessions with the repre-
in the National Enterprise within a given fixed budget. day social entrepreneurship sentatives of over 1400
Challenge 2011. Organized By the end of the day, teams training was held with the technical colleges on the
by the YES Network Paki- were asked to submit their teams to give tips and concept of youth social en-
stan and British Council, idea for judgment through guidelines for effectively trepreneurship.
the Youth Social Enterprise the completion of three participating in the competi- [The International News]
Challenge Award is into its documents such as their tion. The competition
fourth run and is open to all innovative idea, competi- started at 9 a.m. and ended
young people studying in tor's outline, money matters at 5 p.m. The Youth Social

PHILLIPINES: DAVNOR YOUTH CARE FOR POOR KIDS DURING LANDMARK

Tagum City, 06 Dec. — long occasion. For many and social services in cele- held at the municipality of
THE Youth council of Da- years, the provincial youth brating this year's youth Carmen on December 9.
vao del Norte will celebrate council has been staging the week event. To help lessen Governor Rodolfo Del
this year's Linggong Ka- youth counterpart program the number of malnour- Rosario praised the youth
bataan celebration with the at the Provincial Capital, ished, the SKPF will initiate council for demonstrating
theme, "Ipinta mo Ka- where participants virtually a feeding program at the how they can play their very
bataan, Kulay ng Magan- assume the functions of the Dujali Elementary School important role in building
dang Kinabukasan" differ- heads and directors of the on December 6. the nation.
ently. various provincial depart- Slippers will also be given Through the activities lined
Instead of holding the usual cies. to poor pupils of Mesolong up for the week, the youth
annual youth counterpart Elementary School in Ta- are showing that they are
program, the Sangguniang However, SKPF President laingod town on December really "potential energy
Kabataan Provincial Fed- Board Member Eugene 7, while free dental services source of reforms in our
eration (SKPF) will launch Katrina Estrada said the will be provided to the stu- society." He encouraged
civic actions benefitting less youth council resolved to dents of Sawata Elementary more youth to join commu-
fortunate children in the make a difference by pro- School on December 8. A nity organizations with no-
province to honor the week- viding poor kids with health tree planting activity will be ble objectives.

BHUTAN: YOUTH, DEMOCRACY AND MEDIA

Thimphu, 15 Dec. — “If you think you need to raise your voice, you should do it,” National Council’s deputy speaker said. “That is how youth can participate in the democratic process.”

Dr Sonam Kinga was speaking to 32 university graduates and college students yesterday in Thimphu on how young people can play a role in democracy and media. He said that a limited number of actors,

trust, confidence in politicians and understanding of democracy were some of the challenges facing democracy in Bhutan.

The participants asked the deputy speaker on how the youth could participate when they live in a society that respects elders and their decision. “We feel the elders think youth should be involved at the time of voting and be passive at other times,” one of the students

said. The participants over the course of the 10 day workshop will also learn to judge the reliability of information, write editorial letters, media literacy, the power of interview, photography, report writing and social media.

“It is to encourage young people to participate in democracy so that they can engage in media club in their schools,” the workshop’s organiser, executive

director of Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy Siok Sian Pek-Dorji said. Jigme Thinley, 20, a second year BSc PhySci student of Sherubtse College and his nine friends who are members of the Sherubtse media society “The tower,” the workshop would help them understand better their role and that of the media in a young democracy.

[Kunsel Online]

MALAYSIA: SEASONS GREETINGS

Melaka, 22 Dec. —DEAR Members and Colleagues, Warm greetings from the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) headquarters in Melaka, Malaysia!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

continue working closely together for the betterment of youth around the world. May this season be of joyful cheer and peace with your loved ones.

Best Wishes and Regards,
WAY Executive Committee
Members and Secretariat.

We are looking forward that in the coming year we shall

[World youth Assembly Headquarters]

The SKPF further launched a sports fest as a highlight of the event. The SKF teams from the Island Garden City of Samal, San Isidro and Sto. Tomas have already won the first, second and third places in the recently-concluded volleyball competitions. The basketball teams from Panabo (DAVNOR PIO) City, Tagum City and the towns of Kapalong, and Asuncion will finally slug it out during the basketball championship game on December 10, 2011.

QATAR: YOUTH PRESENTS RECOMMENDATIONS TO WORLD LEADERS

Doha, 12 Dec. — AT The build on the achievement of the discussion at the Doha young leaders of today and Fourth Forum of the Alliance of Civilisations in cultural divides. Forum through their own tomorrow”, for their efforts to advance the objectives of Doha, Qatar, a diverse group of 400 young leaders These recommendations unique experience, expertise to advance the objectives of and thoughts on the various the Alliance of Civilisations. He underlined the met yesterday to debate key were presented during “necessity to fight over religious and cultural differences in this unique moment we are living”. He aspects of cross-cultural and plenary with an audience of “We have all witnessed a turning point that will forever change the way that young people shape their societies. You are finding new ways to ensure that humanity’s challenges”. Eventually, as a leading advocate of youth empowerment, Shaikha Moza bint Nasser started by designating the audience as “the true model of the Alliance”. Then, she encouraged them to “seize the opportunities of the Forum to start fresh, revisit history, speak out and redesign their future by making a right environment to be flourished through education and knowledge”. Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, Shaikh Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Salmy, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, is heading the country at the Forum. The main outcome of the discussions during the youth event was the drafting of recommendations to world leaders on specific policies that affect the lives of young people, and on ways to enhance and The 400 young leaders represent a variety of youth-led organisations such as national youth councils, NGOs, youth networks and youth media that are active in their communities and are committed to the UNAOC principle. Traveling from as far afield as Senegal, Zimbabwe, Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Yemen, Ecuador, they will contribute to the discussion at the Doha young leaders of today and Forum through their own tomorrow”, for their efforts to advance the objectives of the Alliance of Civilisations. He underlined the “necessity to fight over religious and cultural differences in this unique moment we are living”. He also added that “no nations can be on its own to face humanity’s challenges”. Eventually, as a leading advocate of youth empowerment, Shaikha Moza bint Nasser started by designating the audience as “the true model of the Alliance”. Then, she encouraged them to “seize the opportunities of the Forum to start fresh, revisit history, speak out and redesign their future by making a right environment to be flourished through education and knowledge”. The youth event is an

integral part of the UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum and a vital opportunity for youth to meet and interact with decision-makers from various fields, including politics, civil society, media and religious institutions. The Doha youth event was organised in collaboration with the Friendship Ambassadors

Foundation, the International Youth Council and the World in Conversation Project. The Alliance of Civilizations, formed in 2005, is an initiative of former secretary-general of the United Nations Kofi Annan and the governments of Spain and Turkey. It has a mission

improving the quality of dialogue between nations and peoples of cultures and religions. The UNAOC benefits from the support of this "group of friends". A powerful network of heads of states, ministers of foreign affairs, NGOs, civil society representatives, youth, foundations, media,

academia and the corporate sector are in Doha between December 11 to 13 and the forum brings together over 2,500 participants from across the globe.

[Main Oman Observer]

SINGAPORE: SINGAPORE YOUTHS IN DURBAN LEARN VITAL POLICY

Singapore, 09 Dec. — DURING their one week at the United Nations **climate change** talks, a group of Singaporean youth learnt some vital lessons – which the best-laid environmental plans can go awry, for instance.

At a reception yesterday on the sidelines of the talks in Durban, South Africa, they shared these with Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and Environment and Water Resources Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, who are in town for the high-level segment of negotiations. Ms Tong Sian Choo, 24, a final-year Nanyang Technological University (NTU) student, spoke about finding out that some incen-

tives to encourage biofuel production can lead to forest and peat-land clearing, which releases more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. She said: 'The devil is in the details!'

In their time there, Ms Tong and her peers had bustled about the International Convention Centre, sitting in for negotiations, meeting other international youth groups for discussions, and gleaning ideas on projects to start when they go home. Others among the 11-strong youth group said they were pleasantly surprised in their meetings. For instance, they noticed that United States and Chinese youth non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were more than

willing to work together on climate change and pollution reduction. This is in contrast to their nations, which are at loggerheads in the climate talks.

The group comprised two student teams which won the inaugural National Climate Change Competition, organised by the National Climate Change Secretariat, with their ideas about recycling and electricity-use tracking, and a group of youth leaders from Singapore environment NGO Avelife, which focuses on social enterprise and the environment. The winning ideas were picked from 140 entries from schools and tertiary institutions. The NTU team of three came up

with a mobile application to track electricity use, while the National University of Singapore team of four campaigned to boost campus recycling by removing trash bins.

After the reception, DPM Teo said: 'I'm really delighted to see the young people here today from NTU, NUS, Avelife and also from the National Youth Achievement Award Council engaging with young people from other parts of the world, to exchange ideas on how they can play a part and take this forward for all of us.'

[Eco Business]

ENGLAND: YOUTH HOMELESSNESS 'ON THE RISE'

London, 05 Dec. — THE Government's own latest education, employment or rising rent costs and increased demand for housing, as well as providing better access to education, training and employment for young people who find themselves homeless.

Number of homeless young people in England is rising, which are expected to be released this week. had experience of sleeping rough. It highlighted concerns over how services are handling the growing demand - 48% of homeless agencies reported turning away young single homeless people because their resources were stretched to the limit. The report made a number of recommendations, including protecting families struggling to get by, youth homelessness is likely to get worse. We can't prevent the recession but we can limit the impact it is having on the next generation."

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The Young & Homeless report - carried out by national charity Homeless Link, which represents organisations working with homeless people in England - surveyed 79 homeless charities and 108 local authority housing services in October about how the problem affects 16-24 year olds. It comes ahead of the

The report found over the past year nearly half of homeless services (44%) and councils (48%) saw an increase in young people seeking help because they are, or are at risk of becoming, homeless. The number one cause was relationship breakdowns with family and friends - on average 50% of young people seen by charities and 65% seen by councils gave relationship breakdown as the cause, the study found. The report found 62% of young homeless people seen by charities were not in education, employment or training; 46% were in financial difficulties; and 26% had experience of sleeping rough. It highlighted concerns over how services are handling the growing demand - 48% of homeless agencies reported turning away young single homeless people because their resources were stretched to the limit. The report made a number of recommendations, including protecting families struggling to get by, youth homelessness is likely to get worse. We can't prevent the recession but we can limit the impact it is having on the next generation."

Jacqui McCluskey, director of Policy and Communications for Homeless Link, said: "With rising youth unemployment, a changing welfare system and many families struggling to get by, youth homelessness is likely to get worse. We can't prevent the recession but we can limit the impact it is having on the next generation."

[UKPA]

ENGLAND: A NEAT SOLUTION FOR THE 'NEETS'?

London, 05 Dec. — RE- Humber – up 33,000 to 15, The government has re- starting next April, and give employers subsidies worth £2275 for every job they provide; taking on 160,000 18-24 year olds for 6 months. Up to 410,000 work and training placements will be created in England, Wales and Scotland and a £50m programme for the 25,000 most

CORD high youth unemployment levels at 1.02 million in the third quarter 2011, one in five 16-24s is not in full-time work, education or training. Biggest year-on-year increase of Neets: North West of England – up 42,000 to 204,000, Yorkshire and

Humber – up 33,000 to 15, West Midlands – up 19,000 to 136,000. The latest Neet ('Not in education, employment or training') statistics have come as a shock and show that now is definitely the time for action to be taken to address this problem.

The government has responded with the announcement of a new 'Youth Contract' scheme. This involves over £950 million being used to provide subsidized work and training placements across the country for young people on the Job-seekers Allowance. The scheme will last 3 years,

disadvantaged 16 and 17 year olds in England will be created to get them into apprenticeships or work. The government has, of course, come under fire from the opposition over where funding will be found for this new venture. In the Autumn Statement announced last week, George Osborne proposed that there would be a freeze of work- ing tax credits for up to 3 years, which has raised concerns that this would hit millions of people earning less than £28,000. The government is keen to show that the funding would not be wasted in any way, with warnings that anyone who refused to join the scheme will be forced to do unpaid work, and drop-outs risk losing their benefits. Announced by Nick Clegg in Leeds (my university), this news has really hit home. With a recent spate of violent attacks by a group of masked youths in the city, there is a definite consensus that this problem needs to be dealt with before it escalates even further out of control. Whether you agree with the details of this new policy or not, there is little doubt that it's time for the government to commit to finding solutions. Hopefully it'll bring about a much needed change, and young people will make good use of the opportunities offered to them. [European Youth Parliament]

ENGLAND: YOUTH PROMISED MORE SAY ON POLICY

London, 20 Dec. — seaside and the London "I want Positive for Youth finding alternative methods of delivering services is key to making sure there continues to be a high-quality offer to young people. "Councils are already moving towards a mixed economy of local authority, voluntary and private sector organisations delivering services for young people. There is a real opportunity, born of necessity, to implement considerable service redesign over the coming years, although the front-loaded nature of cuts to council budgets makes this more challenging."

YOUNG people in England boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham and Haringey - we view and treat young people, and in how we think about youth services. In a tough economic climate, bringing in charities and businesses to help develop and provide youth services are the way forward."

are to be given more say over national Government policies and council decisions which affect them, a minister has announced. A new national scrutiny group and youth select committee will be set up to monitor government policy and advise on how to "youth-proof" it, said children's minister Tim Loughton. long young people in this country have had raw deals. "The vast majority are law-abiding, want to do well at school and are making a positive contribution to their communities. More youngsters volunteer than any other group in society. We must recognise their achievements.

And local councils will be urged to introduce youth mayors or youth inspectors to allow young people to audit local services and make proposals on how they can be made more "youth-friendly". Four areas - Devon, Knowsley on Mer-

David Simmonds, chairman of the Local Government Association's children and young people programme board, said: "Young people are a valued part of our community and councils want to help all young people to get the support they need to fulfil their potential and ambitions. "Council funding has been cut by 28% over four years so

IRELAND: VOLUNTEERING NEEDS REBRANDING

Dublin, 05 Dec. — THE why young people decided to volunteer was that they were personally “asked to”, or that they had an affinity with the organization or cause. The report said many of those actively engaged in volunteering, there had been a shift in attitudes as a result of the recession from “what you have in society to what you can give to society”.

Concepts of volunteering needs to be ‘rebranded’ in order to fully tap the potential for young people to engage in it for the benefit of society, according to a new study by the National Youth Council of Ireland. A report on young people’s experience of and attitude towards volunteering in Ireland was published today to mark the European Year of Volunteering and also marks International Day of Volunteering.

Some 90 young people throughout the country took part in a series of focus groups and interviews used to compile the *Lending a Hand: Young People and Volunteering in Ireland* report. Among its findings were that many young people involved in volunteer activities don’t recognize the term “volunteering” or see themselves as volunteers.

It found the main reasons were lack of time and information, unwillingness to make the first move, feeling they were too young and the costs and logistics involved. The report said that for many of those actively engaged in volunteering, there appeared to be a high level of altruism. Many of them were undertaking the work without a long-term benefit having been identified.

Mr Finlay said it was the case that if organisations were not prepared to treat volunteers with respect, then they were losing out. One speaker at the event also raised a concern about being eager to volunteer, but having to wait months for Garda vetting.

Assistant director of the National Youth Council, James Doorley, said: “Volunteering not only benefits young people and society in the short term, but, by allowing young people to participate in activities, organize events, engage in decision making and in the development of their own projects, helps them to become responsible, critical and committed citizens which has a beneficial impact in the longer term.”

[Irish Times]

Fergus Finlay, chair of Volunteer Ireland and chief executive of Barnardos, officially launched the report.

It said: “This made it more likely that young people would volunteer.” It also said Transition Year in school was important in allowing young people time and space to consider and experience volunteering. The youth council report said in order to retain young volunteers, organizations needed to be flexible and recognize their limited time. They also needed to treat young volunteers with respect and not just assign menial tasks.

Among the barriers to young people volunteering were lack of time and information, unwillingness to make the first move, feeling they were too young and the costs and logistics involved. The report said that for many of those actively engaged in volunteering, there appeared to be a high level of altruism. Many of them were undertaking the work without a long-term benefit having been identified.

“Although ‘altruism’ is a key factor for many young people that engage in volunteering, the ongoing promotion of volunteering will need to be based on a broader ‘set’ of appeals than altruism alone.” Some of the drawbacks to volunteering highlighted in the report included the allocation of what young people perceived as ‘menial’ or ‘crappy’ tasks, by bodies such as charity shops. Giving up study time was also a factor.

SCOTLAND: SCOTTISH ORGANIZATIONS UNITE FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY FOR GAY

Edinburgh, 09 Dec. — SEVEN Scottish groups campaigning for marriage equality for gay couples have united to back Scottish Government plans to legalise same-sex marriage.

Representatives from the Equality Network, the Scottish Youth Parliament, Amnesty International, UNISON, the Humanist Society of Scotland, LGBT Youth Scotland and NUS Scotland joined together this morning at the Scottish Youth Parliament offices to announce their support for equal marriage in Scotland. And following the announcement, campaigners handed-over 18,000 consultation responses to the Scottish Government in support of its plans to legalize same-sex marriage. The responses were collected by the Equal Marriage Campaign, led by the Equality Network, the Love Equally campaign led by the Scottish Youth Parliament, LGBT Youth Scotland and the NUS Scotland LGBT Campaign.

“Today we have seen a rainbow coalition of organisa-

tions from across Scottish society voice their strong support for equal marriage, Tom French, policy coordinator for the Equality Network, said. It is increasingly clear that the vast majority of Scots support same-sex marriage. For most people this is a simple issue of love, equality and fairness. If same-sex couples love each other and want to get married, then why should they be banned from doing so?”

“There can be no excuse for continuing to deny same-sex couples equality under the law. We hope the Scottish Government will listen to what is being said, stand by its values and legislate for equal marriage.” Grant Costello MSYP, chair of the Scottish Youth Parliament, said that the young people of Scotland want to live in a “Scotland which is truly equal, where every Scot has access to the same rights regardless of their sexual orientation”. We know this to be true because we have asked them,” he continued.

Also backing the campaign is Amnesty International. Scotland director Shabnum Mustapha, said: “We believe that from a human rights perspective, the Scottish Government’s proposals deliver equal rights for same-sex couples, whilst promoting and extending the right to religious freedom. “Amnesty has a strong history of standing up for and supporting the

“Through the consultation and campaigning work, our MSYPs (Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament) from all over Scotland have spoken with thousands of young people on the issue of marriage equality. They are overwhelming in their support. Through our national campaign ‘Love Equally’, we have encouraged these young people to voice their support, engage in the democratic process and respond to the government’s consultation a process which is at the heart of the SYP’s mission – to raise the voice of young people in Scotland and to ensure that voice is listened to by decision makers.”

rights of the LGBT communities around the world. In too many countries LGBT people still face discrimination and persecution that ranges from ill-treatment and violence to execution, imprisonment and torture. “We believe the Scottish Government’s proposals will proudly place Scotland at the forefront of promoting equality and human rights for LGBT people nationally as well as internationally.” For the Humanists, John Bishop, the secretary of Humanist Society of Scotland, pointed out that his group had 7,000 members and is the third largest provider of marriages in Scotland. “Despite our clear wish to conduct same-sex marriages, as the law stands, we are wrongly prevented from doing so. This is an unacceptable infringement on our freedom of belief. “As Humanists, we seek to reflect the views of the growing majority of Scots who have no religious affiliation and who want to promote a secular Scotland in which there is equal treatment in law and policy of

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“As Humanists, we seek to reflect the views of the growing majority of Scots who have no religious affiliation and who want to promote a secular Scotland in which there is equal treatment in law and policy of

everyone, regardless of religion or belief. We fully support the Equal Marriage campaign to lift the ban on same-sex marriage in Scotland and will be submitting a detailed response to the Scottish Government supporting equality.”

Mhairi Logan, head of policy at LGBT Youth Scotland, said that; through campaigning with the LGBT National Youth Council, the group had received the highest number of young people responses for any consultation they

have ever been involved in and this had been an “undeniably empowering process” for young people. Nathan Sparling, National Union of Students Scotland LGBT officer, pointed out that the campaign showed the broad support that exists for same-sex marriages in Scotland today.

“The support shown by students, young people, religious groups and the public to give a basic right to those who wish to marry the person they love has been overwhelming,” he said. “The

community has come together to say ‘yes’, and I hope the Scottish Government maintains its position, so we’ll see true equality in Scotland in the near future.” The Equal Marriage campaign has received backing from politicians across the political spectrum, including the Scottish Government who have stated they are minded to lift the ban on same-sex marriage.

Opinion polls suggest a majority of Scots support equal marriage, including the Scottish Social Attitudes

Survey 2010 which indicated 61% support versus 19% opposition. This included a majority of respondents following all the major faiths and political parties in Scotland. In the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey (2010), 61% of respondents agreed that “gay or lesbian couples should have the right to marry one another if they want to.”

[Queer UK]

AUSTRALIA : AUSTRALIAN YOUTH FORUM 2012 STEERING COMMITTEE

Canberra, 12 Dec. — MINISTER for Youth Peter Garrett on the 1st December announced the members of the 2012 Australian Youth Forum (AYF) Steering Committee. It will provide a link between the Australian Government and young people.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for the members of the AYF to advise government and empower other young people to engage with the government,” Mr. Garrett said.

“I will be seeking their advice on the future development of the Australian Youth Forum, as well as their views on how best to build our interactions with young people, in particular those who face barriers to participation. “The 2012 Steering Committee members have been selected because of their passionate commitment to youth engagement, their expertise, and their diverse personal experiences; and i look forward to working with them next year. The Australian government recognizes the vital contribution that young people make to our society, and we value the opinions and ideas put forward by the Australian Youth Forum Steering Committee.”

The 2012 Steering Committee will be comprised of eight new members and two carry-over members from 2011. Mr Garrett announced Ms Sara Saleh, an executive member of community-based not-for-profit organization Mission of Hope, as chair of the 2012 Steering Committee.

“Sara brings her experience of being a member in 2011 and a strong media and communication background, to lead the Committee,” Mr Garrett said. “I would like to thank the outgoing members of the Australian Youth Forum Steering Committee for their contribution they have made this year, and i hope they will continue to be advocates for young people. “I congratulate the incoming members and look forward to working with them over the next twelve months” he said.

[Australian Youth Forum]

CANADA: YOUTH WORK TO HELP SOLVE ABORIGINAL AIDS CRISIS

Ottawa, 09 Dec — ABO- RIGINAL youth participated in an Ottawa Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week forum on Dec. 1 to have their voices heard and to invite a more positive partnership with communities to promote awareness across Canada.

The National Aboriginal Youth Council on HIV and AIDS travelled to Ottawa for the events taking place from Dec. 1 to 5 to spread the word about the importance of creating community leadership and connection when it comes to Aboriginal youth and AIDS awareness. “We are here to initiate more partnerships and capacity building. It is about the need to engage youth,” said council member Carrie Robinson.

The council is made up of youth from across Canada who meet monthly through teleconferencing. Robinson was joined by five other members for the meeting.

Krista Shore, honorary council member and HIV-positive mother of four, said she came to the event to learn and share with everyone who is willing to participate. “We are the population that are being affected,” the 29-year-old Shore said. “It is heart wrenching when you look at the numbers.”

Those numbers show there is indeed cause for worry. According to statistics from the Public Health Agency of Canada’s HIV/AIDS Epi Update from July 2010, between 1979 and 2008, 19.3 per cent of reported AIDS cases among Aboriginal people were between the ages of 15 and 29, compared with 14.8 per cent of reported AIDS cases among non-Aboriginal people in the same age group. The council was created to address those numbers. Robinson and Shore said they hope their participation in the awareness week will help reduce those numbers.

The council is made up of youth from across Canada who meet monthly through teleconferencing. Robinson was joined by five other members for the meeting.

“Aboriginal people in Canada continue to be overrepresented in the HIV and AIDS epidemic,” said Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said in a message to those attending the event. “The 2010 Epi Update from the Public Health Agency of Canada reports that 4,000 to 6,100 First Nations, Inuit and Métis are living with HIV (including AIDS) in Canada.”

Council member Ashley Nanton said the most important step is creating a path of communication between Aboriginal youth and elders. “Youth need to work with elders and look at our roots and reclaim them,” Nanton said. “We need to live with a healthy mind and spirit.” One of the things the council discussed was that the way sex education is taught in schools needs to change.

Council member Brett Friday said he was lucky when

it came to the choices he made and the choices he could have made. Friday entered urban life around the age of 18 from the reservation; he said he began to participate in a youth group, which led him to the right path.

“There have been lots of stories I have heard working with this council, which are similar to mine, but I was lucky,” said Friday, who is now a life skills coach with the council. “The youth group changed my life and I am lucky to have found this positive path.”

Shore said she would love to see more youth follow a positive path and hopes the connections the council is making at the forum will facilitate that change.

[Your Ottawa Region.com]

USA: ORANGE COUNTY NAMED "100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE"

Orange County, N.Y., 08 Dec. — THE Middletown Mayor Youth Council meets to talk about upcoming fundraisers. Gatherings like this are why Orange County was just named one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People.

Orange County, thousands of teenagers are involved in Youth Council activities. This is the second year in a row Orange County received this honor and this award is given out to communities throughout the country in an effort to reduce the high school dropout rate. "We're doing fairly well in Orange County," said Chichester. "On the national level, the unfortunate rate is that a kid drops out of school every 17 seconds. We're nowhere near that." Students who have made the win possible are finding validation they can make a difference.

"There were over 300 applications and they only select 100, so this year it was very competitive," said Orange County Youth Bureau Technician Colleen Monaghan. "In these tight fiscal times, to get that kind of recognition with not too many dollars and the resources shrinking, it makes us much happier to receive this kind of achievement," said Orange County Youth Bureau Executive Director Carl Chichester.

doing things like these," said Middletown High School sophomore Daniel Thompson. "We brought book bags and school supplies to the kids who need it in Middletown," said Middletown High School freshman John Maniscalco. "It's just basically trying to make the community a better place to live in," said Middletown High School freshman Dylan Hill.

The honor comes with a \$2,500 cash prize. That money is being used for a celebration dinner.

"You can actually see the impact as we progress in [YNN]

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