



World Assembly of Youth
Assemblee Mondiale de la Jeunesse
Asamblea Mundial de la Juventud

YOUTH BULLETIN

January Issue

Bringing Youth News From Around The World

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UPCOMING EVENTS—FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	MAIN ORGANISERS	ABOUT	CONTACT
20th-27th February	INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE	South Sulawesi, Central Kalimantan and East Nusatenggara, Indonesia	Indonesian National Youth Council	http://www.iyfcc.org/	mustafa_radia@yahoo.co.id Arief_jamaluddin@yahoo.co.id
21st-22nd March	TODAY'S LEADERS SUMMIT	Borneo Convention Centre Kuching-Sarawak Malaysia	Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation	http://www.tomorrowleaders.biz/	iyfcc2010@yahoo.com

ANGOLA: Minister Calls for more environmental responsibility

LUANDA, 30 Jan – THE Angolan minister of Environment, Fátima Jardim, Saturday in Luanda, appealed to the youth for a bigger responsibility and consciousness to avoid practices that harm the environment and human health.

Fátima Jardim was speaking on the fringes of the march that went in the Angolan capital under the motto

“Together we fight waste for a sound environment” sponsored by the concerned Ministry.

According to the minister, there is need for the youth to participate in citizenship projects carried out by Angolan Government, against rubbish, for a dignified living for the coming generations.

On the other hand, the minister also spoke of the need

for a fight against the use of alcohol and drugs among the youth, saying this causes serious grave health problems.

The minister also appealed to the media to create information spaces for awareness of the populations on how to preserve the environment.

The march that went from Hotel Fórum, down to Ho-

Chi-Mim Avenue, brought together MPs, members of the National Police and Armed Forces, administrators, athletes and members of the public.

[AngolaPress]

BOTSWANA: BNYC Logo to change

The Botswana National Youth Council (BNYC) logo will be changed to make it more appealing as a brand, Mmegi has been informed.

GABARONE, 31 Jan - In an interview with Mmegi this week on Monday, acting BNYC chairperson, Solly Reikeletseng, said they have decided to re-brand the BNYC logo to make it more attractive. He said at the mo-

ment, the BNYC is only known for the controversies surrounding it.

"Youth don't know much about its programmes. But these are the programmes targeted at developing their lives. We have decided to change it because it looks archaic.

"You would not think it's for a youth organisation. Actu-

ally at the moment, you will realise that BNYC is known by a few people though it was set up in 1974. That is not how a brand should be," he said.

Though he would not say what the new logo will look like, Reikeletseng said they will moot the idea before the BNYC general assembly to be held in Francistown, to seek approval.

Reikeletseng said as part of turning the BNYC into a

successful entity, all BNYC vehicles will have the organisation's stickers.

This will ensure that "there is no abuse of vehicles, where we used to hear allegations that BNYC vehicles are used in political campaigns.

"Already we have made strides in this area and I can assure you that the issue of abuse has been taken care of," he said.

[MmegiOnline]

GHANA: Job Creation Program for the Youth Launched

ACCRA, 20 Jan– GOVERNMENT on Thursday launched a job creation project aimed at engaging hundreds of unemployed youth across the country.

The Government through the National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP) and the National Youth Council (NYC) is undertaking the Youth Enterprise and Skills Development Centre (YESDEC) programme, in collaboration with the management of Zoomlion Ghana Limited. It is to equip the unemployed youth with the relevant knowledge, attitudinal and entrepreneurial skills

to propel and sustain an effective economic and industrial transformation of the economy. The focus of the project is Agro-processing, Manufacturing, Services and Environmental Sanitation.

The sustainable micro business project is expected to engage over 40,000 unemployed youth including beneficiaries of the NYEP who are exiting after their tenure.

NYEP Coordinator, Mr Abuga Pele, said the public-private initiative would encourage and afford the youth of Ghana an opportunity to create wealth and participate in national development. He

said recruiting young people and putting them on the payroll could not be sustained in future, adding "This is a legacy we can leave as a nation for our young and up-coming youth." Ms Akua Sena Dansua, Out-going Minister of Youth and Sports said over 97,000 youths were currently engaged in various programmes such as Youth in Film Production, Grasscutter rearing, Airport Assistants and Community Police.

She expressed the hope that the YESDEC-NYEP Module would complement Government's efforts aimed at creating direct employment for

750,000 youths through a four-year period, 2010-2013. Coordinator of YESDEC, Mavis Yamoah, said the project was targeting the setting up of micro businesses for 1,000 youths throughout the country by the end of 2011.

She said the YESDEC project had so far trained and assisted over 200 youths to successfully set up new businesses. Ms Yamoah said key areas of training were simple logistics, transportation of foodstuffs from farm gates to commercial or market centres, agro-processing and packaging, water tanker de-

livery services in water deprived communities and machine shop enterprise. Others are ICT support centres, block construction, catering services and garment and beauty care enterprises.

The trainees have the opportunity to own the equipment

and would be supported to payback through the various banks in instalments over a two-year period.

The YESDEC Programme's main objective is to facilitate the acquisition of entrepreneurial, technical and specialised skills by the youth to

enable them to establish and effectively manage their own micro and small businesses.

According to the initiators, YESDEC is a timely intervention designed to benefit not only those exiting from the Waste and Sanitation module but all other modules

of the NYEP. 20 Jan. 11

[GhanaWeb]

THE GAMBIA: New NYC board must 'tickle' youths into action

BANJUL, 10 Jan.

THE ministry of youths and sport has challenged the new executive members of the National Youth Council to pursue relevant policies and programmes that will put an end to the perpetual slumber of the average Gambian youth and "tickle" them into action.

A new executive board for the NYC was inaugurated recently tasked with the responsibility of attracting young Gambians to the cause of nation building.

The NYC was established by an act of the National Assembly eleven years ago to shape the course of youth development in the country. The governing body of the council comprises chairpersons of all regional youth committees and a chairperson and female representative who are nominated by the minister for youth and sports under the powers bestowed on the ministry.

In a statement on behalf of the minister of Youth and Sports, permanent secretary Aliou Jammeh observed that although resources continue to be put in youth development matters "the response from the youth of the country

has been abysmally low". According to the permanent secretary, it is up to the NYC to excite among young people the kind of interest in national development that was effective and sustainable.

He said that the NYC as the apex youth body entrusted to work closely with like-minded organizations involved in youth related work and activities should look to play a more critical role in the implementation of youth programmes coupled with their function as an advisory body to the government on youth development matters.

He observed that youth development has suffered a serious set back due to the menace of drugs, illegal migration and other burning issues such as unemployment, and advised the new members of the council that their strategic action plan must take cognizance of these threats to the welfare of young people.

According to him, a lot of resources have gone into youth development.

"Therefore, seeing great results achieved would be the only thing left now to witness as this new executive takes over. Their intervention will be crucial in shaping the lives of young people" he postu-

lated.

Mr. Jammeh added that his ministry is tasked with huge responsibilities for the welfare and general wellbeing of young people. He further revealed that his ministry will always endeavour to put all mechanisms in place in ensuring that the aspirations of youths are met and the hopes and dreams of Gambians in respect of Vision 2020 transform The Gambia into a city state.

The expectations of youths are enormous and since they constitute 60 percent of the population their role is central to the country's development agenda. He pointed out that in recognition of this fact the government continues to put great emphasis on transforming the lives of young people to point where they will be capable of handling the challenges inherent in the process of nation-building.

Speaking earlier Malang Jassey, the director of youths and sport said empowering youths is very crucial for national development to take place and admonished the new executive to work in the interest of young people.

For his part, Fabakary Kalleh the new chairperson of the council assured the nation of

the NYC's commitment to shaping the lives of young people.

Executive members are Fatoumatta Ndure, female representative, Modou M. Ceesay, regional head of NBR, Malick Ceesay, head of LRR, Alagie Baldeh, head representative for URR, Dembo Kambie, head for WCR, Ebrima Faye, head of CRR, Alagie Mbye Ceesay, BCC and Bakary Badjie, regional head of the Kanifing municipality.

The National Youth Council which is mandated to conduct research on youth development matters, monitor the implementation of the national youth policy of government and initiate ideas on youth development last week officially inaugurated its new executive board.

[Today]

KENYA: Kenya Govt set to increase National School

NAIROBI, 24 Jan - The Government has finalized plans to upgrade some provincial schools at the county level to become national schools to cater for more high performers in the country, President Mwai Kibaki said Monday.

Besides the transformation and support of the selected provincial schools to national level, the President observed, secondary schools of excellence in every constituency are being created under the new economic stimulus package.

President Kibaki made these remarks at Kenyatta International Conference Centre where he officially launched the innovative High School Scholarship and Leadership Development program funded by the Equity Bank Group and the MasterCard Foundation.

The Head of State cited the implementation of the free secondary school tuition programme and development of day schools, the provision of a capital grant of Kshs 10,265 per student per year to public secondary schools and the facilitation of re-entry of girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy and early or forced marriages as some of the notable reforms that have boosted the education sector.

At the national level, President Kibaki said the Government is expanding the capacity of polytechnics and will be creating 13 additional national polytechnics while at the local level there is heavy investment in youth polytechnics through provision of free tuition and recruitment of an additional 2,000 tutors which is currently underway.

Government reforms in the education sector, the President noted, have started paying dividends with the increase in

the number of students joining the country's learning institutions at different levels.

President Kibaki specifically pointed out that due to his Government's interventions, a record 539,792 students, will be joining form one this year. Majority of these students are among the first batch of those who had enjoyed 8 continuous years of free primary education the Government has been implementing since 2003.

"This is the highest number of students enrolling in form one, in our nation's history. I wish to thank all those who have made this possible," the President said.

The President said in order to meet the increased demand, enhance access and quality, the education sector in Kenya has undergone several fundamental reforms including the integration of secondary education as part of basic education.

"You are also aware that the Government recently invested 4.2 billion shillings in the National Youth Service. This will greatly enhance the ability of the service, to train our youth while additional construction equipment will enable our youth access first-hand practical and technical experience," the President said.

Saying all these investments are for the benefit of the country's youth, the President reassured that his Government will continue to give top priority to their needs.

President Kibaki, however, expressed concern that girls, on average, continue to perform poorly in core subjects like mathematics, chemistry, physics and biology which are critical in providing them with access to careers in science and technology.

"As a country we must do more to train our girls to perform better in these subjects. This is in line with our policy framework which focuses on access, equity, quality and relevance," President Kibaki emphasized.

The President also reminded the youth that for them to take their rightful leadership roles in the society, they must remain focused and have a visionary attitude on what they want to achieve in life.

In this regard, President Kibaki said they must avoid vices that negatively impact on their education which include drug and substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, early marriages and child labor.

The Head of State commended Equity Bank Group and the MasterCard Foundation for the high school scholarship and leadership development program which, he said, is in tandem with the Government's policy of establishing partnerships that help more young people access secondary education.

Said the President: "I am pleased to note, that this programme also targets at raising the next generation of leaders, by empowering the youth through helping them develop leadership skills and robust networks."

The President encouraged recipients of the scholarships to take full advantage of the opportunity that has been offered to them by working hard and ensuring that they excel in all areas of their lives.

Calling on other organizations to support the programme, the Head of State said the sponsorship would go along way in changing the lives of children from less privileged backgrounds.

In his address, Education Minister Prof. Sam Ongeru defended the new form one selection criteria, saying the policy shift ensured social equity by bringing on board poor children from all corners of the country in the national schools.

Prof. Ongeru emphasized that all candidates selected to join national, provincial, district and private secondary schools are expected to report for lessons by 31st of this month.

Stressing that the free primary education programme had enabled many children from poor families enroll to for basic education, the Minister assured of accountability in the use of public funds released by the Government and development partners.

The President and Chief Executive Officer of the MasterCard Foundation, Ms Reeta Roy thanked President Kibaki for his visionary leadership in establishing the free primary school education programme in the country eight years ago.

Through the FPE programme, Ms Roy said, thousands of bright children from poor families accessed basic education and excelled to qualify for sponsorship under the Equity Group and MasterCard Foundations scholarships.

The MasterCard Foundation C.E.O stressed the foundation's commitment to work with Equity bank and other like minded partners to provide secondary students with comprehensive scholarship support to enable them pursue higher education and transform their lives.

Ms. Roy said the programme also delivers leadership development, career guidance and mentoring to the sponsored students while serving as a

model for other potential funders of education scholarships.

During the launch also attended by Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka, President Kibaki received a cheque of US\$ 50 million programme sponsorship from the Equity

Group/The MasterCard Foundations.

Other speakers included the UKaid representative and Head, DFID Kenya and Somalia Mr. Alistair Fernie, The chairman of Equity Bank Peter Munga and his Chief Executive officer who is also

the Chairman Equity Group Foundation Dr. James Mwangi.

In attendance were several cabinet ministers, Assistant Ministers, the Governor of Central bank Dr Njuguna Ndung'u and senior government and banking sector

officials.

[KBC News]

NIGERIA: Govt plans mentoring session for Cross River youths

CROSS RIVER STATE, 23 Jan - Cross River State government has declared to hold quarterly mentoring sessions with youths in the state to enable them realise and develop their potentials.

Governor Liyel Imoke disclosed this while being presented with T-shirt and cap by the State Youth Council in its effort of creating awareness during the ongoing voter registration exercise by INEC.

Imoke said the session which will commence next month, will avail them of

experiences, opportunities and what to do to succeed in life.

Imoke assured the council of support in its bid to get its message across to all nooks and crannies of the state to sensitize the populace.

Imoke said there were numerous benefits, stressing that there was need for a strong advocacy for the exercise to attain its goals.

According to the governor, democracy has come to stay and all, including the youths, should be involved in ensuring that it is not truncated in

anyway and that the ongoing exercise is one of the ways of ensuring its survival.

Leader of the Cross River State Youth Council and Personal Assistant to the Governor on Student Affairs, Mr. Hilary Bisong, while presenting the cap with the inscription, "Youths Arise and Register" to the governor, disclosed that the council was prepared to partner the state in undertaking the ongoing registration exercise to the grassroots.

Bisong commended the governor for flagging off the

exercise and said the T-shirt, which had the inscription, "Your Vote is Your POWER, Register Now", was their little contribution of reminding the populace of its civic responsibility at this time. Bisong pledged that the council will use its numerical strength as an agent of change to ensure the exercise records an impressive turn out.

[Daily Independent]

SWAZILAND: Youth should access sexual, reproductive health information

MBABANE, 28 Jan - On Friday afternoons, instead of knocking off from school to hang around and getting into trouble, there are youth throughout Swaziland who head to a FLAS Youth Action Movement (YAM) site to spend time with people their own age and participate in a weekly health talk at 2pm on sexual and reproductive health.

The Youth Action Movement (YAM) at FLAS was founded in 2004 as a means of advocating for youth-friendly sexual reproductive health (SRH) information

and services. It gives youth the opportunity to participate in social activities in a safe, respectable and encouraging environment.

As a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), FLAS believes that young people have a right to access sexual and reproductive health information and services.

Many youth in Swaziland lack access to information on sexual and reproductive health information and services.

Talking about sex with youth is often taboo, and is believed will spoil them or encourage them to engage in sexual activity at an earlier age.

Unfortunately not talking about sex is not preventing Swazi youth from engaging in sexual activity. According to the Swaziland Demographic Health Survey (SDHS), 11 per cent of women aged 25-49 had sex before the age of 15, while half had sex by their 18th birthday.

With one in 10 Swazi girls having sex before the age of

15, information on sexual health is necessary to reduce teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and HIV rates.

Family Life Association of Swaziland (FLAS) believes that young people will benefit from exposure to information on sexual health.

IPPF research suggests that high quality, comprehensive and rights-based sexuality education programmes can delay initiation of sexual activity and unprotected intercourse, decrease the number of sexual partners, in-

crease contraceptive and condom use and decrease unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections among young people.

The four YAM youth centres are located at the FLAS Manzini Clinic, FLAS Mbabane Clinic, Big Bend (housed by Illovo), and Nhlangu (housed by the Swaziland National Youth Council). Each site is equipped with televisions and DVDs, pool tables, IEC resources on sexual health, and stereo equipment.

The purpose of the youth centres is to provide Swazi youth with a safe place where they can participate in recreational activities and also learn about sexual and reproductive health issues.

Vika Nxumalo, one of the Youth and Recreational Area Coordinators (YRACs) at FLAS, oversees the YAM interns, YAM site coordinators, and the peer educators.

"We currently have around 200 active YAM members, 35 of which are peer educators," explains Nxumalo. "We work with each of the site coordinators to select active participating members who show a keen interest in being engaged and training to become a leader among their peers.

Training for peer educators is an intensive five-day course that primarily includes sexual and reproductive health training but also includes life-skills training to help with problem solving, time management, conflict management, decision making, and leadership skills that help build confidence and self-esteem. Ongoing mentoring is done through regular meetings and site visits by the YRACs.

According to UNICEF, peer education is based on the reality that many people make changes not only based on what they know, but on the opinions and actions of their close, trusted peers. Peer edu-

cators can communicate and understand in a way that the best-intentioned adults can't, and can serve as role models for change.

Peer educators are typically the same age or slightly older or younger than the group with whom they are working.

"Youth relate better with people their own age," he explains.

"They use the same language, the same jargon. Often they are going through the same things and may have had the same questions and concerns regarding their sexuality. They can openly talk about what they may be going through whether it is changes to their body, peer pressure, or curiosity about sex."

The health talks provide a positive and safe environment where youth can openly learn together and receive accurate information on sexual health.

Each YAM site has a health talk coordinator that meets with that site's peer educators to develop a schedule of topics (based on FLAS curriculum) and how best they can facilitate them through the use of different methodologies.

This may include storytelling, watching a DVD, incorporating drama or music, use of photographs, or flip charts. Dance classes were initiated in the past year as an effort to encourage girls to participate.

"Previously, the health talks were attended by mainly the boys, but of late, more girls come because they participate in the dance classes" explains Nxumalo.

[Times of Swaziland]

ZAMBIA: Zambian Copper producer to give preference to youth

KITWE, 31 Jan - Zambia, Africa's largest copper producer seeks to give preference to youths, of its nationality on jobs being created in the mining and copper industry as a benefit for its flexible investment regime to reduce unemployment in the Southern African nation.

President Rupiah Banda said that during a youth entrepreneurship exhibition in Kitwe one of the country's main mining towns that he was directing the mining and minerals development ministry to ensure that most of the jobs being created in the industry were preferred to

youths and reduce unemployment.

During the launch of the program on the micro, small and medium enterprise development policy he urged the youths to become proactive and contribute to national development.

Government was working to develop the entrepreneurial capacity of the country in an effort to create jobs and wealth for the citizenry. Preference for business and employment opportunities should be given to Zambians in the mining sector.

It was important for the youth to become active and take advantage of the SMEs development policy. The Government was aware about the concerns of the youth which included unemployment, lack or limited access to finances and limited access to tertiary education. Zambia has in recent years increased investment in the mining and copper industry to more than USD 5 billion with the coming of several reputable and globally renowned mining companies that include Rquinox Minerals.

President Banda said the government recognized the

challenges that inhibited the Small and Medium Entrepreneurs from formalizing their businesses, hence the development of the policy that would deal with some of the challenges.

Some hurdles came in the form of lack of access to finance and obsolete technology, which made business uncompetitive both in terms of efficiency and productivity hence the need for the sector to accord the youths jobs in flourishing industries like the mines.

The other challenges he cited were limited market access,

which suffocated SMEs in terms of price and output, and lack of entrepreneurship skills to effectively run businesses professionally.

President Banda added that the Government had allocated K76 billion (approximately USD 16 million) to various empowerment programs in the 2011 national Budget because access to finances was a major problem not only to the youth but also to other entrepreneurs. He noted that al-

though the funds were from the Government, beneficiaries were expected to pay back. Beneficiaries need to develop bankable and viable projects that were profitable and also learn how to manage resources.

He said that “It is my Government’s strong desire to address these challenges. We are aware of the need to develop the entrepreneurial capacity as a country and it is for this reason that the SMEs development policy has been

developed.” There was need for Zambians to improve on the processing of local and natural materials for consumption and the export market. Government with its stakeholders had prepared the SMEs development policy which would serve business interests of the youth, women, the aged, physically challenged and those living with HIV/AIDS.

The Government was determined to address the issue of reducing unemployment

among the vulnerable members of communities, more so that 68 per cent of the country’s population were youths.

He noted that it was not the Government creating jobs but the private sector as well for which the State was facilitating a conducive environment.

[steel GURU]

AUSTRALIA: A federal case of substantial change: mental health reform

CANBERRA, 22 Jan - THERE'S no doubt 2010 was a big year in mental health, from beginning to end. In January, psychiatrist Patrick McGorry was appointed Australian of the Year, while December brought the emotional trauma of the disastrous floods in Queensland.

On the upside, opposite ends of the political spectrum, from the Greens to the conservatives, committed to big increases in spending on youth-friendly, early intervention services.

Reflecting the view of more than a third of Australians who rated mental health as one of their key concerns -- coming just after the economy and climate change -- Julia Gillard made mental health a second-term priority. She also appointed Mark Butler as the first ever federal Minister for Mental Health.

On the downside, the Rudd government neglected the comprehensive work of the Hospital and Health Reform Commission and allocated only 2 per cent of the \$7.4 billion health reform monies to mental health. This followed the pattern of its other major infrastructure investments, worth more than \$3bn, in acute hospitals and other traditional winners such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and infection. They too were underfunded.

The last time we saw genuine national leadership was in 2006 when John Howard and the then NSW premier Morris Iemma initiated a five-year national mental health plan under the auspices of the Council of Australian Governments. But while the commonwealth made substantive new investments, there was little co-ordination with the

states, and most of the money reinforced outmoded styles of practice.

Although key targets such as reduction in suicide, promotion of early intervention, increased access to timely care and prevention of re-hospitalisation were set, little real progress has been made.

So, in 2011 the question must be asked: Are we headed for real reform or is this just another false dawn? By July, we'll be able to apply five key tests to answer the question. First, have all Australian governments agreed to a new national mechanism for reform? There are two options: another five-year COAG-led mental health plan; or, transfer of the responsibility for funding all community-based mental health services from the states to the commonwealth.

The transfer of funding responsibility to the commonwealth has already been resisted by the states and federal funders. In contrast, a five-year renewal of the COAG-led National Mental Health Plan, led by a new prime minister and new premiers, has real appeal. Mental health reform struggles when it relies on leadership by health ministers.

There's a strong need to tie in treasuries -- federal, state and territory -- as well as employment, education, social services, legal and human rights, housing and accommodation into any serious reform process.

The 2006-11 COAG plan was the only serious attempt to tie respective governments into defining key health outcomes, as well as increased social and economic participation. Although limited, it

also promoted innovation in key areas related to increased access to psychological services and provision of housing and social support to those with severe illness.

Second, the outcomes of the 2011 federal budget will be critical. Despite the cries that the cupboard is bare, without real increases at least equivalent to the previous COAG initiative -- more than \$5bn over five years by the commonwealth and states collectively -- we will know the Gillard government is no different from the Rudd administration.

Almost as important, we need to see that there's a clear decision to use new monies to promote innovation and genuine service reform.

Historically, we've focused on providing limited late intervention health and social services to those who are extremely unwell and chronically disabled. We need to build early intervention services that can help to reduce the long-term demand.

As most severe mental disorders develop in adolescence, support for new service systems for young persons must be the highest priority. The Gillard government needs to expand the novel Headspace services -- now receiving \$350m over four years -- and put real money, \$650m over four years, behind establishing a national model of specialised outpatient services.

Third, Australia leads the world in e-health based strategies for promoting mental health, reducing suicide, supporting self-management and complementing clinical service delivery. A reforming government would put real muscle behind the implemen-

tation of e-mental health services, allocating \$200m over four years. To date, more conservative administrations have failed this test.

Fourth, the Labor government has not yet used its nation-building funds to lay the foundations for long-term growth in those health and educational structures that underpin better mental health. Instead, Kevin Rudd built a new national network of acute hospitals, cancer-care centres and health research focused on infection and diabetes.

The test for the new PM is whether she will direct the same funds to build mental health structures at a cost of about \$1bn. They may be less photogenic but are of equal social, and potentially greater economic, value.

The last, and possibly the most serious, test for Gillard is whether she's brave enough to establish an independent authority to measure progress and report annually to the Australian public. None of her predecessors managed to step up to the plate.

After a tumultuous year, all of those involved in mental health reform are holding their breath. We desperately hope the Gillard government is up to the task.

[The Australian]

INDIA: Government Formulates Job Plan for NE Youth

NEW DELHI, 28 Jan - The government is finalizing a special scheme for the skill development and employment of youth with focus on troubled Jammu and Kashmir, northeast and Naxal-affected areas to counter terrorism and insurgency. The youth affairs ministry's programme will start with the north-eastern states. Assembly elections in Assam which is politically crucial for the ruling Congress are due later this year.

"The aim would be to make the youth a vibrant force against divisive forces," youth affairs and sports minister Ajay Maken said. "If we can generate employment,

insurgency-related problems could also be addressed. Unemployment is a root cause of the problem," he added.

The ministry will approach the Planning Commission and the finance ministry for funding of the new scheme which will be worked out after consulting state governments.

The minister said that the age group of 15-35 years constituted about 40% of the country's total population and the youth in troubled regions fall prey to divisive and extremists forces in the absence of employment opportunities.

Under the scheme, the country would be divided into four parts J&K, northeastern states, Naxal-hit tribal areas and the rest of the country to understand the skills needed in each region so as to ensure that youths get employment.

The projects, in collaboration with FICCI, will start with the North-Eastern region while the Naxal-affected areas will be taken up next in March-April.

The ministry has called the youth affairs and sports ministers of the North-Eastern states for a meeting on February 4 to work out the specific programmes for the region.

"We have to draw up new schemes for the youth as some of the schemes have become outdated," Maken said, adding that these are specific programmes and tailor-made for each region. "The focus will be skill development and employment through sports," he said.

Talking about the northeastern region, Maken said infrastructure has to be developed in the region. "In the north-east, there is natural talent for sports. We have to use," he explained.

[The Times of India]

NEW ZEALAND: Full UN Report on children's rights in NZ

WELLINGTON, 21 Jan - The Committee on the Rights of the Child today examined the combined third and fourth periodic report of New Zealand on how that country is implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Introducing the report, Sue Mackwell, Deputy Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development of New Zealand, said that the Convention on the Rights of the Child was an essential human rights instrument for New Zealand and played an important part in the promotion and protection of children's rights. New Zealand continued to be committed to the progressive implementation of the Convention, but acknowledged that there were issues to be confronted in translating the principles of the Convention into practice. In the education sector, New Zealand had focused on quality education and clear performance information for

parents, with a particular emphasis on improving educational outcomes for Maori and Pacific youth. New Zealand had also worked on better, quicker and more convenient access to integrated health care and the Government had introduced legislation designed to protect and assist children, amending notably the Crimes Act and immigration law.

In preliminary concluding remarks, Maria Herczog, the Committee Expert serving as Rapporteur for the report of New Zealand, said that a very intensive, rich and detailed dialogue had been held today during which many issues concerning the lives of children in New Zealand had been discussed.

Also in concluding remarks, Ms. Mackwell thanked the Committee for this rich and open dialogue, the results of which would be passed on to the Government. New Zealand was doing well in many

regards and the delegation appreciated the Committee's support in relation to that, as well as its comments on the issues New Zealand still needed to work on.

Other Experts raised a series of questions during the discussion, including whether children were really able to make their voices heard in decision-making processes, whether New Zealand acknowledged traditional adoption among indigenous peoples and how many children had been institutionalized by the State. Committee members noted with concern that children were fairly invisible in legislation, although many laws had been passed, and regretted that the age of criminal responsibility had been lowered for some cases.

The Committee will release its formal, written concluding observations and recommendations on the report of New Zealand towards the end of its three-week session, which

will conclude on Friday, 4 February 2011.

The delegation of New Zealand included representatives of the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Health, the Crown Law and the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

As one of the 193 States parties to the Convention, New Zealand is obliged to present periodic reports to the Committee on its efforts to comply with the provisions of the treaty. The delegation was on hand today to present the report and to answer questions raised by Committee Experts.

When the Committee reconvenes at 10 a.m. on Thursday 20 January, it will review the combined second and third periodic report of Singapore under the Convention (CRC/C/SGP/2-3).

[tvnz]

SINGAPORE: Family value still comes first among Singapore Youth

SINGAPORE, 26 Jan - Maintaining strong family relationships is the top priority for most Singapore youths and they are also spending more time with their families in the internet era, a latest survey shows.

Results of the National Youth Survey released on Tuesday show most youth rank "maintaining strong family relationships" as their most important life goal, which is followed by a successful career, new skills and technology and earning lots of money.

Fourty percent of those surveyed said they spend 10 hours or more with their families, compared with 25 percent in 2005.

But they are also turning more liberal in terms of their attitudes towards divorce, with 64 percent feel it is an option, depending on the circumstances, though almost half say one should marry.

The internet is obviously making its influences felt on the youths, with half said they had expressed their views before, mostly through online channels. The figure

was only 24 percent in 2005.

But the percentage of youth involved in leadership roles fell from 22 percent in 2005 to 11 percent last year, which the local Channel News Asia said was a source of concern.

"I believe our young people, most of them have the leadership potential. Then the question is why are they not spending more time in leadership positions? Is it because they are spending more time online?" said Teo Ser Luck, chairman of the National Youth Council.

The findings of the survey are contained in the latest edition of the book YOUTH.sg: The State of Youth in Singapore 2010, which was released on Tuesday afternoon.

inhua]

SRI LANKA: Houses for Youth with Less Income

MAHARAGAMA, 26 Jan - THE National Youth Services Council (NYSC) has launched a project to provide 332 houses for less income youth to mark International Youth Year.

The council will provide Rs 100,000 financial assistance for each youth to build a house.

The beneficiary or his family should possess a plot of land.

He should have at least one year membership in a youth club affiliated to the NYSC. Every Divisional Secretariat Division will get one house.

Every Divisional Secretariat Division has a Youth Club Provincial Federation.

The funds will be handed over to the Provincial Federation and the Federation official should provide the beneficiary with raw material worth Rs 100,000 to build the house.

The accepted plan will be

given to all beneficiaries. All houses should be according to the type plan.

The Provincial Federation should select the beneficiary of the federation.

The NYSC has planned to lay the foundation stone in a day all over the island.

The building of all the houses should be completed by July 2011 end.

The funds allocated by the NYSC is Rs 3,200,000.

The project is a concept of Youth Affairs and Skills Development Minister Dullas Alahapperuma.

[Daily News]

THAILAND: National Youth Day at Pattaya School No.9

PATTAYA, 9 Jan - On Friday morning (7th) at Pattaya School No. 9, or "Potisampan Temple School" on Naklua road, the 2011 National Youth Day was celebrated. Mayor Ittipon Khunpleum came as the Guest of Honor to show his respect and care for children, and to pass on a special message to children of Thailand by the Prime Minister, His Excel-

lency Apisit Waitchachiwa. The Slogan for this year's Youth Day, from His Excellency Prime Minister Apisit, is "Be Smart, Be thoughtful, Be Concerned for Communities."

Thousands of students from the school enjoyed free treats, fun times, lucky draws and much pleasure from the celebration.

The School Principal Mr. Gasem Chimjiw welcomed the Mayor and the Vice Chairman of Pattaya Council Mr. Ugrit Nansurasak to the festivity. The Mayor gave a speech to the children to encourage them to realize their importance to the future of Thailand.

100,000 Baht collected by the Charity "Tod Pa Bpa",

was also donated to "Potisampan temple". It is an enduring Thai tradition that government schools are established next to the main temples.

[Pattaya People]

SYRIA: Enhancing Youth Role in Society Building

DAMASCUS, 11 Jan - Activities of the Syrian Youth Commission for Volunteerism focus on consolidating youth initiatives and enhancing their role as a key partner in the socio-economic development process.

Syrian Youth Commission for Volunteerism was first established in 2009 marking Volunteer International Day. It aims at spreading the culture of voluntary work through setting necessary plans to achieve progress at all fields.

The commission cooperates with the National Union of Syrian Students (NUSS), Syrian Environment Association, Junior International Chamber-Syria, Ministries of Local Administration and Environment Affairs, Syrian Trust for Development and the UN Population Fund as well as other local and civil organizations to achieve its goals.

Recycling Paper Campaign, launched on January 5, is the commission's first field work in an attempt to rescue trees and reduce climate changes

accompanying the decline of green spaces, desertification, water shortage and pollution.

NUSS Chairman Ammar Saati hoped the campaign would bring real change in society through enhancing the spirit of cooperation among its members.

He indicated to the importance of voluntary work in supporting government development programs to bridge the gap between services provided to society benefiting from national expertise and cadres.

Saati added that the campaign is the outcome of cooperation with 11 government and NGOs partners targeting schools, universities and governmental bodies throughout the Syrian provinces.

Launched in Damascus, Aleppo and Deir Ezzor provinces, the four-month campaign is scheduled to spread all over Syria according to timetable set for this purpose.

[DayPress]

VIETNAM: Youth federation presents Tet gifts to disabled young people.

HCN CITY, 23 Jan - The Ho Chi Minh City Youth Federation on January 23 presented gifts to handicapped young people and its disadvantaged members.

200 gifts, worth VND300,000 each, were handed out to the young peo-

ple on the occasion of the new (Tet) Lunar New Year Festival.

Vu Thi Kim Thuy, a disabled young woman in District 8 was very touched when receiving her gift. She said the gifts encourage people like her to overcome their own

obstacles.

Earlier, the youth federation had delivered 4,000 gifts to poor people and children in remote areas and provided free bicycles for some poor pupils in Can Gio district, HCM City.

[VOV News]

ARMENIA: European Socialist Youth leader discusses cooperation with AYF of Armenia

YEREVAN (Yerkir Media)—The president of the Young European Socialists (ECOSY) traveled to Yerevan last week for a three-day visit to discuss cooperation with youth organizations of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, the ARF Youth Office reported.

Petrula Nteledimun met with members and leaders of the Armenian Youth Federation and the ARF Nigol Aghbalian Student Union to discuss cooperation between the two organizations.

Founded in the Netherlands in 1992, ECOSY is the youth organization of the European Socialist Party, uniting Socialist and Social-Democratic youth associations and movements in the European Union, Central and Eastern Europe, and Mediterranean.

During her meetings with the AYF, Nteledimun, herself a member of the Greek ruling PASOK party, discussed European socio-economic issues, centering around education, employment and health. She also spoke about

the political climate in Europe, the economic crisis facing Greece and other EU member states, and the challenges facing Social-Democratic political parties in Europe. AYF delegates, for their part, discussed social, economic and political issues facing youth in Armenia.

Nteledimun also met with Socialist International Vice President, Maria Titizyan, ARF Bureau Youth Office Director Sarkis Mkrтчian, as well as the ARF's representa-

tives to the Socialist International Youth.

She also visited the Dzidzernagapert Armenian Genocide Memorial, the Holy See of the Armenian Apostolic Church at Echmiadzin and the National Museum of History and Modern Art.

[Asbarez]

ENGLAND: Chance for Students to Help Shape the Future

LONDON, 11 Jan - IT IS widely suggested that young people are more likely to vote in Big Brother or X-Factor than in their local election.

Voting figures for 18 to 24-year-olds in last year's general election have not been released yet, but with 22 per cent of university students not even registered to vote, it is clear young people are out of touch with politics.

Recent rioting in London over a proposed university tuition fee hike showed they feel strongly about decisions that affect them, but also the disillusionment they felt when the Liberal Democrats curried favour with them to procure votes, only to make a complete U-turn when they came into power.

The government acknowledges the impor-

tance of appealing to the next generation of voters, but it is only recently that teenagers have been given any say on how things are done.

In 2004, 90 per cent of local authorities signed up to have a representative on a newly-formed UK Youth Parliament, giving citizens between the age of 11 and 18 a voice which is heard and listened to by local and national government.

Until now, however, Cumbria has never had a representative and despite hundreds being already established nationwide, there are no youth councils in the county.

More than a year ago, Cumbria County Council put the wheels in motion, and later this spring Furness will become the first area to elect their youth council.

Katie Carr, temporary project manager working on behalf of the county council, said: "There are various different youth councils planned in Cumbria, but Furness is the furthest along and we are ready to begin our elections.

"The need for a youth council came right from the top of Cumbria County Council, because although there are lots of different ways to get young people's voices heard, there is no formal system.

"The youth council will work within the borough on issues that affect young people, and so far our planning group has been in touch with other youth councils across the country to see how they work."

An online election from February 14 to 25 will see young people in

schools and colleges in Barrow, as well as Dowdales, in Dalton, and Ulverston Victoria vote on the candidates that register their interest.

Candidates must be aged between 12 and 18. The registration deadline is January 21.

Up until now the planning group, also made up of young people, has been drawing up a constitution and an outline for the election.

Furness College student Ayiesha Emms, 16, said: "We've been working hard to set this up and we feel that it has to be entirely youth based. There are two sides to that – people might be more likely to respond knowing that it has been organised by their peers, but then again, they might think 'what do young people know?'."

"It is important that young people can get their message across so we need to make people aware that the youth council exists."

A group of around 15 regular members make up the planning group, meeting regularly to prepare for the busy campaign schedule and to create a template for future youth councils to come.

While some of the members are planning to stand as candidates, others will remain as mentors for the council.

Last week the group was taught about marketing strategies and how to present a campaign in public.

Alex Walker, 17, an apprentice for Cumbria police, said: "We are looking at ways of getting as many people as possible involved.

"We want people to come forward to represent young people and get their messages across.

"Young people need to have a say in what happens in Cumbria, and projects like this will help to make a better relationship between different generations."

Initial funding for this project has come from Cumbria County Council's Children and Young People local committee, with support from the Ambleside-based Brathay Trust.

As part of Brathay's remit as a national charity, they are contracted to deliver development programmes that ensure young people fulfil their potential by raising aspirations and self-confidence and developing positive attitudes.

Nathan Davies, from Brathay Trust, said: "It's fantastic to work with a very positive, proactive, group of young people who are really keen to get their voice heard.

"They're acutely aware that they are working on behalf of young people in Furness to ensure that they help shape the future of their community in a positive way.

"I facilitate the group and help them work together

to shape their ideas. By managing this process I help to ensure that their vision becomes reality, which is brilliant."

Youth councils are set to become commonplace county-wide, with Furness setting the template. When the first members are elected in the week commencing February 28, they will lead the way for young people for many years to come.

The initiative has support from some of the most senior members of both Cumbria and Barrow Borough councils, including Cumbria leader Eddie Martin, and with an established structure across the country, it seems young people are finally gaining a voice

[North West Evening Mail].

GERMANY: Youth Services on table in Berlin

BERLIN, 27 Jan - The executive director of Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services says both her agency and the town would benefit if the organization was hired to coordinate youth activities in Berlin.

Teresa Fields, executive director of WYFCS, made a pitch to the mayor and Council in support of WYFCS serving as the town's youth coordinator, a position Berlin has not had in the past.

"We have similar goals," Fields said, "and by combining our resources I believe we can get there faster."

With the budget that took effect July 1, the council approved the expenditure of \$2,000 a month on a youth coordinator for Berlin. Advertising for the position

yielded several applications as well as interest from Fields' organization. Fields, whose agency has been in Berlin for 25 years, said that by hiring WYFCS, the town would get the benefits of an entire organization.

She said WYFCS boasted a staff of 19, along with four interns, and had a network of more than 100 volunteers. It also has established partnerships in the community and a variety of grant resources as a non-profit organization.

"It's definitely a win-win situation," Fields said. She added that her agency had three vans that could be used for youth transportation.

She said Stefanie Gordy, who currently works part-time for WYFCS, would be increased to full-time to

work as the project coordinator.

Gordy said she would inventory the town's existing youth opportunities and find out which were effective and why. She would then develop a Berlin Youth Advisory Council, she said, to find out what residents wanted.

"We can accomplish more together than we can separately," she said.

Mayor Gee Williams said that when he had been approached about the possibility of joining forces with WYFCS he'd been intrigued. "This has a great deal of potential," he said.

Councilmembers Paula Lynch and Dean Burrell, however, said they had some

concerns about the premise. Burrell said the concept was "splendid," but that he wondered how Berlin would fit into an agency that focused on all of Worcester County.

Fields assured the council that the organization's goal had been to help the Berlin community and specifically kids in that community, even before staff became aware of the coordinator the town was seeking.

At the request of the council, town staff were instructed to develop specific guidelines for the youth coordinator position to present to WYFCS so that an agreement between the town and WYFCS, if desired, could be in place by March 1.

[delmarvanow]

IRELAND: 70% of young jobless intend emigrating

DUBLIN, 25 Jan - Some 70 per cent of young unemployed Irish people think they are likely to emigrate in the next 12 months, writes Cian Nihill.

That is the finding of a report by the National Youth Council of Ireland being launched today in Dublin.

The council called the results of their research into the lived experience of young

unemployed people in Ireland “a worrying and shocking insight into the difficulties faced by young job seekers across the country”.

The Lost Generation report shows 100 per cent of the respondents agreed the prospects for employment were not very good at present.

Some 90 per cent said being unemployed had a negative effect on their sense of well-

being.

“This research confirmed to us that the consequences are severe for young people if the high and rising level of unemployment is not dealt with quickly and effectively,” the council’s assistant director, James Doorley, said.

“The current services provided by Fás and the Depart-

ment of Social Protection are not co-ordinated . . . and in many cases unsuitable or not geared towards the needs of the young people it is meant to serve,” he added.

The research, which was the first of its kind in Ireland, found unemployed young people experienced many types of social and economic exclusion.

[IrishTimes]

MALTA: Young People Take a Leading Role

VALLETA, 29 Jan-THE voluntary sector has an important role in the enhancement of the social sector and this year we are encouraged to better appreciate the role of voluntary organisations in our country.

The European Union has dedicated this year to volunteering as it believes that voluntary work has a central role in advancement of our societies. The EU also recognises the benefits of voluntary work to the individual. In dedicating time to volunteering, volunteers experience great satisfaction from helping others, engage in social activities and acquire skills that improve their employability opportunities.

These are the results of voluntary work but many volunteers give a contribution because they believe in the main purpose of their organisation which in many cases is a social purpose. This is an important aspect of volunteering and organisations in the voluntary sector must ensure that they remain fo-

cused on their main purpose. It is therefore important that voluntary organisations collaborate and cooperate so as to enhance the sector and increase their access to resources. Competition is healthy but in the voluntary sector, cooperation and collaboration should be the main purpose.

The voluntary sector and the challenges of youth voluntary organisations were highlighted during a seminar organised in December by Young Entrepreneurs and Leaders (YEL) in collaboration with the University Students Body (KSU) and the National Youth Council (KNZ). Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Sport, Clyde Puli, Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, Kenneth Wain and Chairperson of the Council for Voluntary Organisations, Robert Farrugia, participated in the discussion.

Young people outlined as a challenge the need of networking and cooperating so as to supersede limitations

related to resources and finance. Creativity is a key tool for ensuring sustainability of the voluntary sector. Through their creative initiative, many organisations manage to organise activities with very little costs being incurred. Training is also an important tool for sustaining and enhancing the sector and the provision of professional training is a challenge to voluntary organisations but an opportunity for the coordination bodies of the sector.

The year dedicated to volunteering is also an opportunity for researchers and students. It should serve to encourage research on the sector as we can only improve the sector if it is professionally analysed from its micro- and macro-environment. The discussion also tackled the ‘snowball’ effect of volunteering especially amongst young people. With many being influenced by their friends’ behaviour, an altruistic act by a young person may encourage his/her friends to also participate in

the positive activity.

A voluntary organisation has a purpose to positively influence society and voluntary work gives a positive purpose to the volunteer. Young people are strengthened in character and personality when they engage in voluntary work and the purpose of a voluntary activity gives a scope to their life.

The voluntary sector in Malta is vibrant and diverse. For many years, the sector has grown with very little regulation to support it. The enactment of the Voluntary Organisations Act in 2007 was a positive step forward, safeguarding the right of freedom of association and assembly whilst allowing the sector to be better organised and structured. The year dedicated to volunteering is however an opportunity to assess the current legislative situation and the changes occurring since the enactment of the Voluntary Organisations Act. We must continuously seek ways of improving the sector in its administrative, organisa-

tional and legislative aspects but throughout this year we are being given the opportunity to focus more profoundly on the challenges that we face as volunteers.

I augur that 2011 will be a year on which we look back to and attribute the success of projects that improve the

voluntary sector. I look forward to working with other voluntary organisations and meeting volunteers in common projects, in the months to come.

[Malta Independent Online]

SOTLAND: Shaping the challenge of tomorrow

GLASGOW, 28 Jan - THE responsibility of working with young and talented individuals is one that should never be taken lightly and is not a task suited to everyone.

Training and developing children or teenagers, regardless of the nature of the job, often requires adults to be inspirational role models.

For those trying to teach a skill or enhance a talent that is already apparent in youngsters, a great deal of knowledge and patience is needed to maximise the chances of an individual fulfilling their potential.

Nurturing the talent of tomorrow is something that Gordon Glasgow, performance coach for COAST (City of Aberdeen Swim Team), understands the importance of.

He said: "Finding talented youngsters and helping them to develop their skills is surely one of the most rewarding ways to spend one's day.

"Making a difference and hopefully helping an individual to realise their talent and

become a successful athlete is a tremendous feeling."

Gordon, who swam competitively in his younger years, reaching national youth level, began coaching while studying at the University of Edinburgh and has continued to forge a successful career in the sport.

Having taken up the position, which is governed by Sport Aberdeen, he is looking to build a bright future.

He said: "There is a clear vision among the staff and members of COAST to create a programme which will be widely considered as one of the main national players in our sport.

"Being a coach isn't only about turning up, teaching the kids to swim and helping them to progress, it is also about creating a programme that can see them through from youth level to competing at senior national level.

"In the past, the north-east has lost many of its talented swimmers when they have reached 18, or even younger, as they outgrow the resources we have in Aberdeen

and seek out clubs in the central belt that are more equipped to help them continue to improve.

"When I was swimming as a youngster, a lack of top-class resources was a major issue, so I understand the frustration young swimmers may feel. This is one of the reasons I felt passionate about taking the performance coach role so that I can help ensure local swimmers receive the best programme possible."

Prior to this job, Gordon managed the swimming programme at Scotland's Institute of Sport. However, having previously coached the age-group programme at the swimming team, he decided it was the right time to return to the north-east.

He said: "I've now been back with the team for around six months, and I think we are already reaping the benefits of the organisation's restructure. We have seen membership significantly increase and hopefully in time we will see swimmers from other areas opt to join our programme to fur-

ther enhance their swimming careers."

COAST is a composite team made up of swimmers from six local clubs: Aberdeen Dolphins ASC, Bon Accord Thistle, Bucksburn ASC, Bridge of Don ASC, Cults Otters ASC and Dyce ASC.

The COAST programme was established in 1996, after a year of consultation with the city's swimming clubs, Aberdeen City Council, the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association (SASA) and the Scottish Sports Council (SSC).

Sport Aberdeen has recently taken responsibility for delivering core sport, physical recreation and sports development provision across the city. It provides a wide range of leisure and sports facilities, as well as activity programmes for all ages, interest groups and levels of participation.

[The Press and Journal]

CUBA: Cuban Youths Lead Torch March in Havana in Honor of Jose Marti

HAVANA, 28 Jan - Thousands of Cuban youths marched on Thursday night from the stairs of the University of Havana to the Parque Central in honor of National Hero Jose Marti on the occasion of his 158th birth anniversary.

The traditional Torch March was headed by the First VP of the councils of State and Ministers, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, and other members of the Politburo and the Secretariat of the Central Committee of Cuba's

Communist Party (PCC), along with leaders of the main national student and youth organizations.

In a short speech before the march, the president of the Federation of University Students (FEU), Maydel Gomez Lago, referred to the first Torch March, carried out in 1953 by university students to mark the centenary of Marti's birth.

She also spoke of upcoming celebrations, such as the 50th anniversary of the people's

victory against the mercenary invasion of Bay of Pigs and the proclamation of the Socialist nature of the Revolution, and of the ongoing preparations for the Sixth Congress of the PCC in April.

"Let us light our torches and forever illuminate the path of truth," she told thousands of youths gathered at the stairs of the University of Havana. "The Cuban youth will never fail Marti or his most faithful disciple, Fidel (Castro), or the eternally socialist Cuba,"

she concluded.

Floral wreaths on behalf of the Cuban people were placed in front of the monument dedicated to the Cuban National Hero at the Parque Central and also in front of the monument where the ashes of Julio Antonio Mella, a follower of Marti's ideals and founder of FEU, are kept at the foot of the stairs of the University of Havana.

[ACN]

USA: Hispanic youth work to address community problems

OH, 21 Jan - Youth from Adelante learned about how to make a difference in the community on Friday.

The young people attended a Lideres Conference: lideres is "leaders" in Spanish.

The National Council of La Raza is helping young latinos address problems in the hispanic community, issues like dropout rates, teen pregnancy and poverty.

"The point of the Lideres initiative is to let students

know that they can make a difference, that when they work together, when they focus on a particular issue and when they get creative with ideas they can actually make a difference," said Berenice Bonilla, National Council of La Raza.

The Adelante Resource Center has received a grant in an effort for them to help the local latino community address these issues

[Toledo on the Move].

JAMAICA: Making Youth the Priority

KINGSTON, 18 Jan - THE year 2010 has brought with it several challenges for youth, however they have managed to remain resilient. As we look forward to 2011, it is more apparent that greater emphasis has to be placed on young people.

Youth still represent a significant portion of the society, yet many of them do not contribute to the country's development. Up to 2009, over 50,000 young people between 14 and 24 were unemployed. Youth, espe-

cially males, continue to be the main victims and perpetrators of crime.

In spite of these challenges, the National Centre for Youth Development (NCYD) continues to advance youth. The organization, as the youth division of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, has assumed responsibility for the implementation of the Young Entrepreneurs Programme (YEP).

In an effort to implement this

project, the NCYD has partnered with the Jamaica Youth Business Trust (JYBT) and has handed over \$15 million dollars to assist young entrepreneurs. The loan will be available to youth who are interested in starting business in the areas of: information communication technology, agro-processing, light manufacturing and services. YEP will target unemployed youth, as well as youth who have started a and need support. Interested youth stand to benefit if they set up business in the areas of beauty

and spa service, retail and trading, fish farming, and agro-processing, among others.

In addition to this, the NCYD recognises the need for greater youth participation in governance and legislation. Through the National Youth Council of Jamaica (NYCJ), young people will be given the opportunity to participate in the formulation of policy.

The National Youth Council of Jamaica is the umbrella

organisation for youth clubs across Jamaica, which seeks to foster youth participation at the community level and advocates for youth participation in all levels of governance through providing assistance in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of government policy regarding youth.

Therefore, young people will be more active in community development and local and central government.

The NCYD will continue its

thrust to developing the national youth development agenda through its various programmes and initiatives. The National Youth Survey is in its final stage of completion and will significantly aid the NCYD and other youth serving organisations in developing specific programmes for youth who live and work on the street, as well as youth living in homes and places of safety.

The organisation recognises that the country's productivity depends on the contribu-

tion of its young people. Head of the NCYD, Roberta Brown-Ellis affirmed that "the NCYD intends to develop the potential of young people". She added that for 2011, "the agency intends to strengthen existing programmes and build on the YEP and JYBT partnerships so that more young people may get the opportunity to advance their development and become meaningful contributors to the society."

[Jamaica Observer]

ANGUILLA: Youth and Global Economic Crisis

ANGUILLA, 17 Jan -THE Anguilla National Youth Council (ANYC) and National Youth Ambassador Corp (NYAC) are autonomous and non-partisan organizations whose mandate is to represent and articulate on behalf of Anguilla's youth. The ANYC and NYAC firmly believe that it is imperative that youth are involved in all aspects of Anguilla's Development. Youth must not be seen as a problem to be solved but rather as assets to be nurtured and as strategic partners in the development process. It is imperative therefore, that youth contribute to not only the discourse but also to the solutions on serious issues facing both Youth and all Anguillians. Over the last three years we have all been privy to information concerning the global economic crisis and have directly experienced its effects. We all know that in the Caribbean region and specifically in Anguilla some of the symptoms were reduced tourists arrivals and drops in occupancy levels, closure of hotels and failures to complete others, reductions in

capital expenditure and negative GDP Growth and Underemployment and Unemployment. These issues affected all Anguillians but worldwide youth were disproportionately affected by the latter issues. Indeed underemployment and unemployment, which are major problems among youth particularly in the Caribbean region was exacerbated by the Global Economic Crisis. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Global Employment Trends for Youth 2010 report "in the current context of economic instability, young men and women today face increasing uncertainty in their hopes of making a satisfactory labour market transition. Clearly, the global economic crisis has further exposed the fragility of youth in the labour market. At the end of 2009, there were an estimated 81 million unemployed young people in the world. This was 7.8 million more than the number in 2007 at the start of the global crisis. The youth unemployment rate rose sharply during the economic crisis – more sharply

than ever before – from 11.9 to 13.0 per cent." No doubt young people are the hardest hit by economic woes and such a situation provide an inextricable link between youth, crime and poverty as persons seek any means necessary to survive. In Anguilla, we may be starting to see the effects of this. While in Anguilla, we do not collect comprehensive underemployment and unemployment information, and I am sure we all anticipate the findings of our Census this year; it is evident that a large portion of the youth population is unemployed. Second to crime and violence, unemployment has been identified as one of the biggest threats facing youth in the region. There are many young people in Anguilla who have lost jobs in construction, tourism and other sectors. Others are still unemployed after graduating from secondary school and University mid last year. To compound the problem, there will be another cohort of graduates from the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School in June 2011, in addition to a large number of students

returning to Anguilla with University degrees in a few months. The economic crisis has intensified the difficulties youth face in finding decent employment, gaining access to credit, achieving independence and being fully included in society. Some of our young people have turned to crime, delinquency and drugs. Even employed youth are fearful that they are at the greatest risk of losing their jobs due to having the least experience and on-the-job-training. Youth are definitely not immune to the impacts of the economic crisis. However, with the support of Government and the Private Sector, Anguilla's youth have a role to play in helping Anguilla to survive during this economic crisis facing our Economy and Society. The youth believe that some of the recommendations presented on Youth Development and the Global Economic Crisis at the 4th Annual National Conference on Youth and Development have merit and if implemented can directly benefit Anguilla's economy.

During the Conference on December 22nd, 2010, our youth clearly stated that they require help in achieving market-relevant and life skills, access to financial services and technology, and opportunities to participate at all levels of decision making. Further, they articulated that investment in technical education, entrepreneurship opportunities and support, and the need for Government and the Private sector to create opportunities and incentives to develop alternative industries such as fishing, agriculture and offshore financial services will help to spur economic growth and social progress. The ANYC and YAC also support the recommendations of The Commonwealth Strategic Plan 2008-2012 which

advocates that given the opportunity and the means, youth engagement in micro-credit and micro-finance programmes would have a tremendous impact in helping them to bear the brunt of the economic crisis. Support, training and mentorship for the development of Small and Micro enterprises would also create employment and support economic growth. Similarly, youth require financial, volunteer and mentorship support and we would like to appeal to all sectors of our society to increase the support given to genuine activities and youth organisations. Such efforts and interventions provide positive avenues for youth to channel their energies and greatly aid in their holistic development.

We must not forget our youth who are still in the education system as they too are feeling the effects of the Crisis. We implore you to continue to be diligent in your studies and to stay informed so that you will be well prepared to make your contribution to Anguilla's development. For the youth who are underemployed and unemployed, we ask you to be patient, to be innovative and creative with entrepreneurial ideas and to seek opportunities where you can volunteer or intern in order to develop your work and life skills. To those youth who are employed, despite reduced salaries, a freeze on increments, reduced employee benefits or reduced hours, continue to operate at the most efficient and pro-

ductive levels.

It would be remiss of me not to address the issue of money management and savings. I implore our youth and indeed all Anguillians to not spend more than you earn, to save all you can and to forego all expenditure which is unnecessary and not within your budget.

All Anguillians including youth are in this economic crisis together and we must together demonstrate resilience and strength of character and work in partnership in order to successfully navigate this Economic Crisis.

[Anguilla News]

TO ALL MEMBERS

- Please remember to pay your annual membership fees and for more enquiry please contact the WAY Headquarters. (contact details are on the last page).



World Assembly of Youth

Assemblée Mondiale de la Jeunesse

Asamblea Mundial de la Juventud

SECRETARIAT

World Youth Complex
Jalan Lebu Ayer Keroh
75450 Ayer Keroh
Melaka, MALAYSIA

Phone: +606-2322711/ 2321871

Fax: +606-2327271

E-mail: office@way.org.my

Website: <http://www.way.org.my>

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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In the Service of Youth Since 1949