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MEMO

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
1 Dec 2011	World AIDS Day
5 Dec 2011	International Volunteers Day
10 Dec 2011	Human Rights Day

ALGERIA: EU STEPS UP SUPPORT FOR YOUTH WITH €23.5 MILLION PROGRAMME

Algiers, 08 Nov.— THE of society as a whole. European Commission today approved a €23.5 million programme of support for young people in Algeria, with a particular priority on youth employment, described by European Neighborhood Policy Commissioner Štefan Füle as “a first in our cooperation with Algeria”.

“Providing a better response to the expectations of young people is a challenge for every government,” Füle said. “In Algeria, where under 35s represent 70% of the total population, the difficulties faced by young people are undeniably those

Through its support, the European Commission is accompanying the Algerian government in its national policy in favour of young people, as well as the efforts of civil society to involve young people more in society.”

The €23.5 million Youth-Employment Support Programme approved today will give support to the Ministry of Youth and Sport its institutional capacities at national and local level, as well as to youth organizations, through information, training, and the funding of projects. It will also accom-

pany national structures in North Africa as outlined in setting up an advisory and the Commission’s communication on A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean. in partnership with the private sector, social partners and the non-profit sector.

The programme aims to reinforce the participation of young people in society, improve their employment prospects and contribute to the development of cooperation between the main sectors involved in the implementation of national youth policy.

It is part of the EU’s response to the aspirations of the people and countries of

Under its Association Agreement with the EU signed in 2005, Algeria benefits from an envelope of €172 million over the period 2011-2013, financed through the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). In 2011, the European Commission engaged more than €58 million for Algeria. ([ENPI Info Centre](#))

[Euro Med]

EGYPT: YOUTH TO PARTAKE IN ARAB YOUTH CAMP IN ALGERIA

Cairo, 19 Nov.— FOR a Youth Council called on the week, a number of Egyptian youth will take part in the Arab Youth Voluntary Camp due to be held in Algeria in December. The event aims at boosting cooperation among the Arab states’ youth.

statement pointed out.

[All Africa]

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In a statement Friday 18/11/2011, the National The nomination tests will start on November 27, the

GHANA: YOUTH PARLIAMENT TO BE ESTABLISHED

Accra, 02 Nov.— GHANA will establish a non-partisan Youth Parliament on the 1st of July, 2012. This will afford the youth an avenue to express themselves freely in an environment of their own, but influencing national policy decisions. This was made known by the Minister for Youth and Sports, Mr. Clement Kofi Humado, during the Africa Youth Day celebrations, and the inauguration of the National Youth Parliament Consultative Assembly, at a ceremony in Accra yesterday.

The Minister stated that Government considers the Ghanaian Youth a crucial segment of society who deserves unique attention and investment in order to harness their God-given potential for the achievement of a Better Ghana. Mr. Humado said it is to this end that the Government developed and launched the National Youth Policy and

Action Plan in August 2010, with the vision of the policy as “an empowered youth, impacting positively on national development” and having nineteen action areas, one of which is the establishment of a National Youth Parliament.

The Minister said the National Youth Authority has worked very hard to launch the Ghana Youth Parliament Consultative Assembly, creating a platform for the youth to take part, particularly on issues that affect their development and also inculcate in them, principles of good governance, leadership and democratic values for active participation in decision making process at all levels of national life.

In her address, the National Coordinator of the National Youth Authority (NYA), Mrs. Sedina Tamakloe Ationu, stated that the National Youth Policy, identifies key priority areas as

Education and Skills Training; Science, Research and Technology; Information and Communication Technology; Youth and Employment, Enterprenual Development; Youth in Agriculture; Gender Mainstreaming; Environment; and Health, HIV and AIDS: Other areas, She added, are Networking and Partnership; Mentoring, Arts and Culture; Governance, Democracy and Leadership; Sports and Recreation; Youth in Conflict Prevention and Peace Building.

Mrs. Ationu said the NYA, in close collaboration with Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Development Partners, Corporate Ghana as well as youth organizations are implementing the respective components of the policy to improve the lives of young people across the country. She hoped the forum will invite and solicit ideas from young people through their leadership and

create a platform for the building of their capacities to participate in Governance and to engage in discourse on the National Development Agenda, leading to the final constitution of the National Youth Parliament of Ghana and open avenues for strengthening ties with member countries and foster newer opportunities for the advancement of youth development in Ghana and Africa.

Prior to the ceremony, Mr. Humado inspected a parade of cadet corps, comprising three officers and one hundred and twenty men, drawn from selected second cycle schools, at the forecourt of the Old Parliament House [Government of Ghana]

GHANA: YOUTH ASSOCIATION MUST BE PROACTIVE

Koforidua, 02 Nov.— MR Ghana”.

Ebenezer Okletey Terlabi,

Deputy Eastern Regional Minister, on Tuesday, urged youth associations to play active roles at the national, regional and district levels in the implementation of the National Youth Policy (NYP).

He advised them to position themselves as the “bridges between government and the youth” to ensure that policy makers were informed on the views and aspirations of the youth. Mr Terlabi was speaking at the Eastern Regional celebra-

tion of the African Youth Day, organized by the National Youth Authority (NYA) in Koforidua. It was under the theme, “Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, Evolving Strategic Fora for the Implementation of the National Youth Policy of

He noted that major challenges confronting the youth, which the NYP sought to address among others, were access to quality education for the youth with attendant inadequate or inappropriate training for the job market. The Minister stated that unemployment and underemployment resulting from inadequate and inappropriate training for the job market and the negative effects of urbanization and modernization among others, formed part of the challenges.

He observed that it was in the bid to realize the vision of a Better Ghana that the Government was committed to empowering and actively involving the youth in productive activities for individual, community and national development. Mr.

Terlabi explained that the Government had created the enabling environment for each Ghanaian youth to develop his or her full potential and self-esteem and also institutionalized youth participation at all levels of the decision-making process to ensure the nurturing of democratic culture.

He, therefore, entreated civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, non-profit making institutions and community-based organizations to incorporate priority concerns of the NYP in their programmes and activities. “Let us not lose sight of the crucial role civil society organizations, non-governmental organization, non-profit making institutions and community-based organizations play in youth development,” he said.

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Mr Papa Adjei Kyeremeh, Eastern Regional Director of the NYA, observed that in the past, the celebration was commemorated only in South Africa as a tribute to the gallant young men and women in the country for their contribution and sacrifices in their liberation struggle.

He said it became a continental celebration in June 2009 when African leaders at the 17th Session of their meeting at Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, adopted the celebration and slated November 1, every year as African Youth Day to be observed by all African Union (AU) member countries.

[GNA]

KENYA: GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE RULES TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS ACCESS YOUTH FUND

Nairobi, 05 Nov.—YOUTH their own business," said He added that the ministry in constituting the National and Sports minister Paul the minister. He added: Youth Council has frustrated efforts to push youth Otuoma says the National "This is why the fund has ing issues affecting youths agendas. He added that the Youth Fund is changing decided to introduce pack- since its inception. The min- case in court blocking the rules to allow individuals ages that would cater for ister said the ministry was move following disputes in access loans from the kitty. such individuals". paying fees for 75,000 youths' elections would be Otuoma said the fund would youths in youth polytech- youths' elections would be soon unveil an individual Otuoma was speaking in nics. "Each student in the resolved in good time to loan product aimed at en- Eldoret during an awareness polytechnic is allocated have the Council in place. suring that more youth ac- forum organized by the Sh15, 000 as fees under the The fund's chief executive cess loans to set up busi- fund to sensitize youths on programme," said Otuoma. officer Juma Mwatata and nesses. Currently only the need to secure loans for He added that the ministry Public Relations Manager youth groups are allowed to economic ventures. He said has secured jobs for 6,000 Benson Muthembi, Eastern access loans from the fund. that the fund had launched a youths abroad. Rift Valley Regional Pro- "We have realized that the gramme to educate the "There are so many job op- vidential Commissioner Wan- requirement that only youth youth on the organization's portunities in Europe and yama Musiambo and deputy groups qualify to get loans products with the view of we have plans of ensuring mayor Jenifa Kosgey ac- is blocking individuals who encouraging them to utilize that our young people get companied the minister. have the ability and skills to such opportunities. such jobs," he added. Otuoma noted that the delay [The Standards] borrow money and start

NIGERIA: YUGUDA PAYS MONTHLY STIPENDS TO 50,000 YOUTHS

Bauchi State, 08 Nov— check youth restiveness, did people to live harmoniously ministration in its efforts to THE Bauchi State Govern- not, however, say how with one another irrespec- improve their welfare. ment has said it had been much government was tive of religious, ethnic and giving monthly stipends to spending monthly as sti- political differences, said "I wish to use this occasion over 50,000 youths it mobi- pends on the trained youths. government was bent on to pledge to continue with lized and trained in various "Our resolve is to ensure creating a state where all the good work of providing skills and trades to encour- that our youths are gainfully citizens would pursue their the necessary infrastructural age them fend for them- engaged in order to reduce lawful activities without facilities and social ameni- selves. *In the service of youth* unemployment in the state", fear or hindrance. Yuguda ties for the upliftment of the living standard of our peo- The state governor, Malam broadcast marking the Eid- hands with the government ple," he said. He reassured Isa Yuguda, who explained el-Kabir celebration. The by cooperating and praying the people of the state gov- that the training was to governor, while urging the for the success of the ad- ernment's commitment to

the maintenance of peace and security for sustainable development, as it was doing everything possible to protect lives and property of the people.

Yuguda also unveiled government's plan to award

contract for the construction of a specialist hospital following the takeover of the existing one by the Federal Government which was converted to a teaching hospital. According to the governor, all due process requirements for the construction

of a new specialist hospital in the state had been completed, while work was expected to commence soon.

He explained that hospital equipment, drugs, and other requirement of a standard

health care delivery service had been put in place in a number of completed hospitals, dispensaries and maternities in the state.

[All Africa]

NIGERIA: CLERIC WARNS YOUTHS AGAINST DRUGS ABUSE

Koruduma, 08 Nov.—A Christian cleric, Ojiugo Udensi, at the weekend warned youths against drug abuse and advised on the deadly consequences of such abuse.

Mrs Udensi gave the warning in a presentation she made at a seminar attended by ex-secondary school students and undergraduates

in Koruduma village, Nasarawa State. The cleric, who spoke on the topic 'Beware and Stay Clear: Effects of Drugs on Human Body', charged youths to stay clear of drugs-abuse in order not to ruin their prospects in life. She explained that leukemia, kidney and liver problems are usually common

among drugs addicts. Mrs Udensi also advised youths to always seek medical attention from qualified physicians before taking drugs, adding that self medication is dangerous.

She warned young girls against taking contraceptives and abortion pills, adding that such pills could

affect their chances of procreation later in life. The cleric listed further damages of drug abuse to include mental disorders, eye damage, teeth damage, brain damage, cancer and psychological disorders among others.

[All Africa]

SOUTH AFRICA: PRESIDENT ZUMA POSITIVE ABOUT JOBS FOR YOUTH

Johannesburg, 08 Nov.— WITH frustration increasing among South Africa's unemployed youth, President Jacob Zuma has promised that things will improve soon. He says government is working around the clock to ensure that the unemployed, particularly the youth, get the jobs that will enable them to live a life of

dignity. Quoting the Quarterly Labor Force Survey for the third quarter, which reported that South Africa's unemployment rate decreased to 25% from 25.7% in the second quarter and that total employment rose by 193 000 in the quarter ended September, Zuma

said despite the gloomy economic conditions, government still had job creation as a top priority. He said it was encouraging that the most growth was amongst the youth aged between 25 and 34 years. "These figures may look like a drop in the ocean when one looks at the scores that still remain with-

out jobs. However, for those individuals whose lives will be enhanced due to being gainfully employed, the statistics are most meaningful. And for those who are still searching for jobs ... they want to hear that the situation will improve and it will improve," said Zuma. He was speaking at the 5th National Convention of the

Federation of Unions of South Africa (Fedusa) in Boksburg on Tuesday. Government aims to create five million jobs by 2020 through a new growth trajectory by increasing investment in infrastructure development, sectors such as manufacturing and the so-called green economy. It proposes measures to address the rand's strength and loose monetary policy. This is despite the Euro zone crisis which threatens to affect South Africa's economy. Zuma said government has learned lessons from the 2008 economic crisis, which saw SA losing more than one million jobs. The lesson was that one cannot count on growth to create sustainable employment. Rather, he said, government has strengthened the productive sectors, such as infrastructure, mining and agriculture, rural development and manufacturing, because they create employment on a large scale. He told the congress that government was working on other programmes in order to create job opportunities. He also mentioned that they have directed a number of public sector internships to be increased by 5 percent or 60 000 positions by 2013. This he said will give the youth work exposure and hold them in good stead when they search for formal employment. Urging for more private partnership in creating more jobs, the President said they were working on addressing the red tape in the private sector such as unnecessary regulatory delays and lack of financing. Already, a task team has been set up to address the blockages to major private investments and projects. "We are serious about the need for government to act swiftly to cut the notorious red tape," Zuma added.

[All Africa]

SOUTH AFRICA: SOUTH AFRICA PROPOSES WAGE SUBSIDY FOR YOUTH

Cape town, 16 Nov.— Tuesday. SOUTH African Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe says discussions on the proposed youth wage subsidy are underway with key stakeholders to address joblessness in the country. The proposal was tabled before the National Economic Development and Labor Council (Nedlac) on May 10, indicating that the four chambers in Nedlac were treating the matter with a sense of urgency, he said early monitored. Motlanthe said the scheme should help inexperienced youth get jobs and also support labour intensive areas. However, he warned that it should not be used to encourage young people to leave school to get jobs or for employers to sign up youngsters who should be in school. The Deputy President indicated that increasing job opportunities in rural areas was also one of the government's top priorities. He said that the Expanded Public Works Programmes were progressively creating direct jobs in provinces such as KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga. Asked where children of farm dwellers were categorized (rural or urban), Motlanthe said that was an issue they were "grappling with". He raised concern on the conditions of farm dwellers

as many did not have fixed homes. were fired from their jobs, they ended up homeless.

Motlanthe said in most cases, when the workers [NNN-BUANEWS]

TANZANIA: EXPERTS WARY OF RISING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Dar es Salaam, 05 Nov.— THE Army of unemployed youth in Tanzania could swell by an extra 1.2 million by 2015, unless learning outcomes improve, education experts have observed.

One of the disturbing indicators to that end is poor performance in Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations (CSEE), particularly over the last three years. It is a trend that is causing serious concerns among education stakeholders, including donor partners.

Statistics show that at least 1,333,417 candidates completed secondary education between 2000 and 2010.

Out of these, only 45,261 got division one, and those embraced in divisions two and three, respectively,

were 72,905 and 206,187. A staggering 667,396 candidates got division four while 341,210 failed the examinations in the entire period.

The available data show that basic education quality should be a major concern for education sector authorities. Poor results were glaring in the last national examinations, particularly in respect of ward level school candidates. Arun Josh, head of the World Bank's Education Team in Tanzania, observes that there is need to conduct deeper analysis to establish the real causes of

the downward trend in education and the will to implement reforms.

Representing the Education Development Partners' Group (ED-DPG), he noted that there is dire need to

identify strengths and weaknesses in each subject and compare performance of students in the country basing on the best and poorly performed subjects. He said if effective remedial measures were not taken, the country would soon be burdened by more unemployed youth.

The trend, according to experts, poses great challenges as most students who complete Form Four are reluctant to work in traditional agriculture. They are more likely to want to work in salaried or non-farm self employment.

According to the Labor Force Survey, 2006, at least 38 per cent of 15-24 year old youth who had attained form four level education were unemployed or inactive in urban areas in 2006.

Less than one in three secondary school entrants completed secondary school in 2004.

Annually, there are about 850,000 Tanzanian labor force entrants from the 15 to 24-year-olds as indicated in the World Bank 2010 report. The 2010 results suggest that of the pool of entrants for 2011, about 40 per cent attended secondary school but did not make the grade at the lower secondary level. The government attributes the mass failure to several factors, including lack of enough learning materials.

"Many schools are short of teachers, textbooks, laboratories, lab equipment and reagents. That was why Form Four students failed their exams massively in 2010, a survey has

established." Part of the expert report on causes of 2010 examination failure reads: The failure rate rose to 49.6 per cent in the year, prompting the government to form a committee early this year to look into causes of the poor results. The team which surveyed 132 schools 88 of them public and the rest private released its findings on Wednesday this week. The best and worst performing schools were picked from 22 councils in 11 regions.

The acting director of Secondary Education, Mr. Charles Philemon, told participants in this year's joint education sector review working session that a hostile environment was one of the reasons behind poor exam results. In some schools, only 25 per cent of textbooks were available and only 35 per cent of the schools surveyed had laboratories.

In the few schools where such facilities were available, apparatus and reagents were missing. He said only

20 per cent of schools had libraries. The report shows that some schools had as few as two qualified teachers. In some of the schools, houses for teachers were poor. Incompetence and poor administrative skills of many officers also featured in the report. It was also established that new curricula were introduced, unmindful of whether teachers knew how to implement them.

The report recommended that capacity building should be improved for education officers and strengthens the monitoring of classroom work by inspectors and other education officers. It also proposed that an attendance journal for teachers be introduced. It called on the government to recruit more teachers and deploy them appropriately. Community-built schools should have adequate facilities to enable students to learn well. Mr. Philemon

told the workshop: "The government has taken into consideration the recommendations and is working

on measures to improve the quality of education." However, some workshop participants were critical of the report, saying its analysis of massive student failures was superficial. The Tanzania Education Network Coordinator, Ms Helima Nengele, took issues with the rate of failures at public teacher training colleges, saying it was alarming and contributed a lot to the poor quality of education.

She said the National Examination Council of Tanzania records showed increasing rate of failures in the final examinations. She reported that at least 4.8 per cent of diploma teachers failed the exams in 2010 compared to 1.6 per cent in 2009. About 4.8 per cent of Grade A teachers failed the exams in 2010 compared to 2.9 per cent in 2009.

"How can we improve the quality of education at other levels while our colleges are producing incompetent teachers?" she said. The

Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Penniel Lyimo, conceded that the government was facing a lot of challenges in its endeavor to improve the education sector. Key challenges, he said, included provision of an enabling learning environment, shortage of teachers and equipment, and, overall, improving the quality of education.

Increased demand for provision of loans to needy students in higher education learning institutions, availability of adequate and qualified human resources as well as adequate user friendly infrastructural facilities at all levels of education, also remained obstacles. Mr. Lyimo added that pressure also emanated from enhancing teaching and learning science and technology subjects, to develop human capital for sound economic development.

[All Africa]

INDIA: NEED TO REFORM NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

New Delhi, 19 Nov.— Shri the services rendered by National integration, Shri ful instrument for national
Ajay Maken, Minister of them in the areas like Maken emphasized the need integration and further
State (Independent Charge) Health, Environment, Sani- for making Youth physi- stated that voluntary service
for Youth Affairs & Sports tation, Education and in- cally fit and for their skill adds value to the society
has stressed the need of National Building Activi- development. He said “ We and leads to better under-
reforming the National Ser- ties. are sitting on largest human standing of social issues.
vice Scheme (NSS) to resources . So there is need Shri Ramadorai strongly
make it more effective & As a part of reforms in the for physical fitness of youth advocated the need for add-
relevant in the changed en- NSS, Shri Maken supported and their skill development. ing new programmes in the
vironment . Shri Maken was the idea suggested by Shri Otherwise, we will not be NSS to make it more rele-
speaking at 42nd Founda- Ramadorai for introduction able to get proper benefit of vant in the changed envi-
tion Day celebrations of of flexibility in the pro- largest human resources.” ronment. He also suggested
NSS and Indira Gandhi grammes of the NSS in the for using the NSS as an
NSS (IGNSS) Awards dis- colleges and universities. In this direction , Shri instrument for achieving the
tribution ceremony held He further advocated for Maken also suggested that goal of inclusive growth
here today. At the function, regular evaluation of pro- the NSS volunteers should and computerization of data
which was attended by Shri grammes to know the objec- be able be acquire skills of 3.2 million volunteers in
S. Ramadorai , Adviser to tives being achieved. Keep- while performing social the country.
the Prime Minister in Na- ing in view the above sug- service , so that NSS volun- On the occasion, Shri
tional Skill Development gestions, Shri Maken said soon as they come out of Maken also released a CD
Council (NSDC) , Shri that the NSS Scheme needs the college /universities. on NSS Youth Songs devel-
Maken and Shri Ramadorai to be remodeled. While delivering the key- oped by Ahmedabad Unit of
gave away IGNSS Awards note address, Shri the NSS.
for the year 2010-11 to NSS Lauding the role played by Ramadorai acclaimed the
Volunteers/ Programme the NSS volunteers in disas- ter management and in the role of the NSS as a power- [Press Information Bureau]

MALAYSIA: YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE SENSITIVE TO MALAYSIAN CULTURE

Putrajaya, 10 Nov.— DEP- He said that same-gender said such programmes will always be sensitive to
UTY Prime Minister Tan awareness activities or pro- would bring no benefit to the culture of the Malaysian
Sri Muhyiddin Yassin re- grammes like the recent the society and country, and society," he said when clos-
minded all quarters to draw Seksualiti Merdeka were run contrary to the need to ing the National Integrity
up activities beneficial to not in line with such values inculcate integrity and high Convention at Putrajaya
the youth and in line with and in fact against the re- morality among the younger International Convention
the cultural values of the quirement and needs of re- generation. "I really hope Centre (PICC), here today.
Malaysian society. ligious, race and country. He that youth organizations

Present was the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan. Muhyiddin encouraged NGOs and the private sector to work closely with the relevant ministries to streamline and coordinate programmes to be in line with the country's youth development policy. "What is more relevant for you as activists, movers and young professionals, is that you have an important responsibility, that is to keep these negative elements at bay and restore the confidence among the society in the country's youths... that they are committed, credible, responsible and can be relied upon to help build and lead the nation," he said. The deputy prime minister also reminded the younger generation to cast away any lackadaisical attitude and embark on a quest for continuous excellence, stressing that hard work should be accompanied by integrity, sincerity and willingness to cooperate. The government appreciated the younger generation, he said, pointing out that RM815 million had been allocated in the 2012 Budget to enhance professionalism among them in all fields. [BERNAMA]

MALAYSIA: MALAYSIA TO FOLLOW INTERNATIONAL AGE LIMIT FOR YOUTH IN 2020

Putrajaya, 16 Nov.— THE Standardization of the age limit for youth based on the international definition will be implemented when Malaysia achieved the status of a fully developed nation in 2020, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Ahmad Shabery Cheek said. He said this was because the enforcement of Youth Association and Youth Development Act 2007, which sets an age limit of 40 for youth leaders, was still new and there was a huge gap among youth associations. "If we just decide that those above the age of 40 cannot become youth leaders, it will become a new problem to youth associations. "That is why we are giving a period of nine years to prepare the new breed of youths to become leaders," he told reporters after attending the National Youth Consultative Council Meeting here. Ahmad Shabery said the international community defined youth as persons between the ages of 15 to 25. However, he said the proposed standardisation of the age limit based on the international definition would be scrutinised if it were to involve amendments to the act. "We have tabled the proposal at the Youth Consultative Council meeting today and it will be brought to the attention of the Cabinet committee on youth development before being tabled at the Parliament. We'll see how it goes," he said. Meanwhile, Ahmad Shabery said the ministry would give an additional allocation of RM1.5 million to the Malaysian Youth Council, RM100,000 to State Youth Council and RM50,000 to District Youth Council to carry out their programmes. [BERNAMA]

OMAN: YOUTH SURVEY WILL HELP POLICYMAKERS'

Muscat, 15 Nov.— AS “We want to know what people in mainstream education and recent graduates will undoubtedly help us better understand young people and give us an insight into how they’re doing in school and college, how they spend their time, how physically active they are and how they feel about their self and their future.” The survey’s results will be an important resource for those who work with and care about Oman’s youth. “It’s our hope that the information we obtain from the survey will help us develop Muscat Youth Summit and BOMU’s Azzan Al Busaidi take it to the next level. The survey’s results will also help our partners in government, business and the third sector make sound decisions about program development, funding and youth service delivery,” concluded HH Sayyid Faisal.

Part of the latest youth consultation for Muscat Youth Summit, the Brand Oman Management Unit (BOMU) spearheaded by His Highness Sayyid Faisal Al Said has launched a nationwide electronic youth survey aimed at young people in the age group of 15-25. So far, we’ve had over 1,400 young people take part in the survey. And we’re obviously delighted with the response but we want to hear from as many young people as possible. This is a great opportunity for the youth to have their say,” remarked Sayyid Faisal.

Running online (www.brandoman.om/youthsurvey) until December 31 and available in Arabic and English, the survey is the Sultanate’s most comprehensive overview of Omani youth to date. The initiative is part of the Muscat Youth Summit and is the latest project by BOMU designed to help government, business and the third sector make the best decisions possible for Oman’s youth.

Specific topics covered in the 37 question survey include: perceptions of the area young people live in; suggested improvements for their local area; what they do in their spare time; media use; aspirations and future plans; interest in the enterprise culture; and their views on community service and volunteering,” said BOMU’s Azzan Al Busaidi and MYS Project Director. Al Busaidi added, “This is the first time we’ve rolled out a survey of this magnitude. It’s Version One, if you will. But we hope it’ll provide critical information about our young people and tell us more about their aspirations, concerns and

PHILIPPINES : AL GORE HAILS PINOY YOUTH

Manila, 22 Nov.— MORE Climate Change Commission. The national youth workshop, as part of the first carbon neutral event in the Philippines, was held at the SMX Mall of Asia Convention Centre. It was organized by the Climate Change Commission in partnership with Al Gore’s The Climate Reality Project, National Youth Commission, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, Council for the Welfare of Children, UNICEF-

Philippines and USAID- shop dubbed as Pi- climate. Through a series of Project's presenter and in- Philippines. noy+Youth+Power in a workshops and interactive ternational environment Changing Climate is part of inputs, the young delegates youth speaker Alec Looz, In a message sent for the the National Climate are able to understand the of Kids vs. Global Warming national gathering, Nobel Change Consciousness basics of climate science, and Hamzah Ramadhan of Laureate and former United Week with the theme simple solutions and advo- Inconvenient Youth Indone- States Vice President Al "Creating Convergence on cacies to secure their future, sia, also shared their climate Gore, said that "it is events Climate Change." It aims to she said. A national youth crisis advocacies through like yours today that will mainstream the participa- climate change agenda had less-carbon video messag- empower our youth to reach tion of Filipino young peo- been discussed and ap- ing and online video confer- new heights and take on the ple and children in address- proved by the delegates to ence. challenge of climate ing the challenges of the mainstream their significant change." "As you know climate crisis. participation in implement- "Indeed, the young people very well, climate change ing the National Climate are vulnerable to the effects will have significant impact "Engaging with the young Change Action Plan. of climate crisis which may on the Philippines. It's im- people is a priority of the burn their future. It is their portant for young people to Commission as they are Abraham Menguria, 17, of future which is at stake and learn about the science and more vulnerable to the ef- Cavite province, said he together through this event, prepare to action. As an fects of climate change in was honored and humbled they would be able to mold island nation, you are vul- which they face today mak- to participate in the work- this future and make the nerable to rising seas, in- ing their future at stake," shop. "I am nervous but world a better place to live tense storms, and the loss of said Commissioner Lucille glad because I know our in," said The Climate Real- ocean resources that provide Sering, Vice-Chairperson of contribution to this activity ity Project's Philippine Dis- food and economic opportu- the Climate Change Com- will have a significant im- trict Manager Rodne nities to all Filipinos," ex- mission. Sering said it is pact for the present and Galicha. plained Gore, who also necessary to let the young future generations to come; [Mindanao Examiner] heads the global climate people discuss within them- it is a challenge, indeed!" Menguria, who was spon- campaign The Climate Re- selves the hazards and chal- sored by the World Vision, ality Project. lenges they are facing due said. The Climate Reality The climate youth work- to the inconsistencies of

SRI LANKA: NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS FESTIVAL, A SUCCESS

Colombo, 03 Nov.— and Skills Development Homagama recently. The peruma, minister of Youth NATIONAL Youth Ser- organized the National sports festival was inaugu- Affairs and Skills Develop- vices Council, Sri Lanka Youth Sports Festival rated by Prime Minister D ment, Bandula Gunawar- Federation of Youth Clubs, which was held at Mahinda M Jayarathna with the par- dena Minister of Education Ministry of Youth Affairs Rajapaksa Stadium in ticipation of Dullas Alahap- and Deputy Minister of

Youth Affairs and Skills Development, Duminda Dissanayake. More than 2,000 competitors took part representing youth clubs from all the four corners of the island. Five school bands in the area added grace while a beautiful drill display with dance performances consisting of 1,200 youths adding much pomp and pageantry to the ceremony.

This beautiful moment was telecast live over Channel Eye of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and broadcast live over Lakshanda Radio Channel. Team events and Athletic events were held under two groups namely under 20 and over 20 age levels, while men and women tug-of-war was the most recent team event added.

National Youth Sports Festival is improving year by year.

Chairman of the National Youth Services Council, Lalith Piyum Perera (Attorney-at-Law), expressed his views of the present and the future development of the National Youth Services Council.

The Council established to cater to the needs of the youth, is open for the young generations of the nation and launches programmes that empower the youth and the development process.

'As the chairman / director general of the National Youth Services Council, the responsibilities are quite immense.

'I am very much aware of the strength of the youth, creativity, new attitudes, trends etc. I was able to make the necessary attitudinal changes in order to make a difference.

'The head office of the National Youth Services Council is located in Maharagama, the environment is transformed in such a way that attracts the youth and makes it a pleasing environment both in interior as well as exterior.

'I am quite happy as I am being constantly guided by ministers Alahapperuma, Bandula Gunawardena and deputy minister Duminda Dissanayake.'

[Daily news]

Europe News

ENGLAND: EXTRA CASH FOR YOUTH UNEMPLOYED

Isle of Wight, 17 Nov.— last night (Wednesday) it was announced an extra £85,000 is to be spent on tackling the Island's chronic youth unemployment problem. The money will be used to help prepare young people for applying for apprenticeships, although exactly how many will benefit is yet to be revealed. Cllr George Brown is hoping the money will be helpful "It is a very crucial thing, we're worried about the increasing unemployment or lack of jobs for people in that age bracket. We have far too many people at a young age who're out of work, on job seekers allowance it's just not acceptable. But actually doing something about it is difficult, we hope the scheme will work and it should help more people in to apprenticeship. "It is designed entirely to make sure we have a means of preparing island young people to make them more likely to get apprenticeships in the private sector so it's going to be wholly spent on that."

Cllr Brown believes our tourism economy could have some bearing on why the figures are unemployment figures are so high. "Obviously there is a seasonality of employment. Quite a lot of our young people have gone in to seasonal jobs so at a time of year such as this you would see more of them who are not being employed. I think that the holiday industry as a whole does probably have some bearing on it."

[Isle of Wight Radio]

ENGLAND: PLACARD WAVING TEENAGERS FIGHT TO SAVE PORTISHEAD YOUTH CENTRE

Portishead, 16 Nov.— chamber for last night's council meeting. Teenagers, all who attend the Harbor Road centre, stood on the steps then packed into the council chamber chanting 'What do we want? Youth workers, when do want them - now.'

More than 30 teenagers from Portishead Youth Service, waving placards with the slogans Save our Youth Service, Save our Youth Workers, chanted as councillors walked in to the parish and town councils to step in and fill the gap in provision left by the cuts. The youth service will be replaced by a new community family service which will provide support to the 300 most vulnerable families - 900 children - across the district. The news of the cuts comes at the same time as Portishead Youth Centre, which opened in 1996, has just undergone a £1.1 million refurbishment.

The move will see all 24 youth worker posts across the district deleted and funding currently allocated to youth clubs cut to practically zero. But as many youth workers work on a sessional or part time basis, the actual figure of staff reductions could be far greater. Instead the authority is asking community groups, parents, churches, schools,

Youngsters addressed councilors at the meeting, highlighting the importance of the youth service. Teenagers said how the youth service and its staff had helped keep them off the streets by providing them with different activities. They also said youth workers offered them advice and guidance on personal matters when they felt they could talk to no one else. Charlie Lane, 18, who has been attending Portishead Youth Club since she was 11, led the protest.

Charlie, who works at a senior volunteer at the youth centre, said: "Young people need their youth workers and their youth centre. "The youth service is vital to all these young people and they are here today to show what it means to them. "The council is stealing from our future and if you continue to do this, the council will pay. We must save our youth service and we can do everything we can to stop these cuts from going ahead."

Fellow volunteer youth Declan Marlow, 19, said: "The youth service helps young people develop key skills and social skills needed to grow and develop. "The youth service is a vital service for the young people of Portishead." Portishead resident, Paul Maltby, said: "Portishead has a state of the art youth centre but the council is slash its funding, throwing its future into doubt. The council has let the youth of Portishead down badly - please do not take away the lifeline of the youth club as well.

Portishead Youth Club management committee chairman, Roger Sainsbury, said: "I chaired the National Youth Agency and saw more than 600 providers of firsthand the high professional standards required of those graduating as youth workers. "I am convinced that good professional youth work for all young people is the best way to support the vulnerable. If we don't invest in young people now, we will end up paying for it tomorrow. We now have a £1 million world class youth centre and I have seen the value of good professional youth work for young people."

UNISON members - who paid for the coach to take teenagers to the protest - also spoke at the meeting about the impact of the cuts on services and job losses. North Somerset Council executive member for children and young people, [Portishead People] Councilor Jeremy Blatchford, said a survey of provision in the district had revealed there were already more than 600 providers of youth activities in the district, including guides, scouts, church groups and sports clubs.

He added that youth provision was not just the responsibility of the local authority and that the aim of the review was to provide an integrated service. The protest came at the same meeting as the authority endorsed its medium term financial plan which outlines cuts of £47.3 million over the next four years, including £18.6 million in the financial year 2012/13. The budget proposals will be agreed by the executive in February but will have to be ratified by the full council later in the month.

Europe News

ENGLAND: YOUTH CRIME DECREASE

Wigan, 21 Nov.— FEWER youths are entering the justice system for the first time in Wigan.

A quarterly report by Wigan Council reveals that from April to June, (quarter one) the number of youngsters who are committing crimes for the first time is significant lower than the North West and national average, with just 31 new offenders in the borough.

Meanwhile, in the same report, but looking at quarter two (July to September), the rate of reoffending in the borough is 0.2 per 100,000 of the entire Wigan population, which equates to 200 youngsters, whilst the North West average is 1.19 and the national figure is 1.08.

Wigan Council's YOT, which is one of the leading organizations in the country in terms of being committed to the principals of early intervention and prevention and restorative justice, lays

its achievements on numerous initiatives.

Teams have participated in Pathfinder projects, in partnership with Greater Manchester Police and this has lead to the development of the national Restorative Justice Disposal.

Wigan is one of the only YOTS to offer voluntary intervention to young people subject to all Out of Court Disposals and the council was highlighted

nationally as having best practice in this area. The organization facilitates reparation projects that are visible to the community and that enable young people to learn skills that will help them in the future.

It offers a service to victims of crime and promotes restorative face to face meetings that create opportunities for victims to tell young people how they were affected and to allow young people the opportunity to learn from the experience, apologize or make good for

their actions.

The Wigan YOT also delivers initiatives such as Operation Stay safe, working in partnership with the police late into the evening to identify young people who are consuming alcohol, to ensure they are appropriately safeguarded, and to offer additional voluntary support to address the issues associated with young people and alcohol use.

Sue Astbury, head of service early intervention and prevention, said: "The teams involved in working with young people are very committed to making a difference for the young people and the communities they live in. We are currently progressing a restructure of our Early Intervention and Prevention Services with the creation of Locality Gateway Teams and a Boroughwide Restorative Solutions Team to expand the preventative services available to young people and increase the re-

storative interventions for victims, local communities and young people.

"The team has invested a lot of time in police training on restorative justice and we share an excellent working relationship with them, and a number of other partner agencies, and as such we receive direct referrals for voluntary support and intervention in order to tackle young peoples behavior before it becomes a significant issue. "We firmly believe that prevention is better than cure.

"We have highly skilled and trained restorative justice practitioners who are linked with Schools and who offer additional support to vulnerable groups.

"We work hard at identifying young people at risk of offending behavior or anti-social behavior and offer early intervention."

[Wigan Today]

Australia and Pacific News

AUSTRALIA: COUNCIL TO HOST SA'S YOUTH WEEK LAUNCH

Mount Gambier, 14 Nov.— the launch has been held in stalls and information number of young people THE District Council of regional South Australia. booths," she said. come along." Grant will host the South She says a big event is be- Australian launch of Na- ing planned at the Old "We would love to get [ABC] tional Youth Week in 2012. Mount Gambier Jail on Fri- around 2,000 if that was at The council's youth devel- live music, dance, expres- been anything like this opment officer, Judy Good- sion arts, multicultural ac- within the region. We man, says it is the first time tivities, giant rides, food would really love to see that

NEW ZEALAND: COUNCIL ON THE LOOKOUT FOR YOUTH LEADERS

Rotorua District, 14 Nov.— various local and national location, gender and exper- tial training from 10 to12 IT Is that time of the year initiatives. ence, and aim to encourage February. when Rotorua District other youth participation in the community." Last day for applications is Council (RDC) is on the RDC youth projects officer Jill Campbell says she is looking for a diverse group She says youth councilors at 5pm. Twenty young peo- of 13 to 18 year olds who are expected to be able to ple will be shortlisted and 2012 Rotorua District can offer a youth perspec- problem-solve, work well in interviewed on 9 or 10 De- Youth Council (RDYC). tive to council decisions and other issues affecting young in civic duty, be prepared to cilors will then be selected RDYC meet fortnightly to people. discuss issues affecting Ro- and notified by 15 Decem- discuss current youth issues, torua's young people, be ber. learn about local govern- "Youth councilors are given good listeners and have a network of peers to share [Voxy.co.za] ment and decision-making, numerous opportunities to information with. get involved in the commu- be involved in great com- Rotorua District Youth nity, and help give Rotorua munity activities throughout Council will meet every youth a voice. Youth coun- their term on council. second Tuesday during cilors also support and or- "They bring together a mix of ethnicity, geographic 2012, as well as attend ini-

United states of America News

CANADA: CITY LOOKS FOR YOUTH ADVISORS

Brandon, 8 Nov.— THE city's Community Development Coordinator. Once formed, Brandon's Youth Advisory Committee will be the driving force behind the development, creation and implementation of another of the Youth Plan's recommendations — a Youth Centre.

Two informational and recruitment sessions about the youth advisory committee are coming up, both at the Riverbank Discovery Centre. The first will be held on Thursday, Nov. 10 and the second on Thursday, Nov. 24.

Each will begin at 6 p.m., with free food provided for all those that attend, but interested youth should RSVP their attendance to one of the sessions by emailing c.baker@brandon.ca or by calling 729-2234 [Brandon Sun]

Brandon, 8 Nov.— THE city's Community Development Coordinator. Once formed, Brandon's Youth Advisory Committee will be the driving force behind the development, creation and implementation of another of the Youth Plan's recommendations — a Youth Centre.

They'd like a core group of 30 to 40 people, and are looking for motivated, dynamic youth who have a desire to help shape and enhance the city, according to a press release.

"Our youth today are more informed, well-educated and want a say in their future," says Richard Greer, City of Brandon's Youth Plan, adopted by Brandon City Council in February of 2010.

The youth committee would include an executive, as well as youth centre, policy and government sub-committees, and would work with the city's Community Services staff to ensure a youth voice is being considered by Brandon's decision-makers.

An advisory committee for youth was one of 17 recommendations contained in the City of Brandon's Youth Plan, adopted by Brandon City Council in February of 2010.

"Youth Centers all over Canada are playing a pivotal role in the development of their youth and we want the same opportunities for the young people of Brandon," Greer said. "A Youth Centre in Brandon will focus on the educational, recreational and social development of our youth through structured, organized activities."

USA: STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL AWARDS \$275,000 IN GRANTS TO OUTDOOR YOUTH OR-

San Mateo, California, 01 Nov.— AN Oakland school-based program connects urban youth to overnight outdoor adventure-based experiences; a Bay Area program builds confidence and promotes a life-affirming view for youth with incarcerated parents; a North Sacramento Valley organization encourages foster-care youth to explore environmental stewardship and leadership; and a Central Valley initiative helps at-risk youth discover career opportunities in the outdoor and recreation industries — these are just some of the Impact Fund grants the Stewardship Council has recently awarded.

The Stewardship Council awarded \$275,000 through the Impact Fund to support the efforts of 12 organizations that make outdoor spaces accessible and safe for youth and families. The Impact Fund provides support for more established organizations, whose annual operating budgets are over \$250,000, with the resources they need to get underserved youth connected to the outdoors.

Since 1949 The Stewardship Council is in its sixth year of grant funding. During this time, the Council has awarded

more than \$10 million to more than 200 organizations. Stewardship Council funds have helped more than 250,000 youths. The Council is committed to providing funds to youth development organizations and programs that connect youth to the outdoors and transform them academically, personally, and socially. The following is a list of the twelve 2011 Impact Fund Round Two awards:

ARISE High School (Oakland) was awarded \$30,000 to connect underserved Oakland youth to outdoor opportunities. ARISE's Beyond the Classroom program aspires to engage kids with the environment while providing development opportunities and outdoor adventures. The program builds the skills and confidence youth need for high school graduation and college success.

Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice (Oakland) was awarded \$25,000 for their SAFIRE Rising program. This program teaches practical envi-

ronmental stewardship among young Asian women from low-income, immigrant and refugee families in urban Oakland. Through a series of retreats at a teaching farm/ecology center and hands-on outdoor experiences, these young women learn culturally relevant ecological practices applicable to their daily lives.

Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP) (Bay Area) was awarded \$20,000 for its Outdoor Adventures Program. By taking youth with physical disabilities off the paved roads and into nature, this program increases their self-confidence, self perception, and independence. The Outdoor Adventures Program exposes these youth to a broad range of outdoor activities, shows them how to overcome obstacles, and encourages them to see obstacles as opportunities.

Bay Area Wilderness Training (BAWT) (Bay Area) was awarded \$30,000 for its Front country Leadership Training program. The program provides teachers and youth workers with wilder-

ness skills training; free outdoor equipment libraries; and financial, logistical, and consultative support. This program gives local teachers the skills and equipment they need to provide successful outdoor experiences to their students.

Boys and Girls Club of Fresno (Fresno) was awarded \$20,000 for its Adventures Connecting Career Education and Sparking Stewardship Project (A.C.C.E.S.S.) for Youth. The program aims to inspire 40 at-risk youth to seek career opportunities in the outdoor and recreation industries. While engaged in adventure-based learning, youth will develop positive life skills that will help them break the cycle of poverty and risky behaviors.

Briones Independent Study and Vicente High School (Martinez) was awarded \$25,000 for its New Leaf Outdoor Experiences project. New Leaf activities are created through the support of a collaborative network of volunteers, non-profits, and businesses. The program provides learning opportunities for students in

adulthood.

wildlife ecology, conservation, and leadership development.

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (San Francisco) was awarded \$20,000 for its Stewarding Diverse Environmental Leadership Program. Through this program, high school youth will help organize a summit to help explore how more youth of color and underserved youth can participate in outdoor activities and programs. In addition, the youth will help with restoration efforts and become interns with other local programs.

Native American Health Center (Oakland) was awarded \$30,000 for their Chae-Mal Wilderness Program. The program will provide outdoor educational and recreational activities including kayaking, white water rafting, hiking, camping, and mountain biking to urban Native American and other underserved Bay Area youth. These activities will help revive and nurture the youths' cultural connections with the land and environment, while supporting their holistic development into adulthood.

WildLink, a program of Project AVARY (Bay Area) Urban Promise Academy Youth for Change, Inc. Nature Bridge (San Joaquin was awarded \$25,000 for (Oakland) was awarded (Oroville) was awarded Valley) was awarded their Outdoor Leaders \$20,000 for its Wilderness \$25,000 to implement a new \$20,000 for the WildLink Training Project (OLTP), a Independence and Leader-wilderness program for program. This program part of Avary's Youth Leadership Development program youth referred from Butte transforms underserved ership Program. Project (WILD). This program will County Child Welfare Ser- youth through a series of no AVARY focuses on chil- provide 300 middle school vices and the Southside -cost wilderness and com- dren of incarcerated parents students with multiple over- Oroville African American munity-based outdoor pro- and builds a pool of young night and daylong wilder- Family and Cultural Center. grams. Using a robust part- outdoor leaders by provid- ness excursions and oppor- The intense, nine-month nership network, the pro- ing a variety of graduated tunities for local environ- program of learning and gram educates, inspires, and training opportunities and mental conservation. wilderness activities will empowers youth to become experiences. The project Through outdoor experi- provide culturally diverse long-term environmental culminates by connecting ences, students will develop youth, with little or no out- stewards with strong con- trained youth graduates with personal connections with door experience, the oppor- nections to the natural real employment experi- nature and build the social, tunity to learn about self, world, both in the wilder- ences, both within the pro- emotional, and life skills others, and the environment. ness and within their home gram and with partner or- needed to achieve academi- cally now and in high [Yuba Net] communities. ganizations. school.

USA: NAME CHANGE FOR YOUTH COUNCIL

Washington DC, 22 Nov.— policies. The youth council to help prepare them to take THE Central Massachusetts is made up of leaders from their place in the work- Youth Council has changed private businesses, govern- force,” said Jeffrey T. Tur- its name to the Central Mas- ment agencies, parents, geon, executive director of the Central Massachusetts Youth Workforce leaders of youth programs the Central Massachusetts Investment Council. and agencies that serve Workforce Investment youths, and other individu- Board. The council is a subcommit- als from the community. [The Telegram] tee of the Central Massa- “Under this new name we Worldwide Since 1949 chusetts Workforce Invest- plan to continue our work to ment Council, a group that develop local young adults helps government develop

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