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✓ **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2019**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
4 February 2019	World Cancer Day	Melaka, Malaysia
11 February 2019	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Melaka, Malaysia
13 February 2019	World Radio Day	Melaka, Malaysia
20 February 2019	World Day of Social Justice	Melaka, Malaysia
20 - 23 February 2019	ASEAN Youth Engagement Summit	Melaka, Malaysia
20 February 2019	International Mother Language Day	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ NIGERIA: BETTER DEALS FOR BAYELSA YOUTHS

Bayelsa, 10 January 2019 - Youths in Bayelsa like in most states in the country are faced with the challenges of survival. Most of them are jobless.

Even those who went through schools and acquired basic certificates are still roaming the streets seeking opportunities to make ends meet.

Therefore, people blame increase in criminal activities, rise in cult-related violence and armed robberies on the idleness of the youths.

But things are looking up for the youths in Bayelsa following some steps initiated recently by the state government to tackle some of the challenges.

Apart from lifting an embargo on employment, which led to the engagement of 1000 youths in the state civil service, the decision of Governor Seriake Dickson to appoint Udengs Eradiri as the Commissioner for Youths was seen by many people as a quantum leap in the right direction.

Eradiri, an engineer, is an activist and has been a youth leader for a long time.

He is an ardent believer in Ijaw cause, a mobiliser, a successful entrepreneur and a repository of ideas. As the immediate past President of the Ijaw Youths Council (IYC) Worldwide, Eradiri was rated the most vibrant, vocal and intelligent person to have led the IYC.

So, many stakeholders poured encomiums on Dickson for his choice of a

youth commissioner.

While swearing-in Eradiri, the governor highlighted his concerns about the youths in the state. He gave Eradiri a marching order to reposition and refocus the youths in meaningful ventures.

Specifically, Dickson called for concerted action against the upsurge of criminality and social vices such as cultism, violence and drug abuse in the Niger Delta region.

He expressed concern over the future of the youths and stressed the need for leaders in the Niger Delta to fight cultism, drug abuse and other vices capable of truncating the destinies of the youths.

He particularly called on Eradiri to develop a template for sensitisation and reorientation of youths in the state for positive ventures.

He said: "Cultism is not only in the universities now. It is shocking that 11 to 12 years old are now deadly cultists. We have to recover as many as these young people as we can.

I enjoin all political leaders, religious leaders to join in this. Woe betides the leaders who are deceiving these youths that cultism is the way to success for them.

"A good number of the youths have been deceived into thinking that they have to kill to succeed.

I therefore call on Niger Delta leaders to rise to the challenge of cultism, drug abuse for us to safeguard the future of our youths who

have abundant potential".

Buoyed by the mandate, Eradiri murdered sleep. He has been strategising for better deals for Bayelsa youths.

Few days into his appointment, Eradiri got accolades for mobilising youths for comedy and musical concerts he co-organised with his colleague in the Tourism ministry.

For the first time, youths were given opportunities and platforms to showcase their talents.

Such opportunities gave them a sense of belonging, brought them closer to the government and compelled them to further develop their potential.

During the Yuletide, the new youth commissioner visited Argentina where he held crucial discussions on training and empowerment of Bayelsa youths with the Nigerian Ambassador, Jonah Odo Mkpuruka.

Eradiri was said to have urged Mkpuruka to galvanize opportunities in Argentina for Bayelsa youths.

The ambassador is to broker training programmes and empowerment opportunities and facilitate the coming of identified experts to Bayelsa State.

Apart from holding strategic meetings with all the appointees of the governor on youth matters, Eradiri has concluded plans to begin town hall meetings in every community in the state.

The meetings, according to the youth commissioner, would help to identify peculiar challenges of the youths and develop policies and programmes to tackle them.

In the area of job creation, Eradiri said he would work with other commissioners to cut out deals concerning youths in their ministries.

He said with required partnerships, jobs would be created for the youths in oil and gas, tourism and agriculture.

While addressing scores of youths under the auspices of the United Okoroma Youth Association (UOYA), Eradiri assured them of Dickson's commitment to empower the youths.

But he appealed to them to shun criminality and patiently wait for the government to roll out its programmes.

Eradiri further urged the youths, who were preparing for their clan's elections, to choose leaders with credibility and avoid actions that could attract interests of multinationals in their local elections.

Eradiri said that part of the mandate of his Ministry was to ensure that youth organisations were community based.

He said such organisations should carry all opinions in their communities along to ensure security, unity and development.

[The Nation Newspaper]



✓ RWANDA: CAREER ADVICE TO AFRICAN YOUTH

Kigali, 8 January 2019 -

INDEED, for many young Africans, it is inherently difficult to enter the workforce without a powerful uncle to open doors for you.

According to the African Development Bank, Africa's youth population is rapidly growing and expected to double to over 830 million by 2050.

If properly harnessed, this increase in the working age population could support increased productivity and stronger, more inclusive economic growth across the continent.

However, this asset remains untapped due to unemployment and underemployment. The potential benefits of Africa's youth population are unrealised as two thirds of non-student youth are unemployed, discouraged, or marginally employed.

Only three million formal jobs are created annually while 10-12 million youth seek to enter the workforce each year. Even when jobs are available, youth often do not have the skills required by employers despite improved access to education over the past several decades.

With such a stiff competition for limited employment opportunities, what career advice would you give to today's youth?

Instead of bombarding my friends with vacancy announcements, I use the narrative of a start-up business to motivate them to better position

themselves to the ever-changing job market. For anything desirable in the world, be it customers, jobs or a good school there is always competition. Just as a start-up find a specific edge over its competitors, you too must focus on finding your own competitive advantage.

A strong competitive advantage should emerge from the intersection of three forces:

Your assets are what you have now. They range from hard assets like the cash in your wallet to soft assets like your skills, experience and education. They develop over time, and their strength is always relative to the competition.

Thus you should prefer areas and markets where your assets shine brighter than those of your competitors.

The second force consists of your aspirations and values. These should reflect your core values and your vision for the future. Some might call them your passions, and they are integral to success. The guy who is passionate about what he is doing will inevitably outwork and outlast someone who is not.

Finally, market realities are the demands of the world around you. Your competitive advantage will be useless if no one is interested in it. On the other hand, the right competitive advantage can let you ride the very same market trends and technological shifts that threaten other people.

For each individual, the three forces above are not

only constantly changing, but also fundamentally unknowable. For example, few of us truly know what we are passionate about. Thus the best you can do is to make hypotheses about these three forces, and adjust them as you go along. In his book, *The Startup of You*, Reid Hoffman advises young professionals to always have plan A, B and Z so they can adapt as their understanding of themselves and the world changes.

Before Flickr became a hugely successful photo-sharing service, it was a multiplayer online game which just happened to have a popular application for sharing photos.

Before Sheryl Sandberg became the COO of Facebook, she worked at the World Bank, the US Treasury Department and even arch-rival Google. At first, both Sheryl's and Flickr's transitions seem almost random. But for many notable professionals and successful start-ups, this kind of zigzagging is common.

"Making plans in line with your competitive advantage is important. But not only does the world around you constantly change, so does your understanding of your own interests and passions.

Hence you must adapt your plans accordingly. This is best achieved through ABZ planning, where several plans are made:

Plan A is what you are doing now, and it should

reflect what you currently believe your competitive advantage is. You make minor adjustments as you learn, but basically you're in a stable situation. A good plan A is versatile and flexible, allowing for many possible plan Bs.

Plan B is something that you pivot to, if it starts to look like a more attractive opportunity. It is usually somehow related to plan A, allowing you to keep one foot in familiar plan-A territory.

After pivoting, this becomes your new plan A, so you must define a new plan B.

Finally, Plan Z is your lifeboat, like living at your parents' house temporarily. This is something you can support yourself with if all else fails. It is the very existence of a plan Z that gives you the confidence to pivot to plan B, assured that you will not end up living in the street".

[The New Times]



✓ TANZANIA: YOUTH, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY URGED TO FARM

Dodoma, 7 January 2019 - GRADUATES from higher learning institutions looking for jobs and people with disability have been urged to get involved in farming and livestock keeping, which have immense job opportunities.

The advice was given here by officers from 'loan approval empowerment committee' and the Ministry responsible for labour Women development when they visited some farms to see the development of entrepreneurs who had received loans.

The youth including people with disability from entrepreneur groups: 'WANAWAKE NGUVU KAZI-Maungani; UWAMWIMA of Mwanakwerekwe; and Disability Vegetable of Dole village got loans and the officers led by Mr Abdulawakil Haji Hafidh visited them to know their progress and challenges they face.

"Do not waste time, get engaged in farming and livestock keeping or other agricultural activities, they pay," the officers told people with disability and

the youth looking for employment.

Mr Hafidh challenged the government and the private sector to support the groups by providing them with skills, including processing of their products for value addition.

He noted with concern that, "Some people with disability turn into beggars on streets while other jobless youths get engaged into illegal practices like drugs. let us join hands to support them before it's too late."

Director of Empowerment Fund Suleiman Ali Haji said the visit to the entrepreneurial groups was important to understand how they have been doing and advise them on how best they can proceed.

He said since 2013 when the Fund was established over 3bn/- has been given out as loans to empower the youth, "And, fortunately our target to help the youth is being met as most of them are already operating their enterprises."

[Tanzania Daily News]

✓ ZAMBIA: YOUTH RUGBY MAKING WAVES IN ZAMBIA

Lusaka, 4 January 2019 - THE advances of Zambian Youth Rugby has been unprecedented, the results recorded scored have never before been seen in the country and we are glad to be part of this development" this has been reviewed by Diehard Rugby Academy Founder Tom Chaloba in an interview at a local radio station.

Mr Chaloba, who is a former Zambia International 7s & 15s Rugby Captain, has observed that the growth of the game in Zambia has been rapid in the last 3 to 4 years due to the interest from Schools, Colleges, Universities and Communities across the country.

Earlier, The Academy gave out rugby balls and whistles to Teachers at Jack and Jill School in Kabwe to be used by the kids in their training sessions.

During the handover of kit, Mr Chaloba commended management and staff for

their overwhelming reception to Coaches whenever called upon.

"Your institution has been exemplary in our efforts to expand and increase the participation of young girls and boys in our lovely game and we are glad with this partnership, it is our sincere hope that most schools will take a leaf from you and open their doors to us too".

He also commended Mevis Pwemu for her passion, zeal and dedication in ensuring success at the learning institution.

Ms Pwemu who is one of the Volunteer Coaches from Diehard Rugby is amongst the other 7 who have been attached to various schools across town to ensure all learning institutions have equal access to qualified supervision.

Chaloba named the other coaches as Ms Gillian Mwape & Teacher Miriam Musonda attached to

Children of Promise Orphanage Centre, Mr Gassam Chibumbu & Teacher Elasmus Hamayuwa attached to Sables Orphanage Centre, Ms Sithembile Kasawala attached to Mildah Christian Academy, Mr Steven Lwando & Teacher Jo Chiyuka at Shitima School, Mr John Kapanda & Teacher Chibesa Chisala at Mine Secondary School and Ms Linah Precious Mubiana from J & J Sch among others.

[Zambia Daily Mail]



✓ ZIMBABWE: INNOVATIVE ICT SOLUTIONS FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Harare, 11 January 2019 -

TODAY's youth face enormous challenges finding jobs and earning a decent income.

Around the world the youth face challenges of unemployment whilst the lucky ones find themselves in low paying and informal sector jobs.

When youth struggle at the beginning of their careers the repercussions can last a lifetime.

They end up taking any job or income earning opportunity just to survive.

That is why it is imperative that concrete steps are taken to ensure the youth have meaningful work opportunities related to the studies, passion or dreams.

Rubiem Solutions in partnership with InnovatiHub aims at casting a spotlight on an area that offers promising solutions digital jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities.

The on-going information technology revolution is transforming established sectors from agriculture to health and creating new ones from micro-work to Apps development.

This requires people with the skills to both use and develop the computer, mobile phone and internet applications that are powering these changes.

The needs span a wide range of skills, from the most basic to very advanced, offering opportunities for people of

varying abilities.

Rubiem solutions in partnership with InnovatiHub offer contract jobs for youth who are passionate in digital solutions development.

At InnovatiHub entrepreneurs' business ideas are incubated to commercial services.

[Newsday]

NEWS



✓ BERMUDA: FOLLOWING THROUGH ON EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH

Hamilton, 23 January 2019

- AS the Government seeks to grow and diversify our economy, we must ensure that our youth have every opportunity to be full participants in the economy of today and tomorrow's Bermuda.

Whether it is ensuring the education system has the resources to be effective, expanding access to higher education with more funding for scholarships and grants, or ensuring we have strategies to transition our youth into the workforce through the implementation of the National Workforce Development Plan, the Government is working hard to make certain that as the economy grows, Bermudians will not be left behind.

Just a few months ago the Government promised our youth and their families that we would:

Revive the Cabinet internship programme to secure fresh Bermudian

talent for careers in the Civil Service. Create opportunities for young Bermudians based in London, Brussels and Washington to shadow government representatives and gain invaluable experience on the world stage.

Last week, David Burt, the Premier, announced the fulfillment of that pledge by unveiling three programmes:

The Workforce Development "Enhanced Programme", where the top five Bermudian undergraduate summer-student applicants will be assigned to the Cabinet office.

There they will work on significant projects in the area of policy and strategy in the delivery of the Government's agenda to deliver a better, fairer Bermuda.

They will also have the opportunity to serve in areas

that match their sphere of interest or course of study within the Civil Service.

The Summer Internship Programme, where three Bermudian postgraduate or master's degree candidates will be assigned to our overseas offices for up to 12 weeks.

Leadership Scholars, where the top students at Cedar Bridge Academy and the Berkeley Institute will be invited to accompany the Premier and the Bermuda delegation to the Caricom Heads of Government meeting in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in July.

There they will experience firsthand the critical meetings and discussions that take place at these annual gatherings.

These initiatives reinforce the Government's commitment to support our youth and young adults, by providing them with first-class opportunities that will assist them in

developing their skill sets and deliver valuable workplace experiences, charting them on pathways to successful and fulfilling careers.

We believe that Bermudians must come first in our country.

We cannot make the mistakes of the past where economic successes left Bermudians sidelined.

To us, a better, fairer Bermuda means our children have the education, experience and tools to get hired, advance and run our own companies right here in Bermuda.

Today, with the fulfillment of this promise and the creation of new opportunities for our youth, we are another step farther along the road towards a better, fairer Bermuda.

[Royal Gazette]

✓ CANADA: CANADIANS CALLED ON TO MENTOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Ottawa, 26 January 2019 - ACROSS Canada, volunteers are needed to provide children and youth with the support and guidance of a mentor.

Mentoring organizations and champions from across Canada are sending out a rallying cry for caring Canadians to become mentors for these kids in one-on-one, group and school settings.

This January, as Mentoring Month celebrates mentors of children and youth across North America, Big

Brothers Big Sisters, government, school and community partners are highlighting the critical impact volunteer mentors have on the lives of young people.

All Canadians are being called on to volunteer for as little as one hour a week to change the life of a young person and the future of their community.

"We each have what it takes to make a real, lasting difference in the life of a child or youth, by showing up and being a consistent,

caring presence," says Lorene Pulles, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters Quesnel.

"There are far too many kids here in our community who are still waiting for someone to share their challenges and achievements with, to laugh and have fun with, to encourage their hopes and dreams, and to open their eyes to a broader world of possibilities."

In celebration of Mentoring Month, Canadians are asked to recommit themselves to

their community by becoming mentors for young people in need of caring, supportive relationships.

Research has shown that children and youth, who have the support of a mentoring relationship do better in school, go on to successful careers, give back to their communities and live happier, healthier lives.

[Quesnel Cariboo Observer]



✓ CHILE: CHILE TO HOST WORLD CONGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC YOUTH

Santiago de Chile, 13 January 2019 - THE

University of Santiago De Chile (USACH) will host the 9th World Congress of Scientific Youth from November 15-19, with the participation of a hundred exhibitors from 18 countries.

The event, which will be organized jointly by USACH and the International Federation of

Scientific Societies, will be attended by specialists from NASA and the two-time participant of the Nobel Peace Prize, Mexican Ana Maria Cetto.

Towards a more human science, is the conclave slogan which is held every two years and for the first time has Chile as its main host.

Adriana Ocampo, director

of NASA's New Horizons Program, and NASA exoplanet specialist Mario Perez will also be at the event.

According to the top university center, the meeting will address issues such as climate change, electro mobility, migration and gender, through workshops and conversations.

By opening a space for the promotion and exchange of different disciplines, the University greatly contributes to the strengthening of knowledge in Latin America, said the Vice Rector of USACH, Dr. Julio Romero Figueroa.

[La Prensa]

✓ JAMAICA: EU FORUM ENGAGES YOUTH AROUND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, VOLUNTEERISM

Kingston, 13 January 2019 - ENTREPRENEURSHIP, volunteerism and Internship were the ongoing themes as youth from several volatile communities shared their vision for the Jamaica they want to live in and the avenues available to assist them.

The youth forum, a joint initiative of the European Union and Government of Jamaica incorporated the views of some of the young persons who would have received scholarships and internships under the Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP), which has been implemented by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

The forum format hosted January 10 in Kingston encouraged a panel of government, the private sector and creative entrepreneurs to listen to issues raised by the young people and share actionable tips on how they can move their ideas to reality.

Head of the European Union Delegation to Jamaica Ambassador Małgorzata Wasilewska, while highlighting some of

the challenges facing young people stressed the importance of equal access for all.

“Not all of us are fortunate to be born into rich families or live in affluent communities. However, all of us have the same right to access the resources and services that will equip and empower us to become good citizens”, she said.

Wasilewska highlighted ways in which the EU is working to support countries to address the problem of youth unemployment especially among youth in vulnerable communities: Since 2001 Over 18, 000 direct beneficiaries from the early childhood level upwards have been able to access educational and employment support.

She simultaneously encouraged young people to be committed to shaping their future.

“To all the young people, I want to stress that today’s discussion is not only about the kind of job, career or business opportunities you want. It is about what kind

of society you want, what kind of Jamaica you want and your role in shaping the future”.

[Loop News Jamaica]

NEWS



✓ USA: UNICEF KID POWER AND WWE® TO EMPOWER YOUTH WITH NEW PARTNERSHIP

Washington, D.C., 29 January 2019 - NEW YORK & STAMFORD, Conn.(BUSINESS WIRE) UNICEF Kid Power and WWE (NYSE:WWE) today announced a new partnership that will help give kids the power to save lives by connecting their everyday activity to real-world impact.

This school year, UNICEF Kid Power and WWE will work together to reach at least 7,000 classrooms across the United States with WWE Superstars featured in a special collection of Kid Power Ups, which are short, interactive videos designed to get kids moving, playing and learning. With each Kid Power Up, students work together and improve social-emotional skills, and with every ten Kid Power Ups, a classroom unlocks a packet of therapeutic food.

UNICEF Kid Power is a program of UNICEF USA which helps students discover how their everyday activities like moving and learning can make a difference in the world.

By getting active with UNICEF Kid Power, kids unlock therapeutic food that UNICEF delivers to severely malnourished children around the world.

The more kids move and learn the more lives they save. UNICEF Kid Power is free for all elementary school teachers.

"We're incredibly excited to grow our UNICEF Kid Power family by partnering with WWE," said Caryl Stern, President and CEO,

UNICEF USA.

"Around the world, UNICEF empowers young people to create solutions to real-world problems, and UNICEF Kid Power gives that same opportunity to children in the United States.

Together, we can ensure every child is empowered to take action."

WWE is proud to partner with UNICEF and leverage our platforms to help kids combat malnutrition the world over," said Stephanie McMahon, WWE Chief Brand Officer.

"Through a series of videos with WWE Superstars, kids will be encouraged to dance and think about their personal values, goals and challenges and how they can help save other children's lives."

Nearly 17 million children worldwide suffer from the most life-threatening form of malnutrition, severe acute malnutrition.

UNICEF treats children with severe acute malnutrition with Ready-to Use Therapeutic Food packets.

The average course of treatment for a severely malnourished child consists of 150 therapeutic food packets over the course of 30 days.

[Business Wire]

WWE



✓ BANGLADESH: CREATE MORE AND BETTER JOBS

Dhaka, 11 January 2019 - THE government of Bangladesh today signed a \$250 million development policy operation to support the country's reform efforts to create large-scale, better-paid and inclusive jobs.

The Programmatic Jobs Development Policy Credit the first of a series of three planned operations will help Bangladesh build a stronger policy and institutional framework to create faster and more inclusive jobs for citizens, including women, youth, overseas migrants and the vulnerable members of the population.

“Jobs are the cornerstone for development. Bangladesh needs to create more and better jobs, particularly in the manufacturing sector to achieve its growth aspirations,” said Qimiao Fan, World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

“The program will support reforms that would address key challenges in creating inclusive and quality jobs.

This will help the government implement

policies to modernize trade, stimulate investment, strengthen social protection systems for workers and help vulnerable people access jobs.”

The program takes a comprehensive approach to overcome the binding constraints to job creation. It aims to help leverage Bangladesh's comparative advantage in manufacturing sector while stimulating investment, making doing business easier, and modernizing customs and trade facilitation. To ensure workers' protection, it will also help implement amendments to the labor law and reform the pensions program.

In recent years, the pace of job creation has slowed, especially for women and youth.

They are often engaged in low quality informal jobs with weak protection for workers.

Further, Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

A recent study shows that a 15 percent increase in the share of non-agricultural

employment would significantly reduce the impacts of climate change on living standards.

The program will support reforms to help Bangladesh create jobs sustainably by adapting to the rapidly changing environment as well as managing the risks related to climate change.

“The Seventh Five Year Plan, Vision 2021 and the electoral pledge, “Bangladesh on the March to Prosperity,” have identified creating quality and inclusive jobs as a priority for the country,” said Monowar Ahmed, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, and Government of Bangladesh. “The program will help the government's ongoing initiatives to create labor intensive quality jobs while laying the foundation for a more resilient economy and stronger social protection.” With 36 percent of females in the labor force versus around 82 percent of males, women face more challenges in accessing quality jobs.

The program will help increase female labor force participation by making

childcare more available for working mothers and targeting women and youth with training and employment services.

The agreement was signed by Monowar Ahmed and Qimiao Fan on behalf of the government of Bangladesh and the World Bank, respectively.

The credit is from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), and has a 30-year term, including a five-year grace period.

It carries a service charge of 0.75 percent and an interest of 1.25 percent.

The World Bank was among the first development partners to support Bangladesh following its independence. Since then the World Bank has committed more than \$30 billion, mostly in grants and interest-free credits to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh currently has the largest IDA program totaling \$12.4 billion.

[Modern Diplomacy]

✓ OMAN: TRA, PDO INK PACT TO FUND TRAINING OF 200 JOB SEEKERS

Muscat, 9 January 2019 - AS per government's directives to support SMEs and provide job opportunities to Omani youth, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) to train 200 job seekers for two years.

The programme will guide the trainees to set up businesses in the telecommunications sector.

This initiative aims to Omanise jobs in the last mile connectivity (LMC) services, which are now occupied by untrained non-Omanis which contribute to unemployment levels among Omanis. Additionally, the number of

companies offering services has created an unhealthy competition by lowering prices beyond a sustainable level for well-established businesses to survive.

Also, there has been very little regulation in the LMC sector, which has affected the quality of services provided. Dr Hamed al Rawahi, executive president of TRA,

stressed, “The LMC programme is a great example of the way we should look to work in the ICT sector projects as we move towards the future of Oman.

This is a programme that is designed and developed by Omanis, for the benefit of Omanis.”



Raoul Restucci, managing director of PDO, said, "We are determined to sustain our efforts to create employment and business opportunities for job seekers in a variety of economic sectors including telecommunications.

By joining forces with trusted partners, such as the TRA, we aim not only to

create job opportunities for young Omanis, but also to equip them with the tools and skill sets which will empower them to start their own businesses."

Omar al Qatabi, chairman of the project steering committee, said, "This project is very ambitious as it would open new opportunities for many

SMEs in the telecom industry directly with the licensed operators and would open the opportunity for job seekers."

The first phase of the project started in early 2018, in which, several concerned stakeholders including the telecom operators, Oman Development Bank, the

National Business Centre, Riyada, and others worked jointly to develop a strategic framework and governance policies to regulate LMC services and to accelerate national development of Omanis.

[Muscat Daily]

✓ PAKISTAN: OUR YOUTH, OUR FUTURE

Islamabad, 20 January 2019 - POPULATION reports and demographic analyses by national and international institutions describe Pakistan as one of the youngest countries in the world.

Around 64 percent of the country's population is under the age of 30 years and this has been characterised as a double-edged sword by social and economic development experts.

These demographics contain the potential to provide either a huge opportunity to transform the economy and our future or become a cataclysmic force that can shatter the country's social, economic and political fabric. The likelihood of either of these scenarios is closely linked with the effort or the lack thereof to develop, shape, engage and channelise the immense pool of youth energy.

Our youth, who predominantly comprise PTI supporters, are attentive.

This isn't an end in itself but a good starting point for the incumbent government to build its

youth-development initiatives.

Imran Khan and his team will need to act fast to capitalise on the energy of the youth.

The slogans and dreams for a productive, fulfilling and prosperous future for all, has worked well in previous elections.

Now, is the time to deliver on building this future by working with disenfranchised groups that is living in

Low-resource communities, high unemployment, and an unstable security environment?

In Pakistan's peculiar context, where the public education system has failed to provide our youth with the required social, technical, critical thinking or vocational skills, both educated and uneducated young people become highly vulnerable to the influence of anti-social elements, including radical narratives and criminal groups.

Analysts outside Pakistan have viewed this situation as a threat for regional and global peace.

However, the most immediate negative impacts of this situation will be witnessed by our society and economy.

In order to respond to this issue, some development partners are funding youth-development programmes in the country and others are planning to initiate an array of programmes soon.

If the government doesn't lead the agenda, these initiatives will remain project-based sporadic interventions that fall far below the required level of effort needed to deal with the issue.

The shelves of government offices must have numerous youth-related policy documents that are developed through donor-funded initiatives. Therefore, the government should not spend too much time on policymaking and taskforce meetings. Some fundamental steps should be launched immediately.

One such method is to ensure the availability of playgrounds, and promote sports and cultural activities among the youth.

The government should build on youth-specific

events started by the former Punjab government and enhance them by putting the youth in leading positions.

Who better than PM Imran Khan one of the countries major sports heroes to champion the cause for playgrounds and sports activities for the youth?

Despite the great value of public-private partnerships, successive governments in Pakistan have traditionally remained unenthusiastic about working in unison with the private sector.

Given the limited resources and competing priorities for the government on the political, security and economic fronts, the private sector should be encouraged to promote sports and create spaces where the youth can express themselves through arts and crafts.

We have enough examples to guide us in this approach as CSR initiatives adopted by large corporations and private businesses have significantly contributed towards social-development activities across the world.



Multinationals in Pakistan have ongoing CSR programmes that need to be mapped, recognised and enhanced by the government.

It is time to activate national corporations and businesses as well.

Major national corporations have huge construction and communications contracts in socially and economically disadvantaged areas of Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

They should also be encouraged to start youth-development initiatives in the areas where they run their

businesses.

Large real-estate tycoons and conglomerates should be obligated to develop and maintain sports facilities and community centres in areas adjacent to their housing schemes.

Public libraries and local arts councils should be patronised through public-private partnerships.

Literary festivals, book fairs, mushairas and other social gatherings need to be patronised by different ministries and divisions.

As most private schools in urban areas are housed in small and cramped buildings, they should be compelled to manage a

library or a community centre in their respective localities.

Similarly, donor-funded youth development programmes should be linked with establishing these facilities, with the involvement of the youth in local communities.

Youth programmes supported through foreign assistance ought not to be limited to activities designed outside Pakistan.

These initiatives should create pathways for the youth to utilise their learning into a productive role in their own communities and society.

In order to reinvigorate

sports and co-curricular activities in schools, establish partnerships with the private sector to establish spaces for youth activities, and encourage CSR or guiding donor-assisted youth development programmes, our government must play an active and effective role.

No government especially one that has come into power by giving young people hope for a better future can afford to ignore its youth.

The writer is an education adviser at the Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan.

[The News International]

✓ PHILIPPINES: MENTORSHIP KEY IN RAISING SUCCESSFUL YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

Manila, 20 January 2019 - YOUNG people see things in a different yet equally valuable lens and this is visible in the way they do and handle their businesses.

Young entrepreneurs think out of the box. They provide solutions to current community problems and people's needs in a quick manner through distinct products and services.

However, they tend to act based on their instincts and look over logical strategies which are key to successful businesses.

Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) Philippines chairperson Julie Ang said mentoring student entrepreneurs is pivotal to raising a new generation of businessmen and businesswomen in the country.

"This is the fifth year that we're holding a competition but this is the first time, under my term, that we have entrepreneurship. It is not that impactful to students to have competition only, okay you come and compete and then no more, but mentorship allows them to learn from big entrepreneurs," Ang told the Philippine News Agency (PNA).

EO is a global, peer-to-peer network of more than 13,000 influential business owners with 181 chapters in 57 countries. It was founded in 1987 to help leading entrepreneurs learn and grow toward success.

Ang said they have opened the mentorship program to all universities.

"We have mentees from Cebu, they were not chosen to be Global Student

Entrepreneurship Awards (GSEA) candidates but they're being mentored, we also have a single mom and a student who is baking and being mentored by our Cebu member," she said, adding that they want to reach out to students who depend on their business as their livelihood.

On January 12, EO Philippines held its fifth GSEA Competition where student entrepreneur Bea Battung of University of the Philippines Diliman won. She will represent the country at the global GSEA finals to be held in Macau in April 2019.

Battung is the owner of Prima Facie, a company that creates sneakers from water hyacinths.

It was established in 2017 in an aim to solve the problem of clogged

waterways and massive flooding in the coastal communities brought about by the prevalence of water hyacinths in rivers.

"Buy a shoe, clean a river. That is our company's mission. In every pair sold from our Ananda shoeline, a pair of slippers is donated to the less fortunate," Battung said. Through her business, Battung said she wanted to promote local industries, empower communities, and advocate for environmental awareness.



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brought about by the prevalence of water hyacinths in rivers.

"Sa GRUB po gumagamit kaming (At GRUB we use rubber tires from scrap yards and motor shops at libre po lahat iyon (and all those are for free). We help the PWDs, they do easy tasks like cutting of the rubber and we pay them by pair," he told PNA.

Medina said his business gives hope to people in New Corella, one of the 32 poorest communities in the country, especially the

PWDs that they can succeed despite hardships.

"I'm a PWD myself who had a hard time applying for a job, and I wasn't accepted because I wasn't physically fit.

With this business, there's no discrimination for me and I can encourage other PWDs that together we can do something for the community while earning," he added.

Medina is unable to fully use his right hand after an accident.

Recognizing the ingenuity of young Filipino entrepreneurs, Ang said their organization would continue to mentor the youth as a way of giving back to the community.

"We also want to raise Filipino entrepreneurs who are courageous to take risks to be able to create positive changes in the society through their businesses," she said.

[pna.gov.ph]

✓ QATAR: QCDC TO IMPLEMENT SEVERAL NEW PROGRAMMES THIS YEAR

Doha, 14 January 2019 - QATAR Career Development Center (QCDC), a member of Qatar Foundation, will implement several new programmes this year with an aim to empower youth better plan their career paths in line with their capabilities and the future needs of Qatar's market.

The new programmes will be built upon the success of last year in creating awareness about career development among the youth.

It will include a programme for students with special skills, said Abdulla Al Mansoori, Director, QCDC.

"2018 was a very progressive year for QCDC.

This year we are planning to have several new programmes and services that will further enhance our youth to be able to find the best potential career path," he told The Peninsula.

QCDC aims to be country's beacon for career guidance,

preparing the nation's young human capital to respond to the requirements of the QNV 2030, by instilling career guidance within Qatar's socio-economic culture.

"Employment readiness programme for students with special skills was run as a pilot project last year. This year we will implement it.

We have opened several centres within the QF. Shafallah and at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to help and guide students with special skills," said Al Mansoori.

"We are planning to launch Qatar Career Practitioners' Association, which will be like an umbrella organisation for career counselors.

A family career advising programme for parents will be introduced to help them find suitable career path for children," he added.

In 2018, QCDC was able to

attract more participants at its activities held to create awareness about career development.

It has also built strong relations with stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, UNESCO and several others.

About 90 percent of the participants in QCDC's initiatives have expressed their satisfaction with the programmes which have engaged more than 12,000 persons in 2018.

QCDC has organised more than 30 programmes and participated in three international events.

It has graduated 86 career advisors from the Career Advisor Training Course and graduated more than 70 counsellors from public, private schools in Qatar as part of the Career Counsellors' Training Program.

A new 'Career Advising System' (CAS) was implemented across public secondary schools in the

country to guide students for planning their academic and career paths.

It was mandatory for all grade ten students in public schools and some private schools has also benefitted from the system.

It has trained more than 90 academic counsellors and career practitioners and benefit 11,000 students. QCDC also released a research paper on 'Careering towards a Sustainable Qatari Economy.'

The edutainment Career Awareness Center for children was opened in at KidzMondo in 2018.

It is a first of its kind centre in the world. QCDC held a 'Thank You' ceremony yesterday at the Qatar National Library to formally appreciate those who have extended their support and contributed to the accomplishment of its programmes and initiatives.

[The Peninsula Qatar]



✓ AZERBAIJAN: ILO COMMENDS WORK ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN AZERBAIJAN

Baku, 23 January 2019 - AZERBAIJAN attaches great importance to providing the youth with workplaces, as said in a statement by Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), to the participants of the "Youth Employment: Employers' View, Challenges and Perspectives" conference held in Baku, Trend reports.

The statement was read by Olga Kulaeva, Director of the ILO Moscow Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

It is stated that the new world of the labor market demands the development of new models, rules and standards for assuring social security and decent work.

"The young generation makes up most of

Azerbaijan's population, and we should create favorable conditions for them in the future, meet the needs of the youth", the statement reads.

New technologies have fully changed the situation in the global labor market, said Ryder.

"We should form new favorable conditions in the current state of the labor

market. Otherwise, it may lead to a sharp reduction of workplaces around the world.

I believe that one of the most pressing issues for us is the adaptation of the labor market to the demands of the modern world", the statement reads.

[AzerNews]

✓ BULGARIA: 15% IS YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN NORTHWESTERN BULGARIA

Sofia, 22 January 2019 - A major problem for young people in Northwestern Bulgaria is the disconnected relationship between teacher, student and parent.

This shows a project under the Erasmus Plus program of the Youth Voice

Association, writes the Bulgarian National Television.

Improving the relationship would increase the desire for young people to go to school.

Youth unemployment in the region reaches 15%.

According to the survey participants, there is no information on dual education and they insist for career guidance from an early age.

Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Policy Zornitsa Rusinova noted that the

ministry is preparing measures, including an internship program and gain practical work experience.

[Novinite.com]

✓ IRELAND: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT 'UNACCEPTABLY HIGH' AS JOBLESS RATE FALLS

Dublin, 8 January 2019 - AS the economy approaches full employment, the rate of jobless youth remains stubbornly high, new figures from the Central Statistics Office show.

The level of youth unemployment now stands at 12.2%, which is still 50% above the level during the height of the Celtic Tiger.

The overall unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.3% in December from November but has fallen from 6.2% a year earlier.

The seasonally adjusted number of people unemployed fell by 600 from November and was down 20,000 in the year.

Pawel Adrjan, an economist at jobs site Indeed, said that

youth unemployment was "unacceptably high" and was higher than the pre-crisis average of 8.8% over the 2003 to 2007 period.

Alan McQuaid, economist at Cantor Fitzgerald, said:

While there has been a sharp drop in the headline unemployment rate, the adjusted jobless rate for persons aged 15-24 years remains elevated.

He said that officials need to redouble efforts in tackling youth unemployment.

"In our view, Government initiatives in terms of training and education need to focus on this age group in particular," Mr McQuaid said.

River dance posts a drop of 45% in operating profits in 2017.

Emigration had helped to keep unemployment down since the financial crisis and the labour market has since improved dramatically over the past few years, reflecting the strengthening of Ireland's economic recovery, he said.

Nonetheless, December's 5.3% rate is the lowest rate since February 2008 and compares with the crisis peak of 16% in early 2012.

Ireland's jobless rate compares with the eurozone average of 8.1%.

The unemployment rate for both males and females was the same, at 5.3%.

[Irish Examiner]



✓ SPAIN: UNEMPLOYMENT IN SPAIN DROPPED 6.17 PERCENT IN 2018

Madrid, 3 January 2019 - SPANISH jobless queues were shorter in 2018, even for the worst-affected youth, though the country still counts 3.2 million people as unemployed, the labour ministry.

The figure represented a decline of 6.17 percent from 2017, a ministry statement said, without providing a standard unemployment rate.

But even though unemployment has dropped since 2013 as Spain emerges from an economic crisis, the country still has

the eurozone's second highest jobless rate after Greece.

Data from the EU statistics agency Eurostat put the 19-member zone's average unemployment rate at 8.1 percent in October.

The latest Spanish jobless rate, meanwhile, was 14.55 percent.

The ministry's annual number of unemployed was nonetheless the lowest since 2009.

Economy minister Nadia Calvino told Spanish radio

that "the Spanish economy is creating jobs at a good rhythm."

She forecast the economy will have grown by 2.6 percent in 2018, slightly stronger than a 2.5 percent forecast by the central bank and International Monetary Fund.

In calculating the number of unemployed, the labour ministry only takes into account those people who have signed up to a job agency.

As such, their figure is lower than that of Spain's

INE statistics agency.

At the end of October, INE said there were 3.33 million unemployed people in Spain a jobless rate of 14.55 percent that was slightly below Eurostat's figure.

Spain's Socialist government plans to inject two billion euros (\$2.3 billion) into fighting youth unemployment, which it wants to reduce to 23.5 percent within three years.

[The Local Spain]

✓ UK: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT BOOST IN PERTSHIRE THANKS TO £80,000 SKILLS GRANT

Perthshire, 29 January 2019 - DISADVANTAGED young people across Perth and Kinross will be helped into work by a new digital skills centre, thanks to an £80,000 grant.

Perth and District YMCA will offer workshops in everything from coding to graphic design using the money from the National Lottery Young Start fund.

The Y Media digital skills hub is aimed at young people who struggle to get into work, with a particular emphasis on girls as there are so few females in technology industries.

It is hoped the skills learnt can be used to help students into work, further education or even to start up their own businesses.

Perth and District YMCA youth worker Tony Dellaquaglia said: "The project exists to help people from various backgrounds,

with a particular focus on young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and girls because the industry is saturated with men.

"We are creating a hub for young people all over Perth and Kinross to access training and experience, to give them a platform to launch either careers or further study in digital skills, whether that is graphic design, web design, 3D animation, coding and programming or sound editing.

"The grant has been a massive encouragement.

We have been trying to do this since 2012 but we have always been small-scale.

We had great ambition but we didn't have the resources to realise those ambitions and deliver on the goals young people have."

The hub will be based

inside the Perth and District YMCA offices in Charlotte Street.

Almost 200 young people are expected to take part over three years and it is hoped they can take workshops into schools to access hundreds more pupils.

The funding was welcomed by John Swinney, Scotland education minister and MSP for Perthshire North, and Pete Wishart, MP for Perth and North Perthshire, who visited the hub on Friday.

Mr Swinney said: "This is clearly a very significant level of funding, which is a testament to the important and effective work being undertaken by Perth and District YMCA.

"I am particularly pleased to hear that the funding will be used to develop a digital skills hub for young people. This is a modern, practical investment that will increase educational and employment opportunities

for young adults across Perthshire."

Mr Wishart said: "I know this valuable cash injection will make a huge difference to young people in Perthshire and I am particularly delighted to hear that it will be used to develop the digital skills hub.

"Equipping our young people with the digital skills that they need is hugely important and will really help with future training and employment opportunities.

"I look forward to meeting the volunteers and young service users when the project is up and running."

[The Courier]



✓ AUSTRALIA: YOUTH SEEKS TO EMPOWER RANGATAHI TO TACKLE SERIOUS ISSUES

Canberra, 18 January 2019 - A youth collective that promotes international peace wants to empower youth to address the big issues facing their generation.

The International Peace Youth Group (IPYG) and Rangi Whakaaio are helping youth speak up to instigate change.

Rangi Whakaaio spokesperson Johnsen Kiwi-Scally says, "We have high suicide statistics, mental health statistics and we want to work on addressing the root cause of these issues to change it for the next generation."

A small free public workshop co-hosted by both groups in Auckland this weekend will focus on the links between media,

journalism and mental health.

Kiwi-Scally says they want to change the way social media is used, knowing the impacts it can have on the mental well-being of others. "We're thinking about how we can flip that on its head and make sure that it's truthful and that we're conscientious about the ramifications or the negative effects from the media and how it's delivered.

"This workshop will be a chance to bring rangatahi and journalists together to learn from each other, and discuss the role of press and media in building peace." Kiwi-Scally says support and a collective approach is what youth need.

Things like 'I'm in the same boat but I made it out',

things like inspiration, so we don't get stuck in normalising our people as the stereotypes that are put out there and instead use what we've been bought up with in our culture and the respect we were taught from our elders and putting that at the forefront."

The relationship between war, climate change and displacement is another issue high on the radar.

The group supports and advocates for an international peace law.

A Pacific Leaders' Summit for Peace next month will focus on these issues.

"The effects of climate change can truly take away from your identity.

If you're losing land you're

losing a part of yourself. With that people are being displaced so- even more so- its creating conflict because they have to go to a place that is not their own.

So, how are they supposed to adjust when it's not their whenua?"

IPYG is currently working actively in 111 countries, including New Zealand, Australia and some of the Pacific Island nations, to unite and empower rangatahi of all cultures, religions, beliefs and backgrounds.

Those interested to Saturday's workshop can register online at the Eventbrite website.

[Māori Television]

✓ FIJI: WORKSHOP ENLIGHTENS YOUTH ON PROTECTION OF ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Suva, 11 January 2019 - SPECIAL training on the importance of protecting ecological (land and ocean based) resources to sustain not only this generation, but also that of the future generations as well has enlightened youths of Somosomo, Taveuni.

This training was conducted for 15 youths from the village by the Alliance for Future Generations- Fiji (AFG) recently.

AFG executive member Sivendra Michael said the main objective of the awareness session was to share the work of AFG to promote the voice and meaningful participation of young people in sustainable development efforts.

"The session is also aimed at increasing awareness of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the young people of Taveuni," he said.

"They will be able to understand the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and drive local actions/or initiatives that will contribute to the implementation of the SDGs." This is not the first time these youths have received trainings like this.

Mr Michael said there had been previous workshops conducted by other organisations, but this was the first one in which they had the opportunity to join a nationwide youth network.

"AFG-Fiji, will continue to work with the Shark Youth Club to build capacity and create awareness/ and understanding of what the SDGs mean for them, their family and communities and work to support their locally driven actions and initiatives," he said.

Mr Michael added that their network wanted to incorporate people of all backgrounds, not just those from the urban areas.

"The network intends to work with those from the rural areas, outer islands and in the remote areas to support initiatives and projects towards sustainable development, improving the standards of lives, while also addressing the many

social, economic and ecological issues that we face today."

[Fiji Sun Online]



✓ GUAM: YOUTH AND PARENTS SYMPOSIUM JAN. 19

Hagåtña, 12 January 2019 - THE Agueda I. Johnston Middle School English as a Second Language program will host the 6th Annual Youth and Parent Symposium later this month.

The symposium provides an opportunity for parents to take part in a meaningful and empowering dialogue focused on how to better

support Guam's migrant population, the Guam Department of Education stated.

The discussion between school and community stakeholders aims to support and ease the transition faced by many individuals in Guam's migrant community so that they are better prepared to become responsible and successful members in the

community, GDOE stated.

The parent symposium will feature refreshments, performances and prizes. Parents and community stakeholders are encouraged to show their support by participating in this annual event.

The Youth and Parent Symposium takes place at the Agueda I. School

stakeholders are asked to confirm attendance by returning invitation letters sent home with students. For more information about this event, contact Agueda I. Johnston Middle School at 472-6785.

[The Guam Daily Post]

✓ SAMOA: YOUTH TRAINED IN AGRIBUSINESS IN SAMOA

Apia, 13 January 2019 - THE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has organised a workshop to address employment challenges for the youth of Samoa and build the capacity of young farmers on agribusiness management.

The training are part of a broader FAO funded project called Strengthening capacity of youth for employment and livelihood in agriculture, which aims to train youth to pursue agriculture as a livelihood and employment option. "Employment for youth is a big challenge for Samoa," said Tommy Tuamalii, national project coordinator from MAF.

"Young women and men need to develop the knowledge and skills to enter the labour market, and to be provided with additional supportive services to secure employment opportunities."

FAO agribusiness value chains specialist, Shukrullah Sherzad said, "Through the following value chain

approach, FAO is building the capacity of young farmers on production, processing and agribusiness management."

Sherzad noted that successfully managing a farm as a business requires farmers to know the value of its production, the income they receive from their farms and better knowledge of market access and farm management."

Through the agribusiness management and contract farming workshop, FAO is building the capacity of young farmers on farm as a business management and access to market through contract farming.

The FAO trainings are part of the wider United Nation Youth Employment Programme, where FAO, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development Division for Youth, are collaborating to build the technical capacity of young farmers and school pupils in various aspects of agriculture development in Samoa.

[Samoa Observer]

NEWS



✓ SOLOMON ISLAND: UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG MAIN CONCERNS FOR SOLOMON'S YOUTH

Honiara, 20 January 2019- UNEMPLOYMENT, teen pregnancy and drug and alcohol abuse were some of the main concerns raised by youth in Solomon Islands during a recent UN peace building forum.

More than 200 young men and women from across the Western and Choiseul provinces met in Gizo last week to talk about their challenges and hear about and discuss ways to overcome them.

The three-day forum was part of a UN Development Programme peace building project and was hosted in collaboration with UN Women and the youth departments of both the local provincial and national governments.

Its project manager, Tony Cameron, said the forum focussed on using innovation and social entrepreneurship to address unemployment, pollution and other challenges affecting youth in the fragile border area between the western Solomons and Bougainville in PNG.

"Essentially we have used this innovation forum as the groundwork to perhaps extend the impact or the reach of these motivated young people maybe into decision making and political kind of arenas where they will have a voice to make decisions for themselves on behalf of the youth at a provincial and also a national level," he said.

[Radio New Zealand]

NEWS

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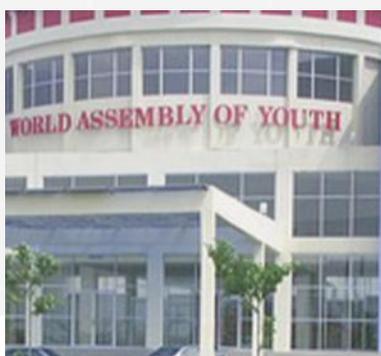
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