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AFRICA

AMERICA

ASIA

EUROPE

PACIFIC

INFO

✓ *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMEBR 2016*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
6 November 2016	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	Melaka, Malaysia
10 November 2016	World Science Day for Peace and Development	Melaka, Malaysia
16 November 2016	International Day for Tolerance	Melaka, Malaysia
25 November 2016	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ BOTSWANA: ENTREPRISING YOUTH INSPIRATION TO PEERS

Mochudi, 5 October 2016 - IT IS commendable to find young people with a sense of entrepreneurship responding to government's call to create employment for other youth.

More promising is the fact that some young Batswana started enterprises with their own hard earned capital and thrived to succeed despite the challenges related with any other businesses.

Mr Tambona Solomon (29) of Nshakazhogwe told an inspiring story of a purposeful individual who aspired to be a successful chain business owner.

Speaking in an interview, Mr Solomon said he was licenced to carry business of workshop and trades in maintaining and repairing cell phones, laptops and accessories.

He added that he owned two cell phone and laptop repair workshops, which he started from his own capital that he earned after lengthy savings.

He said he started his business four years back in

Mahalapye and continued saving money until he made enough and opened another workshop in Mochudi last year.

He said he has employed five youth, three in Mahalapye and two working in Mochudi.

He said the main challenge in the repair business is that sometimes people fail to collect their property after it is fixed saying that the act weighs hard on business as they lose money buying spares.

He said he was renting a caravan in Mochudi that he operated from and said it would have been convenient if he had his own.

He said despite the challenges repair business was doing well.

Mr Solomon narrated that growing up in a rural village and faced with adverse poverty; he had to quit junior school and turned out to be a breadwinner.

"Somebody had to bring food to the table and I sacrificed my education to

help my poverty stricken family from starvation. I started working at a tender teen age, I felt obligated, you can imagine life in a rural area," Mr Solomon said.

Mr Solomon said he always dreamt of a better version of himself he added that he wanted to improve his livelihood and help that of others at the same time.

He said as a school dropout and with his petite body it was challenging to find a job and relied on piece jobs.

However he said he got a job as a security guard in the then Phones for you, a company that dealt with mobile and telephones.

He said he was eager to learn and one of the company employees offered to teach him how to repair phones that was when he developed the love to repair electronics.

Mr Solomon said he found it imperative over the years to save money as he wanted to own his repair business.

He said people especially the youth should learn to

save money adding that he has learnt to be responsible and learnt to use his money sparingly which he said evidently benefitted him and the youth he employed.

Moreover Mr Solomon said young people should not sit on their talent and decry unemployment.

He said there is great potential that can be nurtured once one finds purpose in life.

He said youth should embark in legit ways of making a living saying Batswana are fortunate because the government has availed several measures to help any willing Motswana financially.

Mr Solomon said though he had a rough time growing up, he is proud that he never relented on poverty but fought out.

He said today he is a married man and has two children whom he provides for.

[Daily News]

✓ MALAWI: MALAWI YOUTHS CALL FOR INCLUSION IN KEY POSITIONS

Lilongwe, 10 October 2016 - MALAWIAN Youths operating under Timvereni Campaign have asked government to include them in key decision making positions.

Timvereni Campaign Chairperson, Edward Chileka Banda, who is also executive director of Eye for Development was speaking in Lilongwe when the youth consortium paid a courtesy call to the Minister

of Labour, Youths, Sports and Manpower Development, Henry Mussa.

Banda who was accompanied by over 30 young people from different organisations said they are surprised that young people are being sidelined in all key governance positions.

"We are sidelined in almost each and every governance positions such as in

parastatals, boards, and even in Parliament we don't have youths," said Banda.

He added that Malawi as a country cannot develop if the youth who form the majority of the population continue to be sidelined.

"Unless this improves, but as a country we cannot develop if youths are not being included in the development agenda," he said.

Responding to the organisation's call, Mussa said his ministry is committed to uplift welfare of young people in the country.

According to Mussa, his ministry is already running various programmes aimed at empowering the youths.



He gave the example of community colleges which he said are absorbing a lot of youths who would have otherwise been idle.

“We are also discussing of youths national services which will again consume a lot of youths into the programme,” said Mussa.

During the interface Mussa popularly known as Mtengowaminga assured the youths that his door is open any time the youths have any burning issues.

[Malawi 24]

✓ TANZANIA: GOVERNMENT TELLS JOBLESS YOUTH TO STRIVE FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Dar es Salaam, 12 October 2016 - LAUNCHING the Tanzania Youth Survey Report in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and Disabled), Dr Abdallah Possi, said that collaborative efforts are needed to fight unemployment affecting the majority of youth.

“Unemployment is a global problem. The government has taken several initiatives to fight it and joint efforts are still needed from all stakeholders to bring it to an end,” He said.

The Tanzania Youth Survey Report shows that most young men and women in the country are now aware of the gravity of corruption cankerworm. A total of 1,900 youth males and females were interviewed during the survey where it was revealed that many of them still believe that corruption would enable them achieve their goals.

According to Dr Possi, the report also revealed that many youth believe that the government has the responsibility to provide employment to them instead of seeking self-employment.

The survey was conducted in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania between 2014 and 2015 respectively. The Head of the Aga Khan University, Prof Joel Lugala, said that efforts are needed to educate youth on the dangers of corruption in society.

“We're supposed to educate our youth in our universities on the effects of corruption because our report reveals that many them believe that corruption is important in achieving their goals,” he said.

The Director of the East African Institute (EAI) of

the Aga Khan University, Dr Alex Awiti, said that the biggest challenge to the society, especially the youth, is corruption.

“We're supposed to join together in fighting corruption in the country.

This is not the problem for the government, it is our problem all of us,” he explained.

[Daily News]

✓ UGANDA: LEADERS TOLD TO STIMULATE YOUTH TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT

Kampala, 10 October 2016 - LOCAL leaders in Teso have been urged to take up the role of inspiring the youth in order to improve development in Uganda.

David Abala, the spokesperson of Teso parliamentary group, said leaders' failure to motivate young people has derailed their engagement in productive activities.

Abala, who doubles as the MP for Ngora County, Ngora district, said that area leaders are reluctant to sensitize youth and instead focus on criticizing them.

According to him, the youth engage in activities of gambling because they don't get convincing

guidance on productivity from their leaders.

And to improve coordination between youth and local leaders, Abala suggested that leaders need to first identify the problems surrounding young people.

They should take the mantle of organizing the youth and identifying the beneficial activities that they should do other than concentrating on blaming them, he added. Some youth admitted that they have lacked inspiration from their leaders.

They said government should organize a sensitization program of projects before any government program is

launched in order to manifest the good outcomes out of the set objectives of such programs.

Young people have often been on the receiving end of criticism from various actors for spearheading acts of theft, gambling, etc even with the existence of the youth livelihood programme.

Others have pointed the blame finger on the problem of unemployment as a cause.

[New Vision]



✓ ZAMBIA: GOVERNMENT EMPHASISES NEED TO EQUIP YOUTHS WITH SKILLS

Lusaka, 1 October 2016 - well-being.

YOUTH, Sport and Child Development Minister, Moses Mawere, says there is need to continue equipping youths with the necessary skills for them to effectively contribute to the country's economic development.

[Lusaka Times]

Mr Mawere has observed that if youths are empowered with skills training, it will enable them to contribute positively to national development and also uplift their living standards.

The minister said this when the International Youth Fellowship delegation from South Korea paid a courtesy on him.

He said the delegation is visiting the country to check on the progress on the construction of the Youth and Sport Development Centre which they pledged to establish in Chilanga district.

Mr Mawere stated that the centre will house various components and facilities for skills development, education and sporting activities.

He said the delegation will also visit the Copperbelt University to orient first- year students on mind-set education which has been introduced as a under the department of humanities.

Mr Mawere said government is happy to partner with such organisations that aim at building capacity among young people in the country as this helps to uplift their

NEWS



✓ BERMUDA: ROTARACT CLUB REACHES OUT TO YOUTH

Hamilton, 6 October 2016 - SANDYS Rotaract Club of Bermuda is inviting the island's young adults to learn more about the organisation.

The club will be hosting an information session for those who might be interested in joining at the Bermuda College today.

"Bermuda's Rotaract Club would like to personally invite you to be a part of a growing network of dedicated young individuals who are looking to work together to serve others and advance our community," vice-president Jessica

Tannock said.

"If you are aged 18 to 30, looking for a challenge and a way to meet and connect with new people, this is the club for you.

"We endeavour to enhance the knowledge and skills that will assist young adults in personal development, to address the physical and social needs of our community, and to promote local and international relations through a framework of friendship and service."

Sandys Rotaract, which is sponsored by Sandys

Rotary, is recognised by Rotary International.

It adheres to the organisation's goals of developing professional and leadership skills, emphasising respect for the rights of others, and to promoting ethical standards and the dignity of all useful occupations, and providing opportunities for young people to address the needs and concerns of the community and the world.

It also aims to provide opportunities for working in co-operation with sponsoring rotary clubs and to motivate young people

for eventual membership in rotary clubs.

Sandys Rotaract members meet twice a month on Thursdays in the blue room at the Bermuda College.

The meetings offer a platform to exchange ideas, plan activities and projects and to socialise.

[Royal Gazette]

✓ CANADA: ENCOURAGING LEADERSHIP IN YOUTH

Ottawa, 13 October 2016 - STUDENTS from Simcoe County and across the province converged on Lakehead University Orillia Thursday, leaving with new ideas and inspirations to make their schools and their communities' better places.

A youth leadership forum took place at Lakehead, featuring 125 students from 23 different schools.

Primarily, students from Simcoe and Muskoka filled out the roster, although some students came from as far away as Guelph or North Bay.

The forum is one of the facets of the Our Canada Project, with designs on empowering students to change the world.

The Our Canada Project is an initiative of Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF), an organization which promotes cultural, economic, environment and

social sustainability.

"I've had an opportunity myself to bounce around and look at all of the workshops," he said. "The kids seem really engaged.

The facilitators have them doing activities, so it's very hands-on, focused."

The day began with a keynote address from 17-year-old Maya Burhanpurkar of Oro-Medonte, who spoke to the teenagers about climate change.

From there, several small sessions took place throughout the remainder of the day, highlighting local sustainability challenges, leadership and skill development.

The workshops called on the students to "consider issues that exist in the community and ways that they could develop themselves to solve those

issues," Cole explained.

It's hoped the skills the students developed through the workshops will translate easily back to their own schools.

The workshop run by the Orillia Community Gardens resonated with both Cole and the students, as it addressed a variety of issues, including food security, economics and environmental issues.

Deanna Davies, a student from Nantyr Shores Secondary School in Alcona, was particularly taken by the genesis of the community gardens.

"He just started a Facebook page one day, and it's taken off from there," she explained.

There are over 500 community gardens around the world now. I just think that would be something really cool to

take part in at our school." The students weren't the only ones learning.

The teachers who accompanied the students took part in a day-long workshop on enquiry-based learning.

More often, enquiry-based learning is a phrase used in lower elementary grades, while project-based is associated with secondary education.

The nomenclature isn't important, it's the approach, showing kids they can have an active role in addressing these issues," Cole said.

[Orillia Packet & Times]



✓ DOMINICA: NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY IN FINAL STAGES OF REVIEW

Roseau, 6 October 2016 - THE National Youth Policy is in its final stages of review.

On Wednesday October 5th, the Youth Development Division of the Ministry of Youth hosted the final national consultation of the National Youth Policy.

The Hon Minister for Youth, Justina Charles, in addressing the ceremony, highlighted the importance of youth input in the review of the policy.

“The youth policy came on board in 2004 and it was tabled in Parliament in 2004 that is 12 years ago.

Many of you were not part of the formation or establishment of the National Youth Policy but today you have an opportunity to be part of it,” she said.

At the end of the exercise we cannot say it is a Government document; it is a document to guide the work of the Government and the work of young people, things that are related to the young people.

But most importantly you have been part of the review from the inception,” she stressed.

The theme for the consultation was ‘Agenda 2030 from Rhetoric to Action’.

Chief Youth Development Officer, John Roach spoke about the theme saying, “This well thought of theme is not only relevant for Caribbean Youth Day but serves as a mantra to those who are charged with the responsibility of providing an enabling environment for the empowerment of youth.”

He added that the theme also blends well with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Roach told the forum that the theme “challenges all youth development stakeholders and strategic partners to pay more attention to what we usually refer to as the most valuable resource of a nation, the youth.

From ‘Rhetoric to Action’ demands that it is time we stop paying lip service to the youth, it is time we stop taking the youth for granted, it is time we set our national development priorities right and invest more in our youth.”

Roach also believes that the review of the policy is a clear indication of a renewed interest in youth development. He revealed that almost

1000 young people participated in nine district consultations where issues such as unemployment, child abuse and drug and alcohol abuse, among others were presented.

He, however, noted that the division was impressed with the practical and realistic recommendations presented by the youth and has partnered with the central statistical division to conduct a national youth survey to gather youth related data in Dominica.

He says this data will be analysed within the next few months by a technical team charged with driving the new youth policy forward.

[GIS Dominica]

✓ JAMAICA: GG URGES WESTERN JAMAICA YOUTH TO BE POSITIVE

Kingston, 14 October 2016 - GOVERNOR General Sir Patrick Allen has urged future youth leaders to chart a better future for them and not to follow in the path of the many young people who have lost their way in recent times.

Speaking during an address to high school students at the recent I Believe Youth Consultative Conference held at the Western Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Mount Salem, St James, recently, Sir Patrick said the country needs to recognise the value of young people’s voices on nation-building.

“I am asking you today to

trust in yourselves and trust that your future may be improved,” he said.

“Don’t be in despair or downcast about the violence because, with your God leading you, everything will be alright,” he added.

Sir Patrick went on to call on the youths of Jamaica not to give up despite the challenges they are facing.

He encouraged the youngsters at the conference to take back what they have learned to their schools and communities.

“Everything that happens here today is to encourage, teach and to show you that

you can be the best in whatever areas your gifts allow you to function,” Sir Patrick stated.

“So, today, young people, we want to inspire you and seek your commitment that when you leave this forum today, I want you to leave with a firm commitment that ‘I will do my part to help build a stronger society’.”

[Jamaica Gleaner]



✓ TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: SEX EDUCATION KEY IN PREVENTING TEEN PREGNANCY

Port of Spain, 16 October 2016 - TEENAGE pregnancy cases continue to rise in Trinidad and Tobago.

Worrying statistics show that there are over 2,500 teen pregnancies recorded in Trinidad and Tobago each year.

But as the troublesome statistics continue to rise, there are young ambassadors among us who are finding solutions and taking a proactive role in preventing teenage pregnancies.

One such ambassador is Kizanne James, an emerging young leader, who has been chosen as one of ten World Contraception Day Ambassadors (WCDA), from around the world, as part of the WCDA Project, which was launched on October 15.

WCDA is a project in partnership between Women Deliver and Bayer. In support of World Contraception Day (WCD), Women Deliver and Bayer have partnered with youth advocates from across the globe to use digital storytelling tools to uncover the state of young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The annual worldwide campaign centres on a vision where every pregnancy is wanted. Launched in 2007, WCD's mission is to improve awareness of contraception and to enable young people to make informed choices on their sexual and the young leaders are selected as the result of a rigorous application process.

The 2016 class has 200 youth advocates from 94 countries and every region of the world.

The year's project aims to reach even more diverse communities, from micro populations to the transgender community, and will integrate technology and advocacy in powerful and innovative ways.

The project equips young people with the skills they need to collect and share digital stories about young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a particular focus on access to contraception in their home countries.

Each ambassador was given seed grants of US\$5,000 to support digital storytelling projects raising awareness and supporting positive communications in communities about access to contraception and young people's sexual and reproductive health.

As part of the project, James, an advocate for the health and rights of women and girls, has developed an app for phones that contains information about different types of contraception and where to find them, across Trinidad and Tobago.

James is an award winning youth leader and medical doctor passionate about youth empowerment and development.

She is one of 200 young people chosen from 104 countries for the Women Deliver Young Leaders Program, where she advocates for the health and rights of women and girls.

With over 15 years' experience in youth leadership and volunteerism James has represented Trinidad and Tobago, regionally and internationally.

The Chevening Scholar has also been recognised by the University of the Southern Caribbean as the Most Outstanding Young Alumni 2015 and The University of the West Indies from where she received the Primer Award for Leadership 2016, Award for Outstanding Leadership 2015 and Excellence in Leadership 2016.

James said there is great need for comprehensive sexual education in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Often I would have the opportunity to meet and discuss with young people, aspects related to their sexual practices. Unfortunate to say many of them even though they were sexually active lacked proper understanding and made unsafe sexual choices.

Young people in Trinidad and Tobago need the avenues to voice their concerns and our interventions must be tailored to their needs," said James.

"Prevention should always be the foundation of any strategy to target youth.

The emphasis should be on assisting them in understanding their roles and responsibilities as sexual beings in an unbiased, factual and comprehensive manner using mediums young

people in Trinidad and Tobago can relate to.

"We are using technology in the form of a phone application to provide accurate and timely information about contraception and where they could be accessed in Trinidad and Tobago.

We are also developing a documentary which will highlight the stories of young people in this country to spark discussions about their experiences with contraception.

Our hope is to see Trinbagonian young people equipped with the right information to make right sexual choices and that our project, which will start in Trinidad and Tobago, will be a model for countries around the world," James said.

[Trinidad & Tobago Express]



✓ KUWAIT: KUWAIT YOUTH DEPARTMENT INKS DEAL TO SUPPORT YOUNGSTERS

Kuwait, 16 October 2016 - THE Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and Ali Sabah Al-Salem Military Academy signed on Thursday an accord for boosting cooperation in the sectors of sciences and investments, with aim of

guiding the youth and bolstering patriotism among them.

The Ministry's Undersecretary, Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, said in a statement that some provisions of the agreement

stipulate cooperation for preparing leaders, boosting voluntary and entertainment activities and boosting nationalism. It also aims at boosting activities at the cultural and sports levels.

The academy commander,

Bader Al-Awadhi, affirmed that the accord aims at enriching the youth personal and professional capacities to set as an example as defenders of the homeland.

[Kuwait News Agency]

✓ NEPAL: MINISTER MAHARA VOWS TO EMPOWER YOUTH

Kathmandu, 1 October 2016 - DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Krishna Bahadur Mahara today said the government had failed to guide its nation's youths to the right direction during the Maoist insurgency in Nepal, leading to more than 40 per cent of the country's youth to migrate to other countries for employment.

We delayed in taking the right decision and involved our youths in war, squandering their talents and compromising on their and the nation's future,"

Speaking at the programme 'Nepali Youth International Conference' organised by

the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Non-Resident Nepali Association today, Minister Mahara asserted that the country's youths 'power' the nation, and the government would extend its full support in empowering them. Minister Mahara said, "Our country has seen several political changes in its history.

The recent change of the government was for the good of the nation, and we have to accept that. The new government will play a strong role in uplifting the lives of the youths of the nation."

The 2011 census held in the country showed that young

people between the ages of 16 to 40 amount to 40.35 per cent of the total population of Nepal.

More than 500,000 Nepali youths have migrated to foreign countries for employment. Of the total youths working abroad, 74 per cent work in Gulf countries and 20 per cent in European and American countries.

Minister for Youth and Sports Daljit BK Sripali said the country could generate jobs for the youth in agriculture, water resource, tourism, and energy production.

"We are willing to support

NRNs and Nepali youths if they desire to collaborate in development projects in the country.

We are also willing to ensure security of tourists who visit our country and express interest in investing in the industrial sector," said Minister Sripali.

"Although a large share of remittance enter the country today, Nepali migrant workers continue to have a very poor quality of life," said Secretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports.

[Himalayan Times]

✓ PAKISTAN: YOUTH URGED TO HELP MAKE PAKISTAN CORRUPTION-FREE

Timergara, 17 October 2016 - KHYBER Pakhtunkhwa Finance Minister Muzaffar Said urged the youth on Sunday to play an active role in making Pakistan a corruption-free and developed country.

Speaking as chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony a cricket tournament at Banrgay Talash in Lower Dir, the minister termed youth as an asset to the country.

Tehsil Nazim, Timergara, Riaz Muhammad, district councillors Muhammad

Hakeem Khan, Fazal Qadir, tehsil councillor Muhammad Raziq and others also spoke on the occasion.

Muzaffar Said announced Rs38,000 for the organising committee, Rs12,000 for the winning and Rs10,000 for losing team.

The minister said that youth could steer the nation out of the prevailing crises if they were given the opportunity to lead.

Our government will continue making efforts to

secure the rights of the province so that our coming generations could live a prosperous life," he added.

The minister said that work on the Talash bypass was in progress while work on Chakdarra-Timergara highway would start soon.

[The News International]



✓ PHILIPPINES: PEACE ARTISTS CHALLENGE YOUTH TO FIGHT FOR PEACE THROUGH ART

Zamboanga City, 21 October 2016 – PEACE artists from two of the premiere universities in the country challenged the youth to become advocates of peace through practicing art effectively during a peace-art seminar held in the city recently.

“Art is a very powerful tool of expression.

Use it effectively and you can sway society to work for peace,” said Professor Arvin Villalon, a peace artist and professor of psychology at the University of the

Philippines Baguio.

Villalon said that there are many types of art to include music, theatre, and even the multimedia.

“As long as you have something to express, you could do it in art.”

He commented that art is one of the factors widely responsible for the EDSA revolution.

“There were plenty of artists who used their creativity and dedication for a common purpose,” he said.

Villalon added that sending a message through art can be very powerful. “With ordinary words, we only make the audience know about what’s happening. With art, we make them feel.”

“It is really an effective platform to promote peace,” he stressed.

Meanwhile, Professor Pepito Sumayan of Mindanao State University Marawi challenged the youth not to waste time and be part of the crusade for peace.

“Every kid has a great potential in art, they have to use this potential and develop them.”

“The real artist mirrors what is happening in his or her community.

The real artist advocates rights and all that is good. If you do this in your own little way, you have become a deeper, more powerful artist,” Sumayan said.

[Philippine Information Agency]

✓ QATAR: ACADEMIC COUNSELLORS MULL WAYS TO ENHANCE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Menafn, 10 October 2016 - SOME 30 academic counsellors and career guidance practitioners in Qatar took part in the first ‘Career Counsellors Follow-up Meeting,’ a newly-launched initiative of the Qatar Career Fair (QCF).

The meeting included a series of career guidance stakeholder engagement and professional development events.

QCF is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

The participants discussed new career guidance development initiatives to better serve Qatari youths.

QCF director Abdulla al-Mansoori said: ‘Career guidance is an organised educational process that assists students to explore their career path based on their capabilities and skills.’

Omar Bin Abdul-Aziz

Independent Secondary School for Boys academic counsellor Salah El-Din El-Hawary said in their focus group discussion, they explored topics such as the challenges faced by academic counsellors in schools.

The group also tackled the different ways in which the Ministry of Education and Higher Education can help counsellors enhance their role.

El-Hawary added that the introduction of academic counselling to the school curriculum, which is initiated by the Ministry, and planned to be piloted during this academic year in 10 schools, was also discussed.

Group one explored the outcomes from the ‘Professionalisation of Career Guidance Practices’; focus group discussion, which was held during the Career Guidance Stakeholders Platform in

May 2016.

They also charted ways to help pave the way for the 2017 event.

Group two was responsible for assessing the experience of the Career Advisor Training Course (CATC) participants with the QCF Career Advising System.

They were tasked with suggesting ways to enhance the programme within a clear timeframe and strategy.

At the end of the meeting, the last batch of participants of CATC received their certificates of completion from the President of Kuder Inc, a world leader in career planning services and one of QCF’s strategic partners.

A Kuder delegation led by president and CEO Phil Harrington attended the meeting as part of their visit to discuss the on-going projects and for possible

future collaboration in the field of career guidance in Qatar.

[Gulf Times]



"Education and skills development are key components in the realisation of a knowledge-based and sustainable economy in Qatar as contained in the country's National Vision 2030 Plan," said Abdullatif al-Yafei, general manager of the ALF Foundation.

"Within our mission of developing, employing and managing programmes including the area of education, we aim to offer programmes that can help remedy any skill gaps or deficiencies."

Among the volunteer presenters of the workshops were Ammar Khorshed, Derick Osayormwanbor, Fahed al-Baker, Hossein Heyder, Mohamed al-Jarrah, Abdelrahman Romaihi, Saber Harkati, Don Rikley, Trish Slade, Nickil Ravi, Dr Fuad Abdelaziz, Meriem Boudoukha, Noorul Firdhouse, Sinchai Zonpath, Mohana Rajakumar, Nirmala Shanmugapandian, Lina Lotfi, Maryamasser, Leila al-Haj, Ahmed Ali, Mahmoud Elkhishy, Aisha Ghaleb, Rawan Ismail, Noor Qussini, Waleed Hassan and Ahmad Hassan.

"The ALF Foundation brought the DI programme to Qatar in November 2013 because it shares the programme's philosophy of providing a quality platform that encourages inquisitive thinking and creative problem solving skills," said Ali Talal al-Mar'e, ALF Foundation's executive director.

"Accordingly, we have conducted these workshops in order to promote independent learning and

skills development among students, particularly to those who need them most. Destination Imagination Qatar focuses on the development of skills and talent among students of all ages and economic status. It aims to inspire students to be actively interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and for them to learn more about their concepts.

It also gives students the chance to know and experience the creative process, which is about thinking and doing in no prescribed order.

With their newly acquired skills from the workshops, students who are participating in the Destination Imagination Challenge will then be able to apply, share and teach these skills to their respective teams.

Their effectiveness of incorporating such skills will then be assessed during the DI Qatar 2016 Invitational Tournament, which will take place from February 25-28, 2016 at the QNCC.

As trained appraisers meticulously observe tournament participants and teams, they will be assessed on how effective such newly acquired skills have been incorporated into their DI solution.

Appraisers establish a welcoming atmosphere as teams first present their eight-minute solution and then discuss the creative process they went through during their 10-week long DI season.

DI Qatar also welcomes anyone interested and willing to be among the appraisers for the tournament.

This includes those who wish to support the skills and talent development activities within the Qatar community.

[Menafn.com]

NEW



✓ AZERBAIJAN: TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN FOCUS OF GOV'T

Baku, 11 October 2016 - AZERBAIJAN, which targets decreasing the rate of unemployment in the country, plans to implement certain measures to tackle certain difficulties occurring in the sphere.

Minister for Labor and Social Protection of Population Salim Muslimov said that providing jobs to a large number of young people, who will rush into the labor market under conditions of demographic growth, is one of the challenges of utmost importance for Azerbaijan.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Binagadi District Employment Center, Salimov said that the ministry jointly with relevant authorities is currently developing an employment strategy for the next 15 years.

He said that the level of unemployment among youth currently exceeds the average level of unemployment twofold in the country, therefore it is important to bring the figure down to the level of 5 percent.

Salimov said that a strong demographic growth in the country, as well as average level of population growth in the country, which stands at 1.2-1.3 percent, necessitates implementing certain measures, aimed at the elimination of unemployment.

As much as 36 percent of the jobs, provided by the service in the first quarter of 2016, fell to a share of the youth, while the figure of youth participants of vocational training and courses amounted to 60 percent.

The minister also stressed the importance of adopting a law on compulsory insurance against unemployment in the country, saying that a draft project has already got an approval of all relevant enforcement authorities.

Unemployment insurance will be different from the unemployment benefit, which is one of the ways to ensure social protection of the jobless people in Azerbaijan.

Unemployment insurance will allow an unemployed

person to get insurance payments over a certain period of time, which are carried out by contributions, made by the same person during his/her official work.

Muslimov said that lack of the law triggers certain problems, mentioning that the financial means allocated from the state budget [15 million manats] for tackling such problems is not always sufficient.

Bringing the recent developments in the banking sector of the country as an example, he mentioned that some 2,700 people earlier employed in the banking sphere appealed to the job centre and were registered as unemployed.

The average monthly amount of unemployment compensation in Azerbaijan amounts to 241.8 manats (\$151.06).

Muslimov also spoke about the necessity of creating the Labor Fund in Azerbaijan, stressing that appropriate insurance companies should contribute to the establishment of the Fund.

To date, the services on

compulsory insurance against accidents at production in Azerbaijan are supported by three insurance companies Ateshgah Life, Qala Life and PASHA Life.

For last five years, the State Employment Service under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection has provided employment for about 30,000 people.

Most of them are young people. In total, over the past 10 years, the number of people attracted to professional training courses by employment agencies and receiving additional education increased 2.5 times.

The number of workers employed in the oil sector amounted to 34,600 people and 1.49 million people in non-oil sector.

Some 34,400 unemployed people were registered in Azerbaijan as of September 1, 2016, with 37.8 percent of them being women.

[AzerNews]

✓ CROATIA: YOUTH INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE OPPORTUNITIES AND INCLUSION

Zagreb, 14 October 2016 - THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Croatian Employers' Association (HUP) are jointly launching the Private Sector Youth Initiative to promote the inclusion of young people in the labour market.

The initiative will address the skills mismatch of

young people and expand economic opportunities for women.

To achieve these goals the initiative will work closely with private sector companies, professional women associations and academic institutions.

The partnership will be supported by People 1st during the set-up phase.

The initiative will introduce recognised international standards in relation to internship policies and practices and mentorship opportunities in the private sector in Croatia foster closer engagement of the private sector and academic institutions to make curricula in higher education institutions more relevant for industry invite

private companies to join and offer high quality internship opportunities that add value to learning outcomes for students provide the private sector with a larger talent pool of potential employees and create significant capacity building for future interns, companies and mentors. The programme will start in December 2016.



It will initially offer at least 100 internship places for students and at least 20 mentoring opportunities for women.

The initiative will last for 18 months with the possibility of an extension. Companies that have already indicated their interest in participating include Atlantic Grupa, Erste banka, Ina, Orbico and Podravka.

Participating universities include the University of Osijek, the University of Pula and the Faculty of Economy at the University of Rijeka.

The Private Sector Youth Initiative aims to help reduce the skills mismatch in Croatia by bringing together academic institutions, private companies and professional associations in creating first job experiences for young people through high quality internships and providing a

route into employment.

Additional support will be provided to young women to enhance their employability and help them overcome “soft” barriers to entering the labour market.

The initiative will focus on the capacity building of companies to increase awareness and know-how in relation to quality internship standards (based on EU standards), monitoring of standards achieved, promotion of best practice and lessons learned and tracking of employment outcomes for interns.

As a result of quality internships, the initiative also expects to achieve significant skills transfer from employers to students. By engaging directly in the training of students, firms can address the mismatch between the academic curriculum and their skills

demand, contributing to the improvement of training quality and relevance, and benefiting from having access to potential recruits trained in the skills required in the workplace.

All stakeholders under the programme will endeavour to apply the best practices on work-based learning such as the European Quality Charter on Internships and Apprenticeships or other international best practices.

Davor Majetić, Director General of Croatia’s Employers’ Association, said: “With this pilot project we wanted to enable all young people to gain skills and knowledge that would be of use when they looked for employment as well as in their future work. The employers will themselves benefit from this initiative since they will get the best students and through concrete tasks

prepare for their future work and development, the final objective of the project being establishing work experience as an essential part of the school curriculum.”

Jane Rexworthy, Executive Director of People 1st, said: “We are delighted to support this initiative.

Developing a national internship framework for Croatia based on international standards will benefit employers, students and education institutions.

Internships provide young people with the opportunity to test the knowledge they have learned in the classroom in a real work environment, developing their competency and preparing them for future employment.”

[Total Croatia News]

✓ CYPRUS: EC ALLOCATES €11 MLN TO TACKLE CYPRUS YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Nicosia, 5 October 2016 - EUROPEAN Commissioner for Employment Marianne Thyssen presented on Tuesday, in Strasbourg, the main achievements of the Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) since their launch in 2013.

According to the data on Cyprus, 19.8% of the youth population aged 15-24 not in employment, education or training was reached by the Youth Guarantee, in their effort to start their own business venture.

Moreover, 8.3% of young unemployed people benefited from the

programme. The Commission says that €11,572,101 were allocated for Cyprus from YEI and were matched by the same amount from the European Social Fund.

Moreover 1,500 persons took part in YEI-supported actions and 895 have completed a YEI operation. On EU-level, the measures and reforms implemented under the Youth Guarantee have made a difference in the lives of more than 9 million young people, said Commissioner Thyssen.

The Youth Guarantee is a political commitment taken by all EU Member States in the form of a Council

recommendation of April 2013, following a proposal from the Commission, to give every young people a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

The Youth Employment Initiative is the main EU funding programme initiated at the same time to facilitate the roll-out of the Youth Guarantee and give particular support to regions where youth unemployment rate is over 25%.

All Member States are also making use of their share of

the European Social Fund (ESF) to support youth employment.

According to the European Commission, there has been progress so far and although youth unemployment remains a key concern in many Member States, young people’s labour market performance in the EU has overall surpassed expectations since 2013. It is added that there are 1.4 million less young unemployed in the EU since 2013 and 900,000 less young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

[Local Business]



✓ SPAIN: SPAIN RANKS HIGH ON NEETS

Madrid, 6 October 2016 - SPAIN is the member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which in percentage terms lost most youth employment between 2007 and 2014 and which has one of the highest rates of Youths Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEETs).

This is the devastating conclusion of the report "Panorama of a society" published yesterday by the OECD, which estimated that there are a total of 40

million young people in this situation.

According to the report, of the developed countries, 22.7% of those in Spain between 15 and 29 years of age are NEETs, almost eight percent above the average of industrialized countries.

Only three countries, all Mediterranean, exceed Spain in this ranking: Turkey (29.8%), Greece (26.9%) and Italy (24.7%).

Just behind Spain, comes Mexico, where the

percentage of unemployed young people outside the education system and also exceeds 20%.

These five states lead the ranking of developed countries with most NEETs, followed by Chile, although in this case young people without work or study does not reach one in five.

One reason Spain does so badly in youth employment is the high school dropout rate.

In the age group between 25 and 34 years 39% of men

(compared to an average of slightly more than 15% in the OECD) and 28% women (against 12-13%) have not completed secondary education.

The same report notes that Spain was the only member state where youth employment fell more than 50% between 2007 and 2014, with more than half of the jobs in Spain being destroyed. The youth poverty rate in Spain sits at 20%.

[The Guardian]

✓ SWITZERLAND: SWISS YOUTH ARE MOST OPTIMISTIC STUDY

Bern, 4 October 2016 - IN spite of their worries, Swiss young people aged 16 to 25 are more optimistic than their counterparts in other countries, a study has found.

The 2016 Youth Barometer commissioned by bank Credit Suisse among 1,000 people in Switzerland, Brazil, the United States and Singapore found 59 percent of young Swiss were optimistic about the future.

That compared to 54 percent for Brazil, 52 percent for the US and 43 percent for Singapore.

The authors of the Youth Barometer said "Generation Stress" was a good name for today's 16 to 25 year olds who are permanently online in a world where communication trends are changing all the time.

Snapchat is the hottest app this year.

And the internet has made politics much more accessible.

The young people surveyed want to have it all in life, the study found, even though this involved contradictions.

They wanted a successful career with a good work/life balance, to be independent and yet work for an international company, to save less, but also to buy a house.

[The Local.ch]



✓ AUSTRALIA: TURNING THE 'YOUTH BULGE' INTO A GLOBAL MASS MOVEMENT

Canberra, 4 October 2016 - THERE is an opportunity in front of us to unlock the potential in young people all around the world turning the 'youth bulge' into a demographic dividend that delivers tangible economic and development progress.

Over the past six months, I have travelled over 45,000 kilometres, meeting thousands of young Australians from all walks of life.

And the overwhelming message is one of confidence but at this crucial moment this confidence is tempered by fear.

In particular, fear of economic disruption and inequality. But this is also a moment where, if we mobilise the billions of young people globally, we stand a genuine chance at achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

For many, inequality is driven by unemployment or underemployment.

The exclusion of groups from the labour market threatens long-term stability, and breeds tension.

The unemployment rate for young Australians is twice the general unemployment. Globally, over 40 per cent of the world's youth are beneath the poverty line, whether they are employed or not.

Even in OECD nations, a youth unemployment rate of over 15 per cent persists. The unemployment rate is driven by faltering economies, labour market

transitions, and underemployment that force those with less experience out of contention.

I have heard from over 10,000 young Australians and in one voice they say "we want to be, and we must be part of the solution".

Eighty four per cent of young Australians believe that they have a duty to change the world for the better not just a desire, a duty.

And that duty is manifesting in self-created employment, enterprises and organisations.

The starting point always must be inclusive, relevant and quality education, a task that no longer is solely the realm of government thanks to shifting technology landscapes.

Inequitable education outcomes that continue to pervade Australia, largely due to geographic and socio-economic status, must become a relic of the past.

This year, I was part of a startup team that brought together tens of thousands of educational content pieces from around the world, to deliver professional development in one place, accessible from anywhere in Australia.

I also met a team of young Australians that built a homemade tablet computer, and are using it to provide affordable access to basic primary education in regional areas.

The education development pathway can, and should, leap frog to the latest innovations to improve relevance and accessibility.

We can do this by creating decision making structures that include a generation of problem solvers.

Less than five per cent of the young Australians that I met believed that they were being represented and included in the decisions that affect them.

This isn't isolated to Australia, young people globally possessing a global outlook, and the potential to contribute tremendously to the challenges set in the 2030 Agenda.

It is 2016. It is beyond time that we have an inclusive community that realises the opportunity in equal gender representation in industry, in government, and in advocacy.

Less than 25 per cent of director positions in Australia's largest 200 companies and only 30 per cent of our seats in federal parliament are filled by women.

The change we must see in this space begins at the grassroots level and there is more to be done to ensure our policy frameworks create incentives for women to participate in their societies and that men are able to share in the unpaid care work for their families.

The current generation of young Australians have voiced their opinion in the strongest terms they do not want to be 40 years old and

admitting to the next generation that we failed to build an inclusive economic agenda.

To implement the 2030 Agenda in the spirit it was agreed, we need to be truly inclusive and to provide equal opportunity for young women, LGBTI youth, migrants and asylum seekers, and indigenous youth, to engage them in the decision making process, and make them part of the practical solution.

As much as the United Nations and national governments can do, and should do.

Ultimately it is on the shoulders of young people around the world. As the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states 'it lies in the hands of today's younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations'.

[The Australian]



✓ FIJI: YOUTHS REAP BENEFITS OF YAQONA FARMING

Suva, 9 October 2016 - A YOUTH group at Naiyarabale in Saqani, Cakaudrove is reaping the benefits of a yaqona farming project they started a few years ago.

Tomorrow, the Commissioner Northern Jovesa Vocea and his officials will visit the youth group, which has taken a giant step forward for its members future.

The visit by the Government officials will coincide with the youth group's donation of a new truck to the village.

Mr Vocea said the truck

was bought from the sale of yaqona harvested from the youths farm.

[The Fiji Times Online]

✓ NEW ZEALAND: NIUEAN COMMUNITY LOOKS TO YOUTH TO REVIVE LANGUAGE

Wellington, 21 October 2016 - THE Niuean community is hoping that this week's Niuean language celebrations around New Zealand will help to revive its dying language.

While 74 percent of Niueans around the world live in New Zealand, only around 13 percent of them are able to speak the language.

Groups such as the Vagahau Niue Trust and the Niue Youth Network were formed specifically to help promote and maintain the use of Vagahau Niue.

Chair of the Niue Youth Network, Amanda Patutaue said that because there were more Niueans in New Zealand than in Niue, celebrating the language in New Zealand was very important for the Niuean community.

"Niueans here, born and raised in New Zealand, they're not really aware of the language so the Niue Youth Network has come up with ways to help engage them to have more ties with our Vagahau Niue."

Events such as community quiz nights, song workshops in schools and other celebrations around the country are aimed at helping people understand more about Vagahau Niue.

Support for the language is much more accessible now than ever before, according to Ms Patutaue.

"We have a lot of Early Childhood Education centres that are run by Niueans and for Niuean children," she explained.

"In some schools, such as Alfriston College, they have Vagahau Niue classes as

part of their curriculum and there are other sources as well that are accessible for youth today, such as Niue language classes."

"We have different activities to encourage our fotu Niue, or our Niue youth, to come and to learn more and embrace being Niuean."

Ms Patutaue said elders in the community were very supportive in encouraging younger Niueans to strengthen their cultural and community ties.

"They help us a lot and they also give us tips," she laughed, explaining that there were different levels of fluency across their group.

"We are not fluent speakers ourselves, well the majority of us aren't, so they kind of correct our language if we

get it wrong, and spelling errors."

She admitted that while many young Niueans had a growing understanding of the language there were still challenges in practising it every day.

Ms Patutaue was hopeful Niuean young people would help revive the dying language.

"We're not using it as often, we're always speaking English to each other," she expressed.

"We are trying our best now and it's up to the younger generation to carry that on, to continue this push to use our Niuean language."

[Radio New Zealand]

✓ SAMOA: SAMOA PUSH FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN ORGANIC FARMING

Apia, 3 October 2016 - YOUNG men in Samoa have graduated from a training programme aimed at addressing youth unemployment and developing organic farming.

The three-month course is an initiative of the group, Samoa Women in Business.

The assistant executive officer for the organisation, Auali'itia Alberta Vitale,

said the men hope to work towards registration as certified organic farmers to supply overseas markets.

"What we're really trying to achieve here is getting them to understand the whole value of organic farming but also looking at the access to markets because we have local markets and also markets that are awaiting organic certified goods from our farms.

This is another boost for our small growers, the youth members to try and see the benefits of this."

Auali'itia Alberta Vitale said it's hoped the programme will also be taken to the island of Savai'i.

[Radio New Zealand]



✓ VANUATU: EMPOWERING WOMEN TO EDUCATE YOUTH ABOUT MENSTRUAL HEALTH

Port Vila, 13 October 2016

- BELINDA Roselli's Nelson home is filled with hundreds of metres of bright cotton fabric.

Earlier in the year she bought all the flannelette she could when it was on sale at Spotlight, by calling every store in the country.

Roselli is not collecting the fabric to make clothes; she sends it in bulk to Vanuatu, where a group of women use it to sew washable sanitary pads.

She was in Vanuatu for work after Cyclone Pam hit when she realised how much menstruation affected women's lives in the developing nation.

Many of them used rags while they were menstruating, and it was quite common for them not to go to school during that time. In some communities they were kept separate from others.

Roselli said she was concerned at how many young women were missing out on their education.

"If you want your communities to thrive then you make sure your girls are educated, that is not just my thoughts, that is proven."

She helped to start the "micro-enterprise" over a year ago. Run by six Ni-Vanuatu women and one man it provides women with the option to buy affordable, re-usable sanitary pads.

The women chose to call themselves "Mamma's Laef", which means

women's life in bislama.

The washable sanitary pads are an economical and environmentally friendly alternative to disposable sanitary products. They have a three year life span if cared for properly.

Roselli's aim for the project was twofold, to provide an income stream for women so they could pay to educate their children and to keep girls in school while they were menstruating.

The programme has since grown and now the "mamas" deliver education about menstrual health and reproduction in schools.

"If we want developing nations to develop further we have to look at the basics," Roselli said.

She invested \$12,500 into the business and provides ongoing support to the "mamas" in Vanuatu, giving them business advice and helping to teach them financial literacy.

The project has become bigger than she ever imagined it would and its profile is growing in Vanuatu.

"I thought we would make a few kits and sell them locally," she said. "It's grown a life of its own."

So far, Mamma's Laef have made over 800 reusable sanitary pad kits and taught over 80 girls in Vanuatu about menstruation, reproduction and how to chart their cycle.

Humanitarian aid company

Care International heard about the project and the organisations have joined forces to deliver sanitary pad kits and education on the islands Tanna and Erromango.

[The Nelson Mail]

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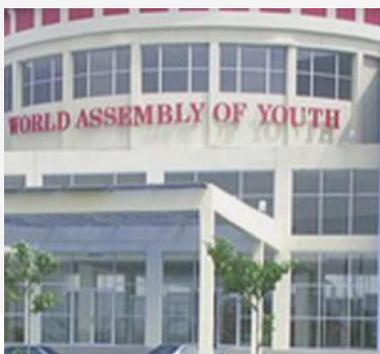
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