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✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2020

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
4 February 2020	World Cancer Day	Melaka, Malaysia
11 February 2020	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Melaka, Malaysia
20 February 2020	World Day of Social Justice	Melaka, Malaysia
21 February 2020	International Mother Language Day	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ ANGOLA: ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Luanda, 3 January 2020 -

THE Angolan business sector resented the effects of the economic crisis in 2019, the year in which many private companies closed doors, thus causing the government to show imagination and find ways to increase jobs supply.

In order to stimulate entrepreneurship, the Angolan Government has created the ambitious Employability Promotion Action Plan (PAPE), which is already starting to bear fruits.

PAPE aims to foster and support the emergence of micro and small businesses and entrepreneurship, as well as provide an electronic platform to streamline service delivery intermediation.

Aimed primarily at self-employed professionals, the programme is to be implemented until 2021.

With the vision focused on the future of young people in the job market, the Executive has invested in entrepreneurship, with training stages and the plan for the training of more than 30,000 young people in

business management in the whole country.

With a budget of 21 billion kwanzas for the granting of 10,000 micro credits and distribution of 42,000 professional kits, the initiative boosts the sustainable development of the country and the national economy.

The project, which aims to reach 243,000 beneficiaries across the country, demonstrates concern about the job market, which currently has an estimated rate of about 71 percent in at least 30 million people in Angola.

The focus on the project reinforces the entrepreneurship promotion strategy and is also relevant to the strategy of decreasing the unemployment rate.

Data to which ANGOP had access indicate that between 2018 and the third quarter of 2019 in Angola 161,997 new jobs were created.

Of this figure, 80.3 percent refers to jobs in the public and private business sector, and 19.7 percent in the politico-administrative sector, that is, in the civil service.

Another theme that marked the year just gone was the creation of the National Action Plan for the Eradication of Child Labour, which aims to create policy strategies for prevention and a favorable environment for the development of children.

The project aims to increase the access to education and training programmes for professionals, suitable for children, in addition to mapping zones and types of child labour.

With the objective to reinforce the practice of dialogue and collective bargaining, as well as allowing the migration from informal to formal work, the Ministry of Public Administration, Labour and Social Security signed this year the Country Programme of Decent Labour Agreement (PPTD).

It is a long-awaited instrument by the country's trade unions.

The PPTD is an instrument of cooperation of the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s tripartite constituents: Government, group of employers and workers, and

it is in line with ILO and UN principles, allowing the migration from informal to formal work.

With the agreement in question, the authorities prove that there is a concern of the Angolan Government to improve and promote youth employability, formalization of enterprises and reinforce social dialogue and the practice of collective bargaining.

For the implementation of the agreement, it is planned that over the 2019-2022 period, five million dollars will be invested, and will be elaborated in a concerted and inclusive manner by the organizations of workers and employers with the Government.

It is intended a focus on three defined priorities: contributing to the formalization of enterprises and informal workers; promote youth employability and strengthen social dialogue and the practice of collective bargaining.

[Angola Press]

✓ BOTSWANA: BOSWA ENERGY TO MENTOR 1000 YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Kanye, 23 January 2020 -

The Minister of Health and Wellness and member of Parliament for Kanye South, Dr Lemogang Kwape has commended Boswa Energy Africa (BEA) for its commitment to raise and train 1000 young entrepreneurs.

Dr Kwape said this when giving a key note address at a Kanye Young Entrepreneurs Conference 2020, which was organised by BEA recently.

BEA, which is a team that comprises of established business persons, is currently on a mission to empower aspiring young

entrepreneurs through provision of a five-year mentorship programme.

"As a collective, we all must find ways of creating employment for the youth.

Government is working with the private sector to broaden the employment tent, as it can no longer

employ every graduate," he said.

Dr Kwape therefore advised the youth not to depend on government for employment, but rather explore opportunities.



"Government is the first to admit that there are challenges of unemployment.

Our mission is to find ways of resolving those challenges and finding lasting solutions for Batswana, and opportunities such as this one are ideal," he said.

He noted that youth formed the bulk of the population in the country and as such are the most affected by unemployment.

Dr Kwape said the theme: Raising 1000 Young Entrepreneurs, Training and Equipping our Youth for the Future, was appropriate as young people were on the verge of desperation as they could not find opportunities.

He said organising such an event by successful people could bring abundance and therefore implored the

youth to take advantage of the initiative.

He also advised them to utilise the opportunity and share ideas with the organisers on how best they can be assisted and utilise the programme.

Dr Kwape thanked the youth for showing up, saying that their participation showed commitment to improving their lives.

"I need to guarantee you that it is not easy, however if you get the good preparation then you will be in a good position to escape the challenges as you grow older," he said.

He noted that the event was an opportunity for him to hear the youth's thoughts and dreams as they are the ones who will be leading the nation in the not too distant future.

Dr Kwape noted that the Human Development Index (HDI) indicated that Botswana has a good life expectancy and a relatively good education system, so the youth should consider themselves privileged to belong to such a country.

He shared that research indicated that there were certain areas that drive employment creation in the country and the world over, which they could take advantage of such as Information and Communication Technology, service, agriculture and the retail sector.

Dr Kwape further implored the youth to take to heart the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on good health and well-being, as it was necessary for them to be successful.

He implored them to also

consider SDG 4, which speaks about quality education and SDG 8, which speaks about decent work and economic growth.

"When we have decent jobs and the economy is growing, then we will all be happy," he said.

For his part, District Youth Coordinator, Ms Minkie Bokole implored youth to take advantage of the programme, adding that enrolling in the programme could increase their chances of securing funds from CE-DA and Youth Development Fund.

Ms Bokole thanked the elders for their presence as they were crucial in encouraging and providing support to the youth.

[Botswana Daily News]

✓ NAMIBIA: YOUNG NAMIBIAN ESTABLISHES AN EMPLOYMENT FOUNDATION

Windhoek, 23 January 2020 - FESTUS Malakia has created a foundation aimed at creating employment for young Namibians, dubbed: Unique Empowerment and Employment Initiative Foundation.

"As a graduate, I realised how difficult it is to get a job, and sometimes when you get the job, it is not in line with what you studied for," Malakia told Youth Corner.

The 28-year-old human resource management graduate from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (Nust) was answering questions posted by Youth Corner on the

importance of job creation.

"Youth unemployment is currently over 46 percent, and my initiative is one of those interventions that are working toward solving this national crisis," he explained.

Since the initiation of the foundation in 2018, about 30 young Namibians have been attached to jobs as interns to different organisations, including catering companies and Monochrome Magazine to mention a few.

"We have also assisted three Namibians to secure permanent positions. It is a work in progress. What we

do is put out a call for CV submissions and give it to our partners," said Malakia.

He said most of the employers and partners are Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and startups. Malakia has been selected to attend different leadership and fellowships programs because of his community work and commitment to helping shape a better future for Namibia, contributing greatly to youth empowerment and development.

"Although I faced numerous challenges, ranging from lack of resources and credibility through sheer determination and

consistent work ethic, I strategically positioned my initiative as a worthy cause, and getting assistance and forming partnerships with a big organisation like Konrad Adenauer Stiftung," stated Malakia.



He said the main focus of the foundation is to pursue an initiative that will generate revenue.

“I wanted to empower young people, especially the graduates to be employed and offer them entrepreneurship courses since we are running the organisation as a social venture,” said Malakia.

Apart from his venture into capacity building, Malakia has also taken part in the

Young African Leaders Initiative (Yali) programs, which provide in-person and online training in business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership and public management throughout the year.

They also offer extensive opportunities for professional development and networking.

“The knowledge and skills I gained from the Yali program had a spill-over

effect on myself as an individual to benefit the whole youth development initiative; thus, it has improved and enhanced our impact on our targeted beneficiaries,” revealed Malakia.

With a Civic Leadership Training certificate from The University of South Africa, Unique Empowerment and Employment Initiative Foundation (UEEIF) is a youth development

initiative born out of the aspirations to prepare the youth for the future, empower them to become economically active, be developmental champions within their communities and contribute greatly to the socio-economic advancement of the country.

[New Era]

✓ NIGERIA: EXPERTS CHARGE YOUTHS ON GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

Abuja, 23 January 2020 - YOUTH have been charged to cultivate the collective zeal and responsibility to contribute their quota to improving the state of the country.

President, Junior Chambers International, Olamipo Adeola, who made the call at a forum, themed, “Leadership and Youth: Practical Roadmap to Self Growth through Community Impact,” identified the need to reach out to game

changers in the society, to share their knowledge on leadership with the younger generation.

She maintained that it is imperative that youth and young leaders strived to be active, take the lead in their respective professions for the good of Nigeria.

Mrs. Modupe Adebisi, a staff of Union Bank, tasked youths to be good ambassadors in the community they operate by

serving humanity.

Also, speaking, former Chairman of the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON), Dr Muiz Banire, gave vital tips on leadership skills such as accountability, transparency, selfless, responsibility, and tolerance among others.

He explained that political stewardship and responsibility are not giving to youths on a platter of gold, saying they should

create and latch on wholesome opportunities, networking and mentorship that would add to nation building.

He also urged youths to engage more in political and humanitarian services in their immediate environment.

[Guardian]

✓ ZAMBIA, AFRICA YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS JOSTLE FOR SEED CAPITAL

Lusaka, 6 January 2020 - THE Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) has opened the 2020 entrepreneurship programme, which empowers young entrepreneurs from Zambia and the rest of the continent with seed capital.

The US\$100 million project, which is a 10-year financial empowerment programme launched by Nigerian philanthropist Tony Elumelu, provides US\$10 million annually to unlock Africa’s entrepreneurial potential.

About 77 Zambian

entrepreneurs were last year awarded seed capital out of the over 3,000 beneficiaries from across the continent.

TEF communications manager Tiwa Medubi said in a statement yesterday that the entrepreneurship programme is open to start-up entrepreneurs, with innovative business ideas or businesses that have been in existence for less than three years in any sector from across Africa.

“The programme implements Mr Elumelu’s Africapitalism philosophy, which positions the private

sector as the catalyst for African economic transformation, and an investment approach that values the creation of both social and economic wealth,” Ms Medubi said.

She said as part of the TEF 10th year anniversary, the foundation is expected to announce further enhancements to the programme, providing additional benefits to Africa’s rapidly growing youth demographic.

Ms Medubi said the TEF Entrepreneurship

Programme will this year emphasise a personalised entrepreneurship journey for every applicant and opening the platform to ensure a higher number of people trained, amplifying the programme’s impact and reach.

Ten years ago, Mr Elumelu developed the programme although disbursement of funds started in 2015.



In just five years, the programme has empowered over 9,000 entrepreneurs from all 54 African countries, with training, mentorship and seed funding.

Speaking at the launch of the 2020 TEF Entrepreneurship Programme, TEF chief executive officer Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu said the transformation of Africa begins with empowering young African entrepreneurs.

Ms Ugochukwu said with the recent enhancements made to the programme and growing list of partners, the Tony Elumelu Foundation is significantly increasing its impact across the continent.

“We encourage all start-up African entrepreneurs across the 54 African countries to apply for the programme, as we continue to empower the very best ideas that will create the much-needed employment and revenue on the continent,” he said.

[Zambia Daily Mail]

NEWS



✓ BERMUDA: ARGUS DONATION TO YOUTH COUNSELLING PROJECT

Hamilton, 19 January 2020

- THE Argus Group has donated \$15,000 to Family Centre in support of its Youth Development Zone counselling programme.

The YDZ is a community initiative launched in 2011 that offers services to the youth population living in North East Hamilton. Family Centre provides YDZ with child and family counselling and, by end of last September, had worked with 77 families.

In addition to counselling, Family Centre helps to coordinate other services for

GAMBIA: NEDI TRAINS YDZ children and their families, including collaboration with Bermuda Police Service, Bermuda Economic Development Corporation, Bermuda Coalition, Workforce Development, Salvation Army, Mirrors, Team Street Safe and a local church representative. According to a press release, these efforts help to ensure that social services are more accessible to residents living in the North East Hamilton area.

Martha Dismont, executive director of Family Centre, stated: "I would like to thank Argus for being a

YOUTH ON FOOD PRO- loyal supporter of the Family Centre year after year. For us to be accessible to the communities that we serve, we rely on generous donations from sponsors. Without them, we couldn't have the impact that we do."

Lauren Bell, executive vice-president of Life and Pensions at the Argus Group, and a member of the Argus Group's Charitable Donations Committee, stated: "Our core values include integrity, fairness, excellence, respect, professionalism and

CESSING teamwork.

We believe that it is only fair for everyone to have access to professional services like the counselling that Family Centre provides.

"Their YDZ programme involves teamwork with partners throughout the community to ensure families who otherwise would not have access to important services can do so.

[Royal Gazette]

✓ BARBADOS: YOUTH NEED EARLIER EXPOSURE TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Bridgetown, 27 January

2020 - IF Barbadian youth can get exposure to vocational training from an early age, they stand a better chance of competing on the global stage in an excellent fashion, in various programmes requiring them to display their skills.

Dr. Romel Springer, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training suggested the above, as he delivered remarks during a presentation ceremony held by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council for the Barbados delegation that attended the WorldSkills Kazan 2019 Competition. That ceremony was held yesterday, in the Education Ministry's Main Conference Room.

"The Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training has agreed to collaborate with

the TVET Council to stage the inaugural WorldSkills Barbados Juniors Competition and this will take place during the month of November from the 26th to 28th, 2019 at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre," Dr. Springer announced.

"This decision has resulted in post-competition research and analysis carried out by the TVET Council, after the WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017 Competition.

It shows that countries with successful TVET systems exposed youth to TVET at a much younger age than Barbados did," he explained. "WorldSkills Barbados Juniors will offer four skilled areas initially and these will include Cabinet Making, Cooking, Electrical Installation and Hairdressing. These will be open to all secondary schools, targeting students ages 14 to 16 years old," he continued.

"We are recognising that if

you want individuals to have the opportunity to develop excellence in a particular skill, then you need to start training and preparation at a much earlier age than what currently obtains in Barbados.

If we can get our young people to strive for excellence from as young as let's say 14 or 15 years old, it provides them with a better chance to meet global standards from an earlier age," Springer further commented.

He meanwhile observed that young people who compete at the WorldSkills competition, which targets persons between the ages of 16 and 22, are already skilled professionals with at least four years of apprenticeship in post-secondary or tertiary training, under the adults.

"So by introducing WorldSkills Barbados Juniors to the 14 and 16 years age group, we are

enabling our young people to start vocational training earlier, based on a standard of excellence.

Similarly, this will complement the expansion of the National Vocational Qualifications or NVQs and the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications or CVQs, which facilitate access to competency-based TVET across all secondary schools.

The introduction of the WorldSkills Barbados Juniors, together with the NVQs and CVQs, will enable the general improvement of the quality in the national TVET system," Dr. Springer asserted, even as he congratulated the six competitors and the delegation in general for their participation in this year's WorldSkills programme.

[Barbados Advocate]



As far as capacity is concerned, last year, CYEN was approved by YOUNGO, the Children and Youth constituency to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to undertake a Conference of Youth in the countries where CYEN operates. CYEN's website reflects a presence in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia, among others.

Jackson added that the activity was used to assist in further building the current participatory environmental awareness programmes for young citizens of Guyana.

"We have also been engaging in a series of panel discussions, in an effort to inform and educate young people on the Sustainable Development Goals," Jackson said.

"The last talk would have been on Goal 13 (Climate Action). Based on the feedback of these activities, we have recognised that young people in Guyana, have robust and innovative ideas and we have been working on creating a platform for them to showcase their ideas or projects that guarantee the strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change in Guyana."

In addition to facilitating larger scale education and awareness, Jackson believes more attention should be given to ensuring adequate and appropriate infrastructure and housing that can withstand, as far as possible, the perils of climate change.

Guyana is plagued by poorly-maintained drainage and sea defence infrastructure.

The low coastal plain which houses the capital Georgetown, and where a large percentage of the population resides, is below sea level and at high risk of flooding.

"With the effects of climate change becoming even more present through intensifying natural disasters, more should be done to prepare this region for what seems to be inevitable," Jackson said.

In addition to being prone to flooding, Guyana is also affected by drought.

[Stabroek News]

✓ JAMAICA: CORPORATE JAMAICA URGED TO HELP TRAIN YOUNG PEOPLE

Kingston, 14 January 2020

- INDUSTRY, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, Audley Shaw, has called for Corporate Jamaica to partner with the Government to help more of the nation's youth acquire skills and competencies as part of the development of the country's human capital.

He was delivering the keynote address at the graduation ceremony for the CAC 2000 Foundation/ Jamaica Social Investment Fund's (JSIF) Air-Conditioning Technicians Training Programme at the AC Hotel in Kingston on Thursday (September 12).

Minister Shaw argued that the country's greatest crisis was not crime but the issue of human underdevelopment.

"By far, the most fundamental crisis that we face as a country is a crisis of human

underdevelopment and where there is human underdevelopment there is the alternative development programme murder, mayhem, lotto scamming and so we have some work to do," he said.

Mr. Shaw noted that the example demonstrated by the CAC 2000 Foundation in partnering with JSIF to train 132 youth from communities in Kingston, St. Catherine and St. James should be a source of inspiration for Corporate Jamaica to get involved in the process of human development.

"This is the kind of partnership that I need to see, that we need to see more of in Jamaica partnership between the public sector and the private sector.

"It's the partnerships that can work, it's a model that I would like to have spread across the country like a

tsunami, and it has to be done with a sense of urgency," he stressed.

The Minister, during his address, lauded the 72 graduates, who completed the five to six-month-long air-conditioning course in seven batches. There were 10 dropouts, while 50 other youth, who have not yet qualified for graduation, will continue in the programme.

The training, which falls under the Alternative Livelihood Skills Programme, is a sub-project under JSIF's \$69-million Integrated Community Development Project, which seeks to provide 3,000 youths with skills training, employability enhancement and employment.

The programme targets young people aged 17 to 29 from 18 underserved communities across the island.

[Loop News Jamaica]



✓ **PERU: UNESCO'S MAB PROGRAMME TO ENGAGE YOUTH IN BIOSPHERE RESERVES**

Lima, 27 January 2020 - UNESCO's MAB Programme started with a project that is the first of its kind to actively engage youth in the MAB Programme and its biosphere reserves.

This project, funded by the Flemish government of Belgium, aims to improve the socio-economic development of young people living in biosphere reserves in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

The main objective of this project is to establish an overall framework to improve the socio-economic development of young people living in UNESCO biosphere reserves.

The project will work closely with the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean region to identify the main challenges they face.

However, the project is fully cognizant of regional, national and local differences, as well as the fact that youth is not a homogeneous group and includes differences in age, religion, gender and education, among others.

The overall framework should, therefore, be viewed as a guideline for use afterwards in other regions to help them identify and address their main challenges.

A call for 5 projects from different countries was made for young people and youth organizations of the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region, active in biosphere reserves. Otis Jeffers from Saint Mary's Biosphere Reserve in Saint Kitts & Nevis is one of the selected participants to implement his own youth project.

With 'Bee the Buzz of the Reserve', Otis will promote pollinators for crop

production and various products of honey bees.

This activity will teach young people in a practical manner how to produce honey, wax and other bi-products by creating a demonstration unit.

It will contribute to the green economy by giving young people the opportunity to be entrepreneurs in bee-keeping, and will provide employment opportunities.

The other selected projects are:

Strengthening capacities to provide ecotourism services for young people in the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta Biosphere Reserve (Colombia).

Integral management of plastic waste generated on the banks of the Napo River through the strengthening of youth groups in the Limoncocha area of Yasuni

Biosphere Reserve (Ecuador).

Creation of a radio program to promote effective communication of ecological initiatives and environmental activities oriented towards young people in the Huayabamba river basin (Gran Pajaten BR - Peru).

The developed local and regional projects by the participants are linked to the core topics of UNESCO's Natural Science Sector. It is important to note that the selected projects are not only on youth, they are also led by young people.

[Devdiscourse]

✓ **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: 'YOUTH GOVT' SEEKS TO BE POWERFUL PLATFORM**

Port of Spain, 8 January 2020 - A group calling itself the Youth Government of Trinidad and Tobago (YGTT) was launched on Friday at the Central Bank Auditorium, in the presence of Senate Vice President Nigel de Freitas, Deputy Speaker Esmond Forde, Port of Spain Mayor Joel Martinez and Adrian Leonce, parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities.

YGTT head Brian Benoit told Sunday Newsday YGTT's formation had

been inspired by a similar group in Tatarstan in Russia.

Asked about YGTT calling itself a "government," Benoit assured it was not trying to displace the elected government but simply give youngsters a platform by which to express their views.

He said the group was not linked to the TT Youth Parliament nor the PNM.

Benoit, a music teacher at the Education Ministry,

said he had set up the group by inviting applications from young people on several social media platforms.

During Friday's inauguration, the group's Joseph Lopez said 50 individuals age 18-35 would be appointed to different portfolios respectively as governors, deputy governors and members.

He said YGTT participants had been trained in leadership, public speaking and

social media management. The best organisations have a mix of experience and youth, he said.

A leader should empower others and so help to inspire others to also become leaders.

He urged all to build a better community, better society and better country.

[Trinidad News]



✓ MALAYSIA: YOUNG ACTIVIST OUT TO SAVE VULNERABLE LIVES

Kuala Lumpur, 12 January 2020 - Losing her mother to diarrhoea in 2014 ignited a flame of passion in Shomy Hasan Chowdhury to advocate for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 clean water and sanitation.

The Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) economics graduate from Mymensingh, Bangladesh, was recently awarded the 2019 Legacy Award, which is a legacy of the late Princess Diana and honours the latter's humanitarian work.

Shomy received the award due to her ability to inspire youth to serve their communities.

"My mother's death came as a shock as she was fine the day before. After doing research, I found out that 45,000 children die from diarrhoea annually in Bangladesh."

Four days after the tragedy, Shomy conducted a talk on water; sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to sanitation workers, her first out of many.

"I shared with them proper hand-washing techniques, which can be a life-saving act.

I was expected to stay at home and grieve.

But I knew that if I wasted one more day in mourning, someone else could lose their loved ones. I had gone through such excruciating pain; I didn't want anyone else to go through it."

In Bangladesh, sanitation workers are ostracised and

exposed to health hazards.

"They are considered untouchable and unclean by society. I want to educate them on keeping their hygiene and show our appreciation for their services."

Shomy, who received a British Council Bangladesh scholarship, chose to study in Malaysia because of the country's affordable higher education, as well as UPM's high ranking in the list of global universities.

The 25-year-old joined 19 other youths, who embodied Princess Diana's kindness and compassion.

She vowed to continue fighting for universal access to clean water and sanitation.

Together with fellow UPM graduate Rijve Arefin, Shomy co-founded Awareness 360, which champions social change with focus on vulnerable communities, such as sanitation workers, sex workers, women and orphans.

Lack of access to clean water could affect menstrual health, said Shomy. This had led Awareness 360 to campaign at a Bangladeshi brothel.

"We taught 500 women and girls in the community about personal and menstrual hygiene, as well as the adverse effects of steroid use.

"They usually use old clothes, tissues, rags or leaves instead of sanitary pads due to high cost.

"We taught them how to sew napkins and continue to advocate for sanitary products to be tax exempted."

The group also addresses other SDGs, namely quality education, women empowerment and poverty eradication. To date, it has expanded to 23 countries, impacting more than 70,000 people.

"We focus on capacity building. Our training starts with the basics, such as how to write a proposal and what the SDGs are. We teach them about community service.

"We encourage a zero-budget policy and urge members to find the most cost-effective solutions."

The group has made an impact in educating young Malaysians to make a change.

In November, a leadership workshop themed "Score Your Goals" was held in Kuala Lumpur in collaboration with the American Council and Global Changemakers.

"We selected 50 students from local universities, including UPM, to learn about SDGs. They are expected to share their knowledge with other youths.

"Participants who carried out the best volunteering project could participate in a WASH campaign at an Orang Asli village with us."

Shomy is also working on a sports exchange programme with the UPM Sports

Academy and the Commonwealth Students' Associations.

"The project will see youths from different countries learning to play cricket and hockey. Sports can be a sustainable development enabler as it promotes social inclusion, which can improve their lives."

As the Commonwealth Students' Association Asia representative, Shomy engages with country leaders in trying to influence policy changes. She said it was crucial to bridge the gap between policymakers and marginalised communities.

"Rijve and I had worked with the underprivileged at the grassroots level. By telling the decision-makers about what is happening on the ground, we can propose for change.

"In 2018, I attended the Integrated Partners' Forum at the 20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers.

"During a session on addressing equity and fairness, I spoke on how we are leaving vulnerable people, particularly sex workers, behind."

Shomy has also been invited to the biennial Commonwealth Head of Governments Meetings (CHOGM). This year, she is leading a policy team in the international youth forum task force.



“We are drafting a paper to be presented to 53 country leaders. Focusing on inclusivity, the paper will touch on topics like education, disability inclusion, clean water and climate change.”

Getting celebrities to support your cause is beneficial, she added.

“I was invited to speak to the Global Citizen Festival in New York, where I met celebrities like Priyanka Chopra and Hugh Jackman.

“When Priyanka ‘shared’ about me on her social media account, it spiked an interest in WASH and Awareness 360.”

Shomy had previously

received the gold President’s Volunteer Service Award from the then United States president Barack Obama for her community service. The recognition was a boost to further her advocacy work.

“Young people have the potential to achieve many things. Instead of complaining on social

media, it is important to educate ourselves and take action.

“Find your passion and learn from an experienced organisation. Start small and start now.”

[New Straits Times Online]

✓ NEPAL: NEPALI GOVERNMENT PLANS EMPLOYMENT TO 60,000 YOUTH

Kathmandu, 7 January 2020 - MINISTER for Labor, Employment and Social Security Rameshwar Yadav has announced the Government decision to provide jobs to 60,000 youth under the Prime Minister Employment Program (PMEP).

The Ministry has decided to offer a 100-day employment opportunity to the unemployed youngsters within the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20.

The job opportunity will be provided in various sectors, namely Agriculture, Livestock Rearing, Energy, Forest and Tourism.

A total of NPR 5.01 billion has been allocated for the employment program.

70% (of 5.01 billion) – For wages to the employees
30% (of 5.01 billion) – For administration and construction expenses.

The Nepali Government has

introduced the PMEP with an aim to provide jobs to the eligible youngsters and end the migration of Nepalese to foreign land for work.

As per the Government database, over 165,000 youth have secured labor permit within a span of 5 months of the current FY.

Moreover, according to the report by the World Bank, around 32% of the working-age population (15

-64) in Nepal was unemployed.

The Nepali Government has launched the Prime Minister Employment Program (PMEP) on February 13, 2019.

Around 175,000 unemployed youth secured jobs during the FY 2018-19 under the PMEP.

[Nepali Sansar]

✓ OMAN: 15,000 STUDENTS TO BE TRAINED UNDER NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMME

Muscat, 21 January 2020 - 15,000 male and female students from all the governorates and schools of Oman will receive training under the National Youth Programme for Skills Development.

The initiative is sponsored by the Diwan of Royal Court of the Sultanate of Oman, and comes within its framework of the national initiatives launched by the body.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, said, “The Sultanate has never held back on its citizens, and there is a firm belief that

development is a continuous process. Once we reach a particular stage, it becomes a starting point for the next stage.”

Al Busaidi also praised the fruitful cooperation between the Diwan of Royal Court and the Ministry of Education, which played a major role in designing and implementing the programme.

Adding to this, Dr Ali bin Qassim bin Jawad, an Advisor for Studies and Research at the Diwan of Royal Court, said to the ONA, “The second edition of the National Youth Programme for Skills Development has capitalised on its

accumulated knowledge and expertise to design a high-level programme, building on available modern technologies.”

“The programme seeks to prepare young adults with the attitudes, skills and knowledge needed to deal with different life situations, based on merging modern concepts with the digital educational content in an entertaining and inspiring manner,” he went on to say.

He thanked the German University of Technology (GUTech) in Oman, as well as the other international partner institutions who had contributed all their expertise in designing and delivering the programme.

Kawthar Abdullah Al Mahrouqi, Al Nashia Scheme Lead, explained, as reported by the ONA, “In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, and following a predefined set of criteria, 15,000 students were nominated to participate in the programme.

These students are currently in grades 10 and 11 and come from every secondary school in the Sultanate.”



According to Al Mahrouqi, the programme consists of an online learning journey that introduces students to both online learning and to computational thinking by teaching them programming using Python coding language.

Python language is considered to be one of the most important languages currently used in the development of technologies from the fourth industrial revolution.

“Students will access a digital platform developed for the programme in both Arabic and English,” added the Oman News Agency.

“During the online journey, participants will be completing independent open-ended creative projects.

These projects will be evaluated by a team of international experts, and the 200 students with the best work will be invited to participate in the final state of the National Youth Programme for Skills Development.

According to Al-Mahrouqi, the final stage, the residential programme, consists of a two-week intensive program to take place at the German University of Technology in

Oman (GUtech).

The two weeks will include an up to date range of topics to reflect the current technological trends, including virtual reality, machine learning, financial literacy, and cyber security.

Equally importantly, students will take part in sessions to help them coalesce as a leadership team as they develop important life skills.

The phase will conclude with a two-day hackathon to ensure students’ exposure to the themes of the fourth industrial revolution, and associated skills.

The National Youth Programme for Skills Development is one of a series of interlinked national human capital investment initiatives by the Diwan of Royal Court.

It is an innovative and challenging programme, designed to equip young Omanis aged between 15 and 29 years, with the attitudes, skills and knowledge to be successful in the future world of work and the fourth industrial revolution.

[Times of Oman]

✓ PAKISTAN: PM SEEKS YOUTH ROLE TO AIR POSITIVE IMAGE OF PAKISTAN

Islamabad, 18 January 2020 - Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Pakistan has always wanted peace and is carving out concerted efforts to achieve this goal.

Talking to a delegation of youth from various walks of life here, the prime minister said the fascist Modi government was putting the regional peace and security at stake to help realize their dream of Hindu Rashtra.

He said unjust occupation of Kashmir and amendment in citizenship law are embodiments of the completion of racist designs of India.

The prime minister urged the youth to present the case of oppressed Kashmiri people before the world through digital media in order to realize the international community of its obligation of resolving the Kashmir issue in light of the UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Imran Khan said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and federal government have also decided to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5.

The premier emphasized the need to utilize digital media tool to portray the positive image of Pakistan as well as Islam besides spreading the voice of oppressed people of Indian occupied Kashmir across the globe.

He said Pakistan had also been faced with numerous challenges on international front, but it had always desired peace and was also currently playing a role in this regard.

Discussing the PTI-led government’s strategy and initiatives regarding the growth of digital media, the prime minister said: “The medium had emerged as the most effective communication tool in this technological era.

Even owing to the swift growth of digital media, the

information flow knew no boundaries. Digital media could effectively highlight Pakistan’s immense potential in the tourism sector as well.”

He also highlighted the government’s initiatives for youth, including easy loans and skill training programmes, besides anti-poverty Ehsaas Programme and shelter homes for the poor.

On government efforts to improve national economy, the PM said the country had come out of the toughest economic condition with the reduced fiscal deficit and revival of the investors’ confidence.

He said after 1960, it was the incumbent government that had prioritised the industrial sector which would create job opportunities and grow the national economy.

The prime minister reiterated his resolve to continue to his strife against

corruption and mafias to the last extent. The prime minister advised youth to work hard as it was the only key to success.

Special Assistant to the PM Syed Zulfiqar Bukhari and Prime Minister’s Focal Person on Digital Media Dr Arsalan Khalid also attended the meeting.

[The Nation]

**✓ QATAR: MOU WITH QATAR FOR YOUTH EXCHANGE PROG: STATE MINISTER**

Doha, 18 January 2020 - A youth exchange programme with Qatar will start through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on youth and sports, state minister for youth and sports Zahid Ahsan Russel said.

He disclosed the matter after a bilateral meeting with Salah bin Ghanem, Qatar's culture and sports minister, at a hotel in Doha, said a PID handout, reports UNB.

Russel said the youth exchange programme will be taken up through this MoU.

"The players will be given advanced training with the help of experienced coaches of the two countries," he said.

Russel said the Qatari minister praised the progress made by Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Salah bin Ghanem said currently about 400,000 Bangladeshis are working in Qatar, playing an important role in the economic development of Qatar and Bangladesh.

[Prothom Alo English]

NEWS



✓ AZERBAIJAIN: UNESCO'S MAB PROGRAMME TO ENGAGE YOUTH IN BIO SPHERE

Baku, 13 January 2020 - A labor fair with the organization and assistance of the Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan was held in Baku to address issues of youth employment in tourism, Sakina Babayeve, the head of the association, told Trend.

She noted that the two-day event was held as part of a

youth project that is implemented by the Public Association "Supporting Youth Solidarity".

"The fair took place on April 12-13 and it is obvious that it aroused great interest among young people.

Through such events, young people are given a real opportunity to get the neces-

sary and interesting information related to employment," Babayeve said.

The youth project, as part of which the fair was held, is aimed at enhancing the role of the tourism sector in improving the business environment in Azerbaijan, she added.

The fair was held on April

12-13 in the Agro Mall shopping center with the participation of representatives of the Confederation of Entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan, Baku Textile Factory, as well as employees of many travel and consulting companies.

[AzerNews]

✓ BELGIUM: YOUTH FOR CLIMATE LAUNCHES PLATFORM TO GATHER CITIZEN IDEAS

City of Brussels, 23 January 2020 - THE movement at the root of the so-called pro-climate "school strikes", Youth for Climate, is launching an online platform, intended for compiling citizen ideas to limit global warming.

The solutions proposed will be submitted to the authorities, "the idleness" of which youngsters are denouncing every week in the streets.

Flowing from the demonstration this Thursday, the fourth organised in Brussels by Youth For Climate, the

collective has unveiled its new platform. "We will continue our demonstrations until we are sure that we have been heard.

However, we also wish to give people who are not (yet) engaging in climate initiatives, the opportunity to make their voice heard," indicates the collective.

"It is not simply youngsters' ideas any longer, indeed everyone can post suggestions there," states the French-speaking coordinator, Adélaïde Charlier.

The deadline for the submission of ideas is fixed

as 31 March 2019.

These will be analysed by a committee which will assess their given feasibility.

Internet surfers will then be able to vote for those which, in their view, must be the priorities for the next parliament.

The most successful ideas will be submitted to the authorities. "We hope that politicians will be inspired by some of these ideas," adds Dries Cornelissens, of Youth for Climate.

On Thursday, some 12,500 youngsters, once again,

demonstrated in the streets of the capital demanding significant political measures to fight climate change.

Although less numerous than last week, youngsters nevertheless continued to demonstrate. "The movement is not crumbling as such but it is dispersing," states Adélaïde Charlier.

For example in Liège, more than 15,000 students also walked through the streets.

[The Brussels Times]

✓ BULGARIA: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN BULGARIA

Sofia, 1 January 2020 - UNEMPLOYMENT in Bulgaria was 4.7 per cent in February 2019, down from 5.4 per cent in February 2018 and unchanged from January, according to seasonally-adjusted figures released by European Union statistics agency Eurostat on April 1.

Bulgaria's unemployment rate in February 2019 represented about 157 000 people, down from about

182 000 the same month a year earlier, Eurostat said.

February 2019 was the latest in a succession of months that Bulgaria's unemployment rate was below the EU average, which was 6.5 per cent the lowest across the 28 member states of the EU since the start of the monthly unemployment series in January 2000, the statistics agency said.

In Bulgaria, youth unemployment in February 2019 was 12.4 per cent, down from 12.7 per cent in February 2018. This represented about 18 000 Bulgarian under-25s, compared with 20 000 a year earlier.

[The Sofia Globe]



✓ GERMANY: 'SKILFUL YOUTH CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Berlin, 10 January 2020 - SKILFUL Pakistani youth can take the advantage of business opportunities available in the West, especially in Germany.

This was stated by Chief Operating Officer (CEO) of GoNetwork Germany Zeshan Pasha while addressing an even titled "Innovative Business Models for Youth and Business Opportunities in Germany for Pakistan."

Pasha said that he started his journey in Germany by distributing newspapers but with the passage of time, he started a small business by investing 25,000 euros and now within just 10 years his company is providing jobs to dozens of people in Germany and company is expanding operations to Pakistan.

"To have a successful business, one needs innovative thinking,

courage, determination and commitment. Anybody equipped with these tools with sound technological knowledge has vast opportunities in Germany," he said.

Pasha said that his company wants to expand business in Pakistan especially in real state sector, adding that authorities in Pakistan need to formulate business friendly policies and must encourage those who want

to invest.

Many German companies can be convinced to invest in Pakistan if suitable business opportunities are provided as Pakistan is a huge market. Pakistanis in Germany will serve as a bridge in this regard, he said.

[Business Recorder]

✓ ROMANIA: BANCPOST SENDS YOUNG ROMANIAN IT SPECIALISTS

Bucharest, 6 January 2020 - BANCPOST sends the most talented IT specialists from Romania to the competition "Beyond Hackathon" dedicated to young IT specialists (software developer, designer, marketer, business developer), an event to be held between 17-19 March 2017 in Athens.

The Bank supports thus the IT industry, offering young talents real chances to national and international recognition.

The competition aims to promote innovative ideas and projects which can make a difference in the field of financial services and products and can thus influence the future of banking.

Beyond Hackathon is now at its second edition and is organised by Eurobank Group in a partnership with Foundation M.P. and The Cube Workspace M.I.K.E. and with Eurobank Group subsidiaries in the region Bancpost SA (Romania), Eurobank Bulgaria AD and

Eurobank Cyprus Ltd.

This year's novelty is that start-ups may also participate in the competition companies in this field with maximum 5 years' experience.

During three days IT specialists - programmers, software developers, designers and business developers - will participate in workshops held by international leaders in FinTech and will have the opportunity to interact with experts in various fields (business, design, technology and communications).

The final objective is to generate innovative ideas which can materialise in future banking products and services.

First 10 Romanian specialists registered in the competition will benefit from free participation (within the limit of 500 Euro/participant), according to terms and conditions of the campaign, Bancpost sends you to Beyond Hackathon".

In the end participants will be able to present their ideas before a jury, and the first three projects will be granted money awards (€5,000, €3,000 and €2,000 respectively), as well as the opportunity to implement the projects with Eurobank support.

[The Daily Star]



✓ AUSTRALIA: MISSION AUSTRALIA URGES DUBBO YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN SURVEY

Canberra, 1 January 2020 - A 2018 Mission Australia survey has revealed the top three issues of national significance according to Dubbo youth were mental health, alcohol and drugs and bullying.

Twice the proportion of last years female survey participants from Dubbo

highlighting mental health as an important issue.

Dubbo Mission Australia Area Manager Megan Boshell is asking Dubbo youth aged between 15 to 19-years-old to help them by speaking out about personal concerns and broader issues across Australia. The national

Christian charity is urging participants to complete their online Youth Survey for 2019 before August 16, which will be used to advocate on behalf of Australia's youth.

The annual survey provides a valuable outlook into the issues and concerns of

young Australians and further offers essential insights to Mission Australia and other community groups as well as important government decision-makers.

[Daily Liberal]

✓ FIJI: YOUTHS URGED TO SAY NO TO THE RACE CARD: BALA

Suva, 8 January 2020 - YOUNG men and women are urged to refrain from being engaged to activities that will encourage racial and gender discrimination.

The sentiment was revealed by Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Bala while responding to a motion in regards to a post on social media made by Opposition

MP Moseses Bilitavu.

Bala says such acts is unbecoming of a public figure that may drive youth onto a wrong direction.

"I urge all young people to reject such statements and by extension ways or behavior for being racist. Say no the race card. Say no to racist comments. And I

say this to all our youths and to all our Fijians".

He adds that "this foreign behavior is not iTaukei, nor Christian" perspective made by Bilitavu will build a weak foundation for peace, prosperity and harmony in any multiracial society.

"The words and sentiments expressed by Honourable

Bilitavu are designed to extract maximum damage to race relations in Fiji".

Bala says the statements made by Bilitavu have also attacked the dignity and integrity of all women in Fiji.

[FBC News]

✓ GUAM: FSM TO FUND YOUTH PROGRAMS ON GUAM

Hagåtña, 19 January 2020 - SPEAKER Tina Rose Muña Barnes on Monday received a visit from Speaker Wesley W. Simina of the FSM Congress who shared that the FSM National Congress is cognizant of the issues on Guam with regards to CO-FA migrants.

As a result of the updates that the National Congress has received through their Consul General on Guam, Ms. Teresa Filepin, the FSM Congress has approved funding to implement programs that would directly benefit the youth of their community on Guam, the Speaker's office announced.

In addition, seed money has been approved by the FSM Congress to fund a youth summit on Guam for the

FSM community who have made Guam their home.

This youth summit focus on seven areas that have been identified as "hotspots" on Guam. They will also be implementing a program called the "7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens."

Moreover, the Consul General will be working with the youth in her community to adopt certain parks aimed at instilling a sense of ownership.

In an interview with Patti Arroyo on NewsTalk K57, Speaker Muña Barnes said the meeting was very fruitful and the talks focused on issues that affected the FSM community on Guam.

[Pacific News Center]



✓ NEW ZEALAND: AWARDS SHINE LIGHT ON INSPIRING HASTINGS YOUTH

Wellington, 5 January 2020 - AT a special awards evening at Waipatu Marae this week, 24 deserving young people were recognised for their achievements against the odds at the 2019 Youth Potential Awards.

Now in their 13th year, the annual Hastings District Council-run Ngā Tohu Aumangea Youth Potential Awards were instigated as way to acknowledge the efforts of young people who, despite challenging circumstances, were setting and achieving their goals.

Aged between 13 and 19, the awards were in three categories (tane (male), wahine (female) and roopu (group)) and the recipients were nominated by the likes of local services providers, youth groups, marae and schools who could see that this kind of acknowledgement would further encourage them to pursue success.

The evening was made extra special due to the surprise appearance of home-grown international basketball superstar Steven Adams.

His attendance was kept under wraps until the moment the awards were about to be presented when he appeared on stage alongside Hastings Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst and MC for the evening Hastings ambassador and councillor Henare O'Keefe.

After a waiata from the Hastings Intermediate School kapa haka group, the award recipients conducted a quick question and answer session with Adams where the audience learnt one of his role models growing up aside from his Dad was Gordon Ramsay, and that the main things he missed about New Zealand was the culture and the people.

The recipients then went on stage to receive their award

and a specially designed and signed basketball singlet, and to have a photo taken with Adams and the mayor.

One of those to receive an award was Year 9 Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Wānanga Whare Tapere o Takitimu student Pania Paku, aged 13.

She prompted a laugh with Adams on stage, who towered above her when presenting her award, and ahead of the ceremony shared her ambition to one day become a hairdresser like her sister.

Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst said these awards were a highlight event of the council calendar, and that the aim was to support and encourage young people like Pania to reach their potential and achieve their ambitions.

"Some of our other award

recipients want to go on to become surgeons and study languages, which is amazing given the enormous difficulties they have overcome. Sometimes life is not very easy and it takes courage to face the challenges in front of you these awards are about recognising your attitude of strength in the face of challenging times," she said.

"We are hugely grateful to Steven Adams for taking the time to give back to our young people. He was inspiring in that he has amazing talent but also works incredibly hard."

The celebration ended with more waiata, a group photo with Adams, and a meal.

[Scoop.co.nz]

✓ SAMOA: SAMOA'S YOUTH HONOURED WITH INTERNATIONAL WETLANDS PRIZE

Apia, 20 January 2020 - IN May this year, Samoa's Youth in Climate Action Network (Y.C.A.N.) learned they had won a Ramsar Wetland Conservation award of US\$10,000 (T\$26,609).

President Samantha Kwan, still very much taken aback by the win, travelled to Dubai yesterday to accept the prize.

The group has been hard at work since 2015 replanting and restoring mangroves and rehabilitating coral reefs on Samoa's borders.

"Most of our members live

on the coastline," Ms. Kwan said.

With the Ramsar prize, the group will reach more youth to enable greater action against an unliveable planet. More funding means more training and capacity building, not only for youth to know how to restore mangroves or plant more trees, but understand why, and how to pass on that information on to their communities, Ms. Kwan said.

The Ramsar Conservation is an award for Young Wetlands Champions. Ms. Kwan said it's great to see

youth in particular being honoured.

As a conservation officer at the Ministry of Resources and Natural Environment, Ms. Kwan said she used to see the voices of youth ignored in the conservation policy space or brought in as tokenistic gestures.

"But there has definitely been a huge shift since we started Y.C.A.N.," she said. "We're actually a partner to M.N.R.E. to implement the National Environment Sector Plan for 2017-2020 because they see the work we do on the ground."

Y.C.A.N. is a three-year old

youth group working on defending Samoa's coastal areas from pollution, reef degradation, species loss and more. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards were established in 1996 to recognise and work to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Ramsar is the oldest of the modern global intergovernmental environmental agreements and was negotiated through the 1960's. It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

[Samoa Observer]

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