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INFO

✓ *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2019*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
9 August 2019	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	Melaka, Malaysia
12 August 2019	International Youth Day	Melaka, Malaysia
19 August 2019	World Humanitarian Day	Melaka, Malaysia
16– 22 August 2019	World Refugee Day	Melaka, Malaysia
24 August 2019	WAY 70TH Anniversary	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ KENYA: GOVT LAUNCHES BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION TO SPUR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Nairobi, 10 July 2019 - AS part of the response to the challenge of youth unemployment in Kenya, the Government and the World Bank have launched the MbeleNaBiz Business Plan Competition, which will award 750 successful applications with grants of either Sh900, 000 or Sh3, 600,000.

Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives Peter Munya said, “By investing in young entrepreneurs whose ventures will generate employment opportunities and earnings for other youth, the Competition will contribute to the development of an inclusive economy that provides opportunities for as many Kenyans as possible.”

The MbeleNaBiz Business Plan Competition is an initiative of the Government of Kenya under the Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project (KYEOP), which is supported by the World

Bank.

MbeleNaBiz is implemented by the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA) and the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs (MPYG). KPMG has been contracted to manage the competition.

“Young people are a vital driver of Kenya’s economy. In all our conversations with the youth, with Government, and with the private sector, one thing is clear: we have to support young entrepreneurs to create and grow their businesses, as this will further create jobs for other youth,” said Dr. Carlos Felipe Jaramillo, World Bank Country Director for Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, and Uganda.

MbeleNaBiz is a national competition that will accept applications from new and existing youth-led enterprises from all the 47 Counties.

The Competition will also

accept applications from young Kenyans living in the diaspora, if their proposed businesses operate in Kenya.

The winners will get grant funding and/or business plan training. Applying youth need to be between 18 and 35 years old with Form Four and above level of education.

“The Government continues to dedicate resources to youth empowerment initiatives and seeks to put in place mechanisms that will create opportunities with an aim to boosting Kenya’s development, and creating wealth and employment for the youth.

It is my hope therefore that youth with promising businesses or business ideas across the country will participate in this important competition,” said Prof. Margaret Kobia, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs.

Applications to the

Competition will be subject to screening and will be evaluated based on the potential impact, viability and sustainability of the proposed business idea, in particular in terms of potential for job creation among youth.

A total of 750 successful applications will be shortlisted and awarded a grant of either Sh900,000 or Sh3,600,000.

The application Portal opened on 24th June 2019 and will continue receiving applications until 2nd September 2019.

“As an Authority, we are extremely happy to be launching this noble initiative.

We look forward to receiving high quality business proposals from our youth, which will promote sustainable businesses leading to the growth of the economy,” said Henry Rithaa, MSEA CEO.

[Capital FM Kenya]

✓ MALAWI: NETWORK FOR HIV POSITIVE YOUTH ESTABLISHED IN PHALOMBE

Lilongwe, 22 July 2019 - YOUTHS who are HIV positive in Phalombe now have a platform where they can share problems they are encountering in their respective communities following the establishment of Y+ District Network.

The network was established on Thursday morning which was followed by orientation for the office bearers who will be carrying out their duties up to the year of 2022.

District Youth development officer for Phalombe, Ian Sukali, said due to the absence of the network, issues of advocacy for quality health care and support on issues such as nutrition were a problem.

“There was a gap among the youths that are positive as they have been lacking a platform since there are only teen clubs which are meant for those who are under 19 years of age.

“As you know the youth is

anyone who is under 35 years old so others youths who aren’t in the teen clubs have been lacking a space where they can discuss matters affecting them and the coming of this network is a great opportunity for them,” said Sukali.

He added that whatever the youths will be discussing will be taken to the Phalombe District Council through the district youth network chairpersons who represent young people at the council level.

With support from Action Aid, the district youth office also conducted meetings with different stakeholders who later came up with action plan for the next three months which the Y+ Network and the partners have to follow.

[Malawi 24]



✓ NAMIBIA: NAMIBIAN YOUTH CANNOT AFFORD TO BE INDIFFERENT - PROF LUMUMBA

Windhoek, 22 July 2019 - PAN-Africanist, Professor Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba, also known as PLO Lumumba, said the youth of Namibia, and any other African country, cannot afford the luxury of being indifferent.

“It is the reality of today even if you choose not to vote, your negative vote will see people going into power because you have allowed a few people to vote and decide for you,” he said.

Lumumba was speaking at the launch of Augustinus Ngombe book’s titled ‘Leadership and Knowledge’ at the International University of Management (IUM) main campus in Dorado Park over the weekend.

He told New Era that the youth must recognise they have the future of their country and the rest of the continent resting on their shoulders.

“They must re-energise themselves; they must remember that leadership is inter-generational and, therefore, their decision to be outside of the electoral symposium because they are annoyed of the current status of governance is not a good thing,” pointed out the acclaimed Kenyan academic.

He noted that righteous things do not come easily.

“Good things come and happen because people work hard to achieve them and, therefore, the youth of Namibia must participate in the electoral process,”

advised Lumumba. The involvement of the youth in leadership, according to Lumumba, is important. “Africa has the youngest population in the world and if we, as a continent, are going to participate in the affairs of the world, whether it is in economics, science, invention and innovation or whether it is in critical areas that will help us move politically and socially, it is on the shoulders of the youth that this can be done,” highlighted Lumumba.

He said if the youth continue to be indifferent, other civilisations would once again take over Africa.

“The youth must come out in numbers and contribute. They must remember that even in their countries, it is

when the youth participate that the countries move to the next level but when they don’t participate then the country won’t move in the right direction,” stated Lumumba.

He said Namibia is an interesting country.

“I always hold the views that Namibia is capable of being a leader in several areas such as mining and harnessing of solar power, among others.

I believe that Namibia can play a leading role in SADC and the continent of Africa and it can be done with the involvement of young and bright Namibian people,” said Lumumba.

[New Era]

✓ SUDAN: YOUTH INITIATIVE AFFIRMS IMPORTANCE OF DISCUSSING YOUTH ISSUES

Khartoum, 9 July 2019 - CHAIRMAN of Sudan Independent Youth Initiative, Ali Ibrahim, pointed out that their priorities include exposing the youth issues in a plenary conference that discusses the issues of the youths in a scientific way, hoping that these issues will find effective solutions.

At the regular news forum of Sudan News Agency (SUNA) Monday, Ibrahim said that the initiative includes 32 political groups, movements and entities, indicating that the initiative is concerned with solution of the youth issues benefiting from their views in solving the national issues.

He announced that they are planning to launch an environment conservation campaign that begins in Khartoum and move to the other states.

Ibrahim has welcomed the agreement between the Transitional Military Council and the Forces of Freedom and Change and congratulated the Sudanese people on the agreement.

Meanwhile, he said that the agreement provides a basis for realizing peace, development and stability, stressing the importance creating new concepts for the interim period for dealing with the current political situation and issuing a constitution that guarantees the rights and

duties for all citizens.

He expressed hope that the upcoming government will be one of tasks and programs, indicating that they will forward a vision to the transitional government as contribution for solving the youth issues.

[Sudan News Agency
(Khartoum)]



✓ UGANDA: STRIVES TO INVEST IN YOUTHS TO TAP POPULATION DIVIDEND

Adjumani, 10 July 2019 -

AS the world commemorates World Population Day on Thursday, Uganda is striving to invest in its youths to explore the benefits of population dividend.

The population day will be commemorated under the theme of "Renewing the promise; empowering the youth to contribute to socio-economic transformation".

Uganda has one of the youngest and most rapidly growing populations in the world.

Figures by the National Population Council (NPC), a state agency that advises the government on population issues, show that Uganda has a population growth rate of 3.3 percent per annum, making it the third fastest growing population in the world.

The country's population is projected to reach 75 million by 2040 from the current 40 million people.

Youths below the age of 30 make up more than 78 percent of the 40 million people, according to the NPC.

More than 70 percent of the youths are unemployed and this is what the Ugandan government is striving to reverse.

Population experts argue that investing in the youth age group will guarantee a healthy and skilled human resource.

According to the World

Bank, if the increase in the number of working age individuals can be fully employed in productive activities, other things being equal, the level of average income per capita should increase as a result.

The youth bulge will become a demographic dividend.

John Ssekamatte, a consultant with Uganda's National Planning Authority, told reporters on Wednesday that for Uganda to achieve its aspiration of upper middle income status by 2040, the challenge posed by a high population growth has to be addressed.

"For us to achieve that we must meaningfully engage the population as a productive force because if we don't, it will be a productive liability," he said.

Other experts have argued that if a large number of youths cannot find employment and earn satisfactory income, they are likely to become a potential source of social and political instability.

Demographers argue that sustained economic growth is critical in creating opportunities for the youthful population that is entering the labor market.

They argue that Uganda needs to invest in growth sectors like agriculture, tourism, oil and gas which can have high job multiplier effect and can spur inclusive economic growth.

The government has embarked on this by first

prioritizing areas, which it argues are bottlenecks to economic development.

The government is investing heavily in energy and transport infrastructure, so that if the cost of energy is low, more industries would open up and create employment.

A better and efficient transport system would also reduce the cost of production since farmers or industrialists would easily transport their products to the market.

Fred Wabwire, chairperson of the NPC, told reporters on Wednesday that the government has embarked on other measures to improve the skills of the youths to make them economically active.

Wabwire said that besides the provision of free universal primary education and free universal secondary education (USE), the government has embarked on vocational training.

When the youths finish basic education, those who are unable to continue to university go to vocational training.

"Education empowers, it provides information, and if we can keep all the boys and girls in schools up to the end of USE, that intervention scores a lot of marks," he said.

Wabwire said youths who have completed vocational training can access funding from the government through the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP)

to start up small enterprises.

The YLP, which is based on three pillars of skills development, livelihood support and institutional support, targets unemployed youths, according to ministry of finance.

United Nations Population Fund argues that the government should continue to invest in the health of the population.

The population agency said that the healthiness of the country's labor force determines the level of productivity.

It argued that for instance as children's health and survival rates improve family demand for more children declines.

Smaller family sizes improve maternal health, which further improves child health, as well as increase women labor force participation, hence contributing to economic growth.

[Xinhua]



✓ CANADA: COMBATING THE CONTINUING RISE IN YOUTH VAPING RATES

Ottawa, 25 July 2019 - THE rate of youth smoking in Saskatchewan and across Canada has continued along a downward trend in recent years, but according to Health Canada that decrease has been undermined by a continual increase in youth

vaping rates throughout the country. While the rates are lower, Saskatchewan teens are smoking cigarettes at rate much higher than the rest of the country, according to Health Canada statistics.

The Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs survey recently showed 22 per cent of Saskatchewan teenagers aged 15 to 19 have smoked cigarettes, compared to the national average of only eight per cent.

The Canadian Cancer Society said they believe the fault is partially on the Saskatchewan government, and their lack of updates to anti-smoking measures in the province.

[paNOW]

✓ DOMINICA: ROTARY CLUB EXECUTIVE TO TACKLE DIABETES AND HELP AT-RISK YOUTH

Roseau, 5 July 2019 - THE Rotary club of Dominica hosted their dinner and investiture on Saturday June 30th at the St. Alphonsus Parish Hall under the patronage of His Excellency Charles Angelo Savarin, D.A.H. and Mrs. Savarin. At the event the new president and Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 Rotary year were installed.

Lima Jervier, newly invested president of the

Rotary Club, declared her intention to work with the Dominica Diabetes Association in presenting a health and wellness program aimed at empowering people in matters related to the prevention and management of diabetes.

Jervier also highlighted her plans to undertake a project for at-risk youth in conjunction with an undisclosed secondary school.

Jervier explained, "We... have already identified and commenced discussions with the management team of one particular secondary school."

She went on to say, "Ultimately, we wish to adopt this school and make annual contributions on behalf of the less fortunate students."

Jervier plans to work with the school to improve academic success and

provide "cultural and social enrichment". She plans to do this by reaching out to the respective communities and enhancing the school's existing workshop for parents.

The new president and executives were pinned by Assistant Governor of Rotary International in Dominica Sammie Wyke.

[Dominica News Online]

✓ JAMAICA: LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRY TO EMPLOY 4,000 YOUTH THIS SUMMER

Kingston, 19 July 2019 - THE Ministry of Local Government and Community Development's Youth Summer Employment Programme (YSEP) has been expanded to engage approximately 4,000 persons this year.

Portfolio Minister, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, made the disclosure at the launch of YSEP 2019 at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James on Thursday (July 18).

"We started in (2017) with 2,700 and we went up to 3,500 last year. Because of the demand on the programme and the fact that hundreds of young people have shown an interest... we are looking at close to 4,000

young people for this year," he said.

He noted that 250 persons were recommended by entities such as the Jamaica 4-H Clubs and student council bodies.

Under the YSEP, young people are engaged at municipal corporations across the island to undertake data collection and support administrative services in order to improve service delivery and ensure greater levels of efficiency.

Minister McKenzie said that data garnered by the participants over the years has been instrumental in boosting revenue collection by the municipal authorities, particularly

trade licence fees.

"The local authorities [were] able to collect in excess of \$230 million in the last financial year because of [their] efforts in the field in collecting data," he noted.

For his part, State Minister in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Alando Terrelonge, hailed the programme, noting that it demonstrates the Government's commitment to "promote, enhance and make available, opportunities for every one of you [young people]".

Individuals will be employed for six weeks, earning \$8,500 weekly, with

\$9,500 per week for team leaders.

YSEP participants are scheduled to participate in orientation sessions on July 22, and the programme is scheduled to conclude on August 30.

[Government of Jamaica, Jamaica Information Service]



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

Lima, 27 July 2019 - 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 Pajatén 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]

✓ SURINAME: CADRE OF TRAINERS TO RESPOND TO YOUTH CRIME IN CARICOM

Georgetown, 1 July 2019 - Guyana – As part of the approach to fight crime and violence from a social perspective, several persons associated with youth development will benefit from training in five member states of the Caribbean community over the next month.

The training is aimed at establishing a cadre of trainers to build the capacity of youths at risk of or are already in conflict with the law.

The training which will be held in the member states of Saint Lucia, Guyana,

Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda and Jamaica, includes parenting skills, life skills development parenting skills leadership and mentoring.

It is an activity of the crime and violence prevention and social development project in the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM), under the more extensive CARIFORUM/European Union crime and security cooperation programme being implemented under the 10th European Development Fund.

The training initiative builds on outcomes of and expands

the Gangs and Violence: Partnering for Prevention and Social Development Pilot Project.

The activity is intended to equip stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to facilitate gang leaders with life skills which will enable them to better re-integrate into society.

This involves the conduct of gang prevention training workshops targeting rehabilitated gang leaders, parents, teachers, school administrators and faith-based organisations (FBOs).

To this end, approximately 35 trainees will be drawn from identified schools and related communities, past student associations, the business sector and faith-based organisations and youth institutions.



According to project manager at the CARICOM Secretariat, Louis Dodson, such programmes are intended to result in community-based initiatives aimed at creating behaviour change and fostering proactive, healthy and productive lifestyles for at-risk youths and by extension their communities.

“Youth already in conflict with the law must be targeted when addressing the issues related to reducing crime and violence to enhance their chances of navigating out of the paths they have begun to traverse,” Dodson emphasised.

The project manager noted, as well that the social crime prevention approach addresses the root causes for example, poor education, lack of opportunity, drug addiction and alcoholism of crime, driven by poor social conditions.

[Caribbean News]

NEWS



✓ BANGLADESH: BRAC TRAINED 400 THOUSAND YOUTHS IN EMPLOYABLE SKILLS

Dhaka, 24 July 2019 - NO less than 400 thousand youths, a large portion of which is women, received training in a number of employable skills in non-agriculture sector from BRAC in last eight years and have found decent employment or started own initiatives.

BRAC officials revealed this information at an event today on Tuesday (23 July 2019) at the BRAC Centre in Dhaka.

BRAC organised this event as a part of its celebration of World Youth Skills Day.

The programme comprised an exhibition of BRAC skills development initiatives, launch of a publication titled “Star Toolkit: Introducing a Successful Entrepreneurship” and a series of panel discussions.

Faruque Hossain, chairman, National Skills Development Authority, was present as the chief guest at the panel discussion titled “SDG-8: Youth, skills and employment”

Tapan Kumar Ghosh, chairman, Bureau of Non-formal Education, and KAM Morshed, director, BRAC, participated in the discussion among others. Asif Saleh, acting executive director, BRAC, moderated the discussion.

Angela Naumann, first secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian High Commission, Bangladesh, Mashfique Ibne Akbar, private sector development adviser, Department of

International Development, British High Commission, Dhaka, Zhigang Li, social sector specialist, Asian Development Bank, Tomoo Hozomi, country representative, UNICEF Bangladesh, participated in another panel discussion on financing of skills development initiatives.

BRAC Skills Development Programme is currently working with focus on three areas, namely, skills training and other services, systems change with the government and industry partnerships, and community engagement. At present it is operating eight projects focusing on the communities living in the cities, municipalities and Rohingyas and host community in Cox’s Bazar.

These current projects are: Skills training for advancing resources (STAR), Promoting skills and productivity enhancement for resilience (PROSPER), Promoting business Incubation for small entrepreneurs (PROMISE), Pro-poor growth of rural enter-prises through sustainable skills-development (PROGRESS), Alternative learning programme for out of school adolescents (ALP), Partnership reinforcement for integrated skills enhancement (PRISE), Skills development project for Rohingyas, and Apprenticeship-based training for host community.

BRAC’s Skill Development Programme began its activities with the STAR project, which has developed a unique model

reforming and institutionalising the ancient tradition of skills training through apprenticeships under a master craftsman.

Under STAR project, BRAC officials find out skilled people who run their own business. After they go through specially designed training, selected trainees start apprenticeships under them.

The trainers receive an honorarium for running the six-monthly course.

This model on one hand creates opportunity for underprivileged youths for quality skill training, while helps keep costs low compared with institution-based training. After finishing apprenticeships, BRAC assists the youths to get decent jobs or start their own business.

Under the STAR project, BRAC trained 30 thousand youths up to December 2018. Of them 95 per cent found decent employment.

For women trainees the impact is even bigger, reducing child marriage 65 per cent. Post training, the apprentices saw six times increase in both income and employment.

BRAC developed this unique model jointly with ILO, UNICEF, Department of Non-Formal Education of Bangladesh government and follows the National Technical and Vocational Quality Framework (NTVQF).

The experts at the panel discussions stressed effective collaboration

between the government, donors, non-governmental actors and private sector for expanding the opportunities for employable skills development. They said to achieve SDG targets there is no alternative for skill development.

BRAC established Skill Development Programme with a socio-economic background of an increasing youth population, large gap in employable skills and training, risky migration of unskilled and semi-skilled labour force, increasing violence against girls and women, and expansion of urban spaces and their population.

Targeting both the domestic and overseas labour market, BRAC is currently giving 15 kinds of skills training in non-agriculture sector, which are: Tailoring and dress making, mobile phone servicing, wooden furniture making, beauty salon, refrigeration and AC servicing, basic electronics, graphic design, IT support technician, aluminum fabrication, motorcycle servicing, wooden furniture designing, electrical house wiring, block and batik, screen printing, jori and chumki work.

[The Daily Star]



✓ INDIA: INDIA IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO CASH IN ON YOUNG WORKFORCE

New Delhi, 25 July 2019 - INDIA, which is home to more young people than any other country, is running out of time to harness the potential of its youth to drive economic growth.

The nation's population in the under-19 age group has already peaked, government data show.

That means the labor force will grow more slowly from here on out. In just over 20 years, the South Asian nation will be an aging society, similar to where China is now, according to the Economic Survey published by the Finance Ministry earlier.

With those risks looming, India isn't doing enough to revamp its education system to prepare the youth for better-paying, high-skilled jobs, going by a recent World Bank report.

The world's sixth-biggest economy, and until recently the fastest-growing major one, is ranked 115 out of 157 countries in the Human Capital Index, which measures the investment in education and health care for young people.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget this month allocated 3.4 per cent of total annual spending to the ministry in charge of

education, little changed from the last few years and down from 3.8 per cent in 2015.

The government's own review of public schools says "it is common knowledge" that the country's education system suffers from a shortage of teachers and staff, poor teacher training and delays in receiving funds.

That's among reasons why the country faces the apparent paradox of high unemployment and talent shortages at the same time.

It also risks leaving the nation far behind China,

currently the world's most populous nation, in the race to get rich before it gets old.

"India is not taking advantage of its demographic dividend," said Satyaki Roy, an associate professor at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development in New Delhi.

"If you see the story of South Korea, Taiwan and other East Asian countries, there was a concerted effort by those governments to create the kind of human capital required for industry."

[The Economic Times]

✓ MALAYSIA: WHAT NOW FOR MALAYSIA'S NEWLY-EMPOWERED YOUTH?

Kuala Lumpur, 24 July 2019 - THE dust has settled; Malaysians will now automatically be registered to vote once they turn 18.

Momentous political milestone aside, the question is not so much how our current politicians will try to use this to their advantage (that goes without saying) but what will this mean for this young, newly-empowered group?

It's right that the young get more of a say in the country's priorities. The future that waits for them is not some shining promised land.

There's the current struggle for graduates to find decent jobs. Wage depression. The cost of tertiary education.

Our kids are no longer

sheltered. In comparison to many other teenagers around the world, they have easy access to news sources and the use of two languages means they can partake of a lot more media than teens in neighbouring countries who mostly consume media in their local tongues.

While it's easy for them to research topics on their own thanks to Google, the imperfect nature of the tool means they won't necessarily get quality information.

Take the random anti-vaxxer for instance. That person likely decided to search for articles that served to bolster their opinion while not bothering to look for alternative viewpoints or, you know, actual facts.

The problematic nature of seeking information on the

Internet aside, this might mean an uptick in youth advocacy. I think that's a good thing.

For too long, the young have been told to stay in school, don't protest, don't form groups, don't think about anything outside of school and being well-behaved.

It's easy to say that older politicians have been young once, what they faced in their youth can't be compared to the current challenges. What with climate change, the gig economy and other modern challenges that our forefathers couldn't have imagined.

Who'd have thought in the 21st century we'd have our refrigerators be able to remind us to get groceries or we'd be hustling for extra money by offering rides to strangers?

The young have every right to express the things they want and need, and now they have the political power to help achieve them.

We have been stuck in a rut for too long because the old and morally bankrupt have tried to maintain the status quo.

It's time for a new paradigm that gives the youth the space and the power to help forge a new Malaysian future.

[Malay Mail]



✓ PAKISTAN: YOUTH AND FUTURE OF PAKISTAN

Islamabad, 22 July 2019 - YOUTH in Pakistan are victim of their own existence due to their huge volume and low economic growth rate.

According to UN report, 64% of population below is under 30 and 29% are between 15 and 24. Pakistan has one of the highest youth populations on the globe.

Perhaps, we could be replacing Yemen very soon. Previously, Yemen has one of the highest youth populations in the world.

We know what is going on in Yemen; where youth is on the street, unemployed, and without education. Interestingly, 75% of the young people live in conflict zones of the world.

They are fighting tribal wars as well war against external aggression.

I hate to portray a glooming picture of Pakistan, but we cannot deny the facts and the facts are that Pakistan

has the youngest population on the planet.

With this youngest population, we have low rate of GDP growth, increasing unemployment, increasing crime rate and multiple vulnerabilities including but not limited to poverty. Up to 5-10% people are seeking employment and they want to have opportunities to get engage in the economic productivity.

Similarly, many youth people are expected to go to school, colleges or universities and the state is responsible to provide education and employment opportunities to them. Pakistan has relatively outdated infrastructure that could cater to the needs of young people.

On the other hand, economic growth is lowering every year. In 2018, GDP growth rate was 4-5%, in 2017 it was 5-6% and now we have growth rate of

2-3%. At the same time unemployment is increasing from 6 to 10%.

Resultantly, there is a huge gap between the economic growth and youth entry into the job market.

On the one hand, our economy is not catering to present needs of the youth, and on the other more youths is adding to ranks of the unemployed.

Those who are lucky enough to have got a job are forced to quit job market because of economic slowdown. When these young guys are put on the road, what will they do?

For the time being, their family may be able to provide them food, security, education, health facilities but for how long can they continue?

There is no clue about betterment of economy in the near future.

If we keep in mind the

pressure of youth, growth rate of the economy is needed to be 10% higher to engage the present youth population.

What will be the consequences of those young people who are getting unemployed or who are entering in the market?

Initially, the young deviants may be using drug and they could be victim of drug abuse but later they would be joining criminal gangs or would be coming on the roads.

They could end up joining criminal activities and later criminal careers. At that time, the society could be in trouble to have a high crime rate.

This crime rate could be going up and up if the situation remains the same with low economic growth.

[Daily Times]

✓ QATAR: HIGHLIGHTS ROLE OF YOUTH IN GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN SYSTEMS

Doha, 23 July 2019 - EDUCATION Above All (EAA) Foundation's programme, Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) which focuses on quality education, skill set and knowledge development among underprivileged youth and communities across Asia, recently took part in the UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS).

Bringing together UN and other humanitarian agency representatives, as well as diplomatic envoys and policymakers, the global knowledge exchange platform was held from

June 24 to 26 at Geneva's Palais de Nations.

Under the theme: "Promoting action to save lives, reach those in need and reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need: looking towards the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General", the platform's agenda featured debates, high-level panels and 15 side events.

At the ECOSOC HAS, the Qatari delegation was represented by Shaheen Ali Al Kaabi, Assistant Director of the Department of Inter-

national Cooperation, of Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Arwa Musaaed, ROTA's Acting Director of the International Programmes, Ahmed Al-Lenjawi, a member of ROTA Youth Advisory Board (RYAB), and Omran Musa, member of MYCHA (MENA Youth Capacity Building in Humanitarian Action) Youth Advisory Group (MYAG) and MENA Regional Focal Point for Humanitarian Affairs for the UN Major Group for Children & Youth.

High-level topics discussed during the forum covered

the implementation of international law, the combat of gender-based violence, the localisation of humanitarian efforts, as well as global climate change action.

Represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Al Kaabi, Qatar co-chaired, alongside Denmark, a side event titled "Youth: Advancing the Agenda", to discuss the inclusion and role of young people in global humanitarian systems and action.



“We recognise that agencies working in humanitarian affairs have a primary responsibility to support, develop and best guide young people in a bid to empower and sharpen their capacity to work together with policymakers and other key humanitarian actors.

It is, therefore, paramount to support collective efforts that recognise the role of youth as agents of change and as active players in laying the foundations for peace in their home countries and communities,” said Al Kaabi.

ROTA’s MYCHA initiative was presented as one of two success case studies in this direction, alongside UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council’s development of inter-agency guidelines for working with young people in humanitarian settings.

The guidelines, which are currently being finalized, will be instrumental for international agencies to deliver on their promise, made at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, to transform humanitarian action with and for young people, UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council stressed during the event.

ROTA also shared the upcoming launch of a training toolkit for introducing youth to humanitarian action.

Musa shared his own experience foraying into the humanitarian world in Qatar, having left his crisis-laden home, Sudan: “We mainly want to see agencies working in this sector do two things: one,

change how they respond to adolescents’ and youth suggestions, innovations and actions; and two, become more open, better at listening and show a genuine willingness to allow young people to influence processes so that our plights and voices are heard and [followed with action].”

During the session, the floor was also given to young leaders, who emphasised the need to empower their peers as catalysts and actors of positive change, and to engage young first-line responders in times of emergencies.

[The Peninsula Qatar]

NEWS



✓ AZERBAIJAN: IMPLEMENTS PROJECT FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ISSUES IN TOURISM

Baku, 18 July 2019 - 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 Babayeva, 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

necessary and interesting information related to employment," Babayeva 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, 18 July 2019 - 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: UNEMPLOYMENT IN BULGARIA WAS 4.7% IN FEBRUARY 2019 – EUROSTAT

Sofia, 10 July 2019 - 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]

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

Berlin, 10 July 2019 - 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 July 2019 - 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: YOUNG PEOPLE IN GREAT LAKES URGED TO TAKE PART IN YOUTH SURVEY

Canberra, 25 July 2019 - YOUNG people in the Great Lakes are being urged to participate in Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2019.

Open to those aged between 15 and 19, the survey asks the youth of Australia to speak up about the issues that matter to them so Mission Australia can

advocate on their behalf. Celebrating the survey's 18th birthday in 2019, the charity is hoping a record-breaking 30,000 people will take part to help celebrate the milestone.

With increased participation, Mission Australia is hoping they'll be able to provide a broader overview of the issues that

impact the health, mental health and wellbeing of young people across Australia.

There are also new focus questions included that centre on bullying, disabilities and whether young people feel they have enough input on the issues that affect them.

The results from the survey

will be released in November and will help influence and inform the work of Mission Australia, community groups and government decision-makers.

[Great Lakes Advocate]

✓ FIJI: PENSIONERS URGED TO SPEAK AGAINST SOCIETY ILLS

Suva, 26 July 2019 - PENSIONERS in the country have a hidden potential to guide society and lead the country's youth to say no to drugs.

This was highlighted by Minister for Agriculture Dr Mahendra Reddy while speaking at the Fiji

Pensioners Association 45th Annual General meeting today in Vatuwaqa.

Reddy says pensioners in every community must stand up and speak out against the deteriorating values within the society and teach youths that drugs is bad for them as it is for

the future of Fiji. The minister urged pensioners nationwide to stand up and call out to the generation of today that drugs is bad.

Minister Reddy reiterated to pensioners present that they are not forgotten and need to stand up against the ills

of society adding that they have an important role to play in determining a good future for Fiji.

[FBC News]

✓ NEWZEALAND: STUNT COMPETITION AIMS TO HELP YOUTH IN SOUTH AUCKLAND

Wellington, 27 July 2019 - COMMUNITY leaders in the Auckland suburb Ōtara are coming together to create a bike stunt competition partly to educate young people about safety.

A social worker who lives in the area, Rocky Misiepo, said he loves the community but there are problems.

He said one of them is young people riding down public roads doing stunts on their bikes.

"On a safety scale, yes it is a problem."

"But these are just fundamentals that these kids have grown up into an environment where madness is fun."

That is why he and five others are putting their heads together to try pull off a wheelie bike competition for the area.

Mr Misiepo said the event would be a chance for community leaders to help teenagers figure out their future.

"A lot of our young people don't even know what they want to do," he said.

"For example, to put into context, a lot of our young people in school will pass their NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3, but it's actually [about] what you do with it when you leave school.

"So that's where the transition takes place."

He said it was about tapping into what young people are passionate about and putting

their skills into practical, career pathways.

"Some of these kids that I have intervened with in schools at MIT they actually want to be able to fix bikes, mountain bikes, BMX bikes and motorbikes - so that's where the bigger picture lies," he said.

Mr Misiepo said the teenagers he has talked to so far are asking a lot of questions about it and are excited about a competition.

He said anyone can get involved.

"If you see us out here, come through and get involved ... participation is pretty much key," he said.

"For us as a community we just need to kōrero and bring it all together."

Out on the basketball courts, one 18 year old who has lived in Ōtara his whole life, is thrilled about the prospect of a wheelie competition.

"I reckon it would be a good experience for some of the boys ... people riding around on their bikes, they're really talented," he said.

Locations and safety management for the event are still being discussed but the community is hoping to hold the competition before June this year.

[Stuff.co.nz]



✓ PAPUA GUINEA: LITERACY VITAL FOR COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT

Port Moresby, 10 July 2019

- LITERACY is a word that has multiple meanings behind it. Every individual will have their own definition of what literacy is and how it affects societies today.

Generally, literacy can mean anything that is recognised, read or even just being understood by an individual.

Without literacy the world would fall apart and everyday tasks would be impossible to be completed because it is the ultimate superpower that should be attainable by everyone but is not used to its full potential.

One of the most influential parts of literacy is the lives of individuals in the literacy events that occur in everyday situations such as doing shopping, chatting with friends, going out for a ride or party, literacy will always be prompt.

Literacy can also bring the world to its knees or to another level with the help from the communication around the world because it contains power that can build or destroy a person. Without literacy, a country's society can be razed through the struggles and hardships that lead to high crimes whereas with literacy, it can make a country soar with technology and a thriving economy.

For a developing country like Papua New Guinea, illiteracy is one of the most daunting challenges and main drivers of tribal fights, crimes, violence against women, drugging and home brew activities which have lured the lives of many unemployed youths, abandoning education as the fundamental source to a better life.

According to a literacy report in 2015, youth literacy is low at

approximately 63 per cent and covers the population between the ages of 15-24 years.

An estimated 60 – 70 per cent of our population consists of youths and only 20-30 per cent has acquired decent education.

The good news is that one of the objectives of the national governments in the Millennium Development Goal is to achieve 70 per cent literacy rate by the year 2025 including addressing adult literacy.

If the people are illiterate, they will never know how to look after themselves and live a healthy lifestyle. They will lack respect and common understanding.

For example, your ethnic background can also be a major contribution to the amount of acceptance and your views on the society.

Having the ability to be well

educated gives you the advantage on how to change the views of others and the ethnic group in which you belong to.

Literacy teaches you on how to be independent, confident and being true to yourself. It also broadens one's knowledge to differentiate right from wrong. Although there are occasions where literacy is not as important as it seems, being well educated is a crucial thing in order to make you stand out and be able to navigate through your community because in a world like this, it is what you need in order to be successful.

[Post-Courier]

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

Apia, 20 July 2019 - 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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