



### ✓ In Today's Bulletin

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### ✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2019

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1 December 2019	<b>World AIDS Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
3 December 2019	<b>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
5 December 2019	<b>International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
9 December 2019	<b>International Anti-Corruption Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
10 December 2019	<b>Human Rights Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
18 December 2019	<b>International Migrants Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
20 December 2019	<b>International Human Solidarity Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia



### ✓ BOSTWANA: HUAWEI OFFERS TELECOM EQUIPMENT TO BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY

**Gaborone, 8 November 2019** - Chinese telecom company Huawei has donated telecommunication equipment to the University of Botswana as part of a partnership to stimulate the learning of information and communication technology in the African country.

Meng Qingbao, vice president of Huawei's southern Africa region enterprise business, told Xinhua on that the company

has donated 1.5 million pula (138,000 U.S. dollars) worth of telecommunications equipment to the institution.

The company is also sponsoring an outdoor telecommunications training center at the university and inviting students to take part in Huawei competitions and youth activation programs.

Computer science lecturer Tshiamo Motshegwa said

students at the university lack resources to take part in science and data research essential in developing Botswana.

Through its partnership with the university, Huawei hopes to equip the youth of Botswana with the latest technology and enable them to contribute significantly to the economy of the country.

[Xinhua]

### ✓ MALAWI: 668 YOUTH GRADUATE AS GENDER RIGHTS ADVOCATES

**Lilongwe, 16 November 2019** - THE British Council's Our Shared Goal (OSG) project will today hold a sport and musical event dubbed Community Festival at Bingu National Stadium where a total of 668 young people will graduate as new advocates for gender rights, early child marriages and other gender related issues.

OSG is a project that seeks to address Gender Based Violence (GBV), Early Child Marriages (ECM) and other issues around gender equity and the rights of women and girls using healthy intergender relationship skills through sports where football training is combined with social, relationship and sexual health education.

British Council Malawi Head of Programmes Mr. McDonald Nyoni said the graduating 353 girls and 315 boys are drawn from Lilongwe peri-urban community of Mtandire.

He said: "The project uses young participants recruited from Mtandire who are

engaged in weekly sessions of over 10 weeks period, which is followed by a Community Festival. So, this is an annual Community Festival to mark the end to the third cohort since inception and the second cohort for 2019."

Nyoni explained that the project seeks to have improved access to quality information around sexual reproductive health rights and the reporting of Gender Based Violence and Early Child Marriages, improved attitudes and behaviours towards gender equity, empowered and equipped young people who are better advocates for their rights and those of their peers -especially boys for girls' rights.

He also added that the project is geared to increase the capacity of local NGOs and CBOs to work collaboratively towards the reduction of child marriages and related gender-based violence in Mtandire.

He further mentioned that OSG aims to engage 1,170

young people aged between 7 – 20 years of age, where 60 percent of which will be female living in Mtandire.

"So far, we have directly impacted the lives of more than 950 children and indirectly engaged more than 5000 from last year's Community Festival." disclosed Nyoni British Council is working in partnership with Tingathe, Zikomo Foundation/ Play Football Malawi and MHub as three local organisations already working in Mtandire.

According to Nyoni, Tingathe is a partner for life skills and GBV safeguarding trainings. On other hand, Zikomo Foundation/Play Football Malawi is offering football training and engagements while a tech partner MHub is helping on digital content sharing.

"We have also partnered with Edu-Sport Foundation from Zambia for capacity building of local coaches and Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation from South Africa," added

Nyoni.

He also indicated that the Saturday's festival which will start from 9:00am to 12:00noon among other things includes Impact Stories (testimonies from cohort members), demonstrations of their activities, performances by the children and guest artists Daughters Band, Suffix and KBG.

OSG is a three year project funded by Comic Relief to the tune of £150,000.

[Malawi24]



### ✓ NAMIBIA: GOVT GUARANTEE FOR SMES, YOUTH LOANS

**Windhoek, 7 November 2019** - THE government has provided N\$98 million as a guarantee for collateral needed by small and medium enterprises and the youth to acquire loans as start-up capital for their businesses.

This was announced by finance minister Calle Schlettwein in the capital yesterday, at the launch of government's SME financing strategy, where he said the government had made available N\$100 million for this purpose, of which N\$2 million will be set aside for an SME database.

The strategy encompasses a skills-based lending facility and a funding facility for 121 youth enterprises.

The minister said the policy is to achieve the twin objectives of enhancing access to affordable finance and fostering entrepreneurship and SME development across the economic sectors in all regions of the country.

The free collateral will be provided through a credit guarantee scheme, in collaboration with the Namibia Special Risks

Association (Nasria).

Schlettwein said according to the study done in conjunction with the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), the main impediment to small enterprises is not the interest rate but rather the collateral entrepreneurs need to access funding.

Schlettwein said the scheme will now fill that gap and provide collateral cover to qualifying SMEs, with an initial cover of N\$98 million.

He however, cautioned that all those who want to benefit from this scheme still have to undergo the viability scrutiny by commercial banks and other lenders as they still have to apply for loans from them.

The banks will still vet the project viability in terms of growth potential and apply for collateral coverage.

"SMEs and entrepreneurs will still continue to apply for credit at commercial banks. It is the financial institutions which will apply for collateral coverage for the assessed bankable projects," he said.

create employment for over 460,000 youths across the country, contribute N60 billion to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and transform and develop various rural communities in Nigeria.

According to organisers, the programme would also lead to the cultivation of over

Schlettwein called for greater synergy, prudent financial management, monitoring and evaluation during the implementation of the schemes.

He invited entrepreneurs to be more innovative, and hone their financial management skills as they take advantage of the financing opportunities presented.

DBN chief executive officer Martin Inkumbi explained that the guarantee scheme is a special intervention to the existing SMEs funding within the development bank and entrepreneurs still have to approach the financiers (banks) for credit.

Echoing Schlettwein's sentiments, Inkumbi added that it is not the lending rate that is excluding small businesses from accessing finance but the challenge has been convincing the banks to agree to finance their projects.

"The primary reasons they have been refusing to fund SMEs is lack of collateral. The banks like most of the youth and SME projects but due to the risks involved, we would like to have a certain degree of collateral,"

he explained.

He also added that there will be risk sharing between the government through Nasria and the commercial banks, as the loans will not be guaranteed 100%.

"It will not only be the credit guarantee scheme that will be paying out in cases of default from SMEs, commercial banks are also going to take risks as they are not going to be guaranteed fully," Inkumbi stated.

The commercial banks will sign the guarantee scheme on 1 December, and they will announce individually to the public when entrepreneurs can apply for credit under the scheme.

Under the SME financing strategy, the skills-based lending facility for the youth will be hosted by the ministry of youth, funding facility for the one hundred and twenty one (121) constituency youth enterprises as well as the mentorship and coaching programme for SMEs.

[Namibian]

### ✓ NIGERIA: FARMHOUSE, YOUTH EMPOWERMENT TV SHOW LAUNCHED

**Abuja, 21 November 2019** - FARMHOUSE, a 90-day youth empowerment reality TV shows, aimed at luring teeming unemployed Nigerian youth into agriculture for their economic empowerment, has been launched. Specifically, the show unveiled in Lagos, recently, by its promoters intends to

300,000 hectares of land across the country involving various crops and livestock, within the next five years, even as it would promote the wealth creation potential and opportunities amongst Nigerian youths.

Speaking at the unveiling, the Creator/Co-promoter of FarmHouse and Chief

Executive Officer of Glomesan World Entertainment Company, Gloria Sambo, explained that the concept was to bring selected unemployed and interested under-employed graduate participants (house mates) from all over the country and camp them in an integrated farm for 90 days.



According to her, "applicants from across the country will register online to participate in the Farmhouse Reality TV Show. All registered applicants will go through an audition process that will take place across some cities in Nigeria from where successful applicants will be selected.

"Selected applicants will then enter the integrated farm where they will be camped for 90 days for training and exposure in various areas of agriculture

including food and cash crops as well as animal husbandry and aquaculture. "Qualified applicants will equally be exposed to the various government incentives and funding programmes for agriculture in Nigeria.

"Exposure to modern agricultural techniques and technologies will be carried out by reputable institutions and organisations. "Other areas such as writing business plans and feasibility studies for

agriculture investment will be imparted on the participants.

"Various forms of entertainment such as visitation by celebrities in the entertainment industry (music, comedy and movies), will take place during the reality show.

"Several other entertainment tasks (within the boundaries of our culture and decency) will take place within the integrated farm."

On his part, the co-promoter of the show, Mr. Isaac Oghogho, said FarmHouse was created as a platform to train the youths on ways to get their involvement in agriculture and agribusiness, adding that it was also to promote Agripreneurship by increasing the number of youths to be empowered and make them see agriculture as a wealth creator.

*[This Day]*

### ✓ ZAMBIA: ZAMBIA TRAINS 800 YOUTHS IN AQUACULTURE IN EMPOWERMENT DRIVE

Lusaka, 17 November 2019

- THE Zambian government said that it has trained about 800 youths across the country in aquaculture skills as part of an empowerment program.

Minister of Sports, Youth and Child Development Emmanuel Mulenga said about 400 out of the 800 youths have since graduated from a training center.

According to him, youth empowerment in the fisheries sector was cardinal as it would help facilitate economic development and job creation.

He said the ministry was also recruiting an average of 400 youths from across the country every quarter to be trained in various skills that included carpentry, among others.

*[Lusaka Times]*

NEWS



## ✓ CANADA: COMBATING THE CONTINUING RISE IN YOUTH VAPING RATES

**Ottawa, 25 November 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 con-

tinual 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 November 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 November 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 November 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, 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 November 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



## ✓ INDONESIA: 71% OF YOUTH CONSIDER EMIGRATING

**Jakarta, 15 November 2019**

- AS part of the poll, researchers surveyed 1,289 Indonesians of all ages to discover how many wanted to leave the country, where and when they would go and for what reason.

As many as three in five (63%) Indonesians have considered leaving the country, the survey found.

Young Indonesians (71%) were more likely to consider moving than people over the age of 55 (30%), and women were more likely to think about living abroad than men (69% vs. 58%).

Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country according to UNESCO, and 50% of the population are under the age

of 30.

Chief operating officer of AECC Global Daryl Fong told The PIE News about Indonesia that there are several reasons why many young people are considering leaving the country.

“As the largest economy in SE Asia and a country with such a huge young population, [the Indonesian] government’s smart nation planning has to gear up to meet the demands of good quality international education,” he said.

He noted that the country’s middle class has been growing annually at a rate of 10% and now numbers 38 million.

Other findings of the

YouGov report include Europe being the most popular region for emigrating Indonesians (42%).

This is followed by Asia (41%), America (11%), Oceania (3%) and Africa (1%).

Although Europe is the most popular region, the country that Indonesians most want to move to is Japan (14%). This is followed by Germany (9%), Singapore (7%), the United Kingdom (7%) and the United States (6%).

Of all the reasons to move abroad, the most common is for a better quality of life (63%). Other reasons include better public services (56%), personal reasons (46%), better job

opportunities (46%) and greater wealth/affluence (36%).

“As the world becomes increasingly globalised, many Indonesians are now seeking opportunities abroad. Migration seems particularly on the minds of young women, for a multitude of reasons,” said Jake Gammon, head of omnibus APAC at YouGov Omnibus.

“It’ll be interesting to see if these thoughts turn into actions in the coming years.”

According to UNESCO data, Indonesia has 45,206 students studying abroad.

*[The PIE News]*

## ✓ MALAYSIA: GIVE PRIORITY TO PERSPECTIVE OF YOUTHS

**Kuala Lumpur, 26**

**November 2019** - IN 2018, a total of 81.2 per cent of Malaysians above the age of 15 were identified as regular online users.

As users grow more sensitive to the nuances of online life, issues of online infrastructure and policy have garnered increasing attention and discourse.

We then see issues such as cybersecurity, data privacy rights, freedom of expression, and the digital divide emerging as topics for mainstream policy discourse.

It is here that the term “Internet governance” has surfaced. Internet governance is a United Nations-created term, used to refer to the design and

application of rules meant to shape the evolution and usage of the Internet.

The goal of Internet governance is simple.

It aims to foster the creation of online environments conducive to the wellbeing of users.

The actual complexity of the Internet governance concept, however, lies in the diversity of perspectives with which you can approach it.

Under the concept of Internet governance, you can choose to discuss the technical infrastructure of the Internet and turn your attention towards matters of data encryption, domain name systems (DNS) and root servers.

Internet governance is a rich field. Its scope is broad enough for everyone to be able to find at least one topic of personal interest. Now, you might want to concern yourself with the state of Internet governance in Malaysia.

Recall the government’s RM21.6 billion National Fiberisation and Connectivity Plan, as outlined in 2020 Budget. The plan aims to enhance digital connectivity for the wellbeing of the people, through the development and deployment of digital infrastructure.

If successful, it will strengthen Malaysia’s digital community.

However, should we let this project limit the scope for

potential action in Malaysian Internet governance?

Governance of the Internet should not be restricted to the government.

Decision-making processes about the institutional design of the Internet are too complex to be centralised on to any single actor.

The diversity of perspectives with which to approach the topic creates the need for insights from a variety of stakeholders, including civil society.



A governance architecture that benefits everyone is not possible without horizontal communication and coordination between actors.

ways in which each and every one of us interacts with the Internet, every stakeholder is capable of bringing insight to Internet policy.

this article, it is your perspective in particular that needs to be given more weight in Internet governance discussions.

childhood being socialised by the Internet. You have a greater stake in this.

*[New Straits Times Online]*

Given the highly unique

If you are a youth reading

In all likelihood, you spent a large portion of your

## ✓ PAKISTAN: 2 MILLION JOBS FOR PAKISTANI YOUTH

**Islamabad, 20 November 2019** - PRIME Minister Youth Affairs Program (PMYAP) gears up to ensure two million jobs through its programme 'Job for Pakistan' in line with the Prime Minister's vision to make the young generation economically strong and independent.

A PMYAP official told APP that the programme has been planned

systematically through digitalized system. It would help collect the data of the applicants without any hiccups and complicated procedures.

The students would simply upload their curriculum vitae (CV) online and the programme would further verify the data, he added.

He said as per the bio-data of the individuals provided

through their CVs they would be adjusted in private sector companies and various institutions.

"Either qualified or skilled would be adjusted according to their area of expertise in local and international labour markets," he added.

He said, "Besides educated youth the skilled youth like electricians, plumbers, technicians, car and motor

mechanics would also get employment."

He said that every year 500,000 students get their qualified done and get degrees, however, Job for Pakistan will help them get job after completing their studies.

*[The News International]*

## ✓ PHILIPPINES: YANSON BATS FOR MORE YOUTH FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES

**Manila, 26 November 2019** - REGIONAL football associations (RFAs) would like to see more spending by the Philippine Football Association (PFF) in development programs for the RFAs' needs, including the vital age-group tournaments.

Negros Occidental Football Association (NOFA) president Ricky Yanson made this appeal to the PFF leadership on behalf of the RFAs, with the PFF having staged just one age-group tournament in the past four years.

Yanson, pushing for more development programs under his "football para sa lahat" initiative, said the RFAs wanted more of the PFF funds put in age-group tournaments and other grassroots activities to build more homegrown talents for the national teams.

"More tournaments also have a multiplier effect for our RFAs and their communities. They result in a happier youth, more engagements with stakeholders, and more jobs and economic activity related to football," he said.

Yanson, chair of the PFF youth development and grassroots committee, expressed frustration over the lack of priority and funding support for his area.

This led the members to fund committee work and implement projects, out of their own pocket. While grassroots projects were approved, the PFF had no budget for them.

For instance, he said the Training Area Development (TAD) program was approved for an initial eight RFAs, but the PFF administration said there

were no funds available.

After studying the concept, Yanson funded TAD's implementation in the NOFA areas, reaping benefits for footballers in Negros.

"We sacrifice willingly so that more Filipinos can enjoy football. The PFF must put more emphasis on development programs. We need to build a more solid football base for our youth."

The RFAs noted that the PFF last week announced new age-group tournaments for next year, with the expected entry of Qatar Airways as a new sponsor. But Yanson said the PFF should have prioritized funding for development in its spending, long before.

*[Philippine Star]*



## ✓ QATAR: UN YOUTH ENVOY LAUDS YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN QATAR

**Doha, 9 November 2019** - A top UN official has highlighted the efforts of Qatar and its leadership in empowering the youth and providing opportunities for them in various facets of life.

“It is heartening to see the commitment of the country’s leadership as Qatar values the partnership of the youth by providing them several opportunities.

I am particularly impressed by the youth taking part in conversations that are major topics of the world today and the government is providing them the opportunities for the same,” stated, Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN secretary-general’s envoy on youth.

Wickramanayake was speaking at the inaugural session of the Doha Forum Youth Edition held yesterday at the Minaretein building (College of Islamic Studies), in Education City, Doha.

Wickermanayake said that during her first visit to Qatar, she was highly impressed by the Qatar National Library and the government’s efforts to provide knowledge to the people of the country and abroad.

“This is my second visit to Qatar and I do cherish my visit to the Qatar National Library during my first visit to Qatar.

The library and the resources at the library, is the another proof of the great commitment of the country to equip the youth with knowledge and the right tools to make them

prepared for the future,” she explained.

She also noted that the two major topics of discussion at the forum are education and climate change and Qatar has been taking an effective and prominent role in both the topics.

“There are around 1.8 billion young people worldwide and education is a key factor. I am a strong believer in the fact that education is not a privilege but the birthright of every young man and woman.

An estimated 263mn children are out of school currently for various reasons and about 61mn miss out schools as they live in conflict and disaster hit areas,” continued the official.

She maintained that education is the most essential investment to build the future of the world.

“Education is the most powerful tool to resist other forces such as terrorism and to fight other security threats. One dollar invested in education can generate 15 dollars in return,” she noted.

As for the issue of climate change, Wickermanayake said that it was an emergency that needed to be tackled urgently.

“About 71% of the gas emissions in the world is caused by 100 companies. We need to transform these business models into sustainable ones.

Climate education is key for this and there should be a change in the approach. Conversations today in this

forum can be the starting point for that change,” added the official.

*[Gulf Times]*

ASIA NEWS



### ✓ AZERBAIJAN: IMPLEMENTS PROJECT FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ISSUES IN TOURISM

**Baku, 18 November 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 November 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 November 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 November 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 November 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: ENVIRONMENT SECOND ON YOUTH PRIORITY LIST

**Canberra, 26 November 2019** - AUSTRALIA's youth now consider the environment the second most important issue in the country, a survey of teenagers has found.

More than 25,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 19 answered the annual survey by Mission Australia, which released a report on its findings.

When asked about the most important issues in Australia, mental health ranked highest with 36.2 per cent, followed by the environment (34.2 per cent), and equity and discrimination (24.8 per cent).

The percentage of young people who said the environment was a key issue more than tripled from 9.2 per cent in 2018.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth ranked mental health, alcohol and drugs, and equity and discrimination as their three

most important issues, with the environment coming in at No. 4.

Fewer than one in 10 young people (7.2 per cent) said they felt like they have a say all of the time in public affairs.

However, 45.2 per cent of respondents said they had a say when with friends, and 44.2 per cent said they did with family.

Mission Australia's chief executive James Toomey says there is a clear indication that young people in Australia feel "disenfranchised and deeply concerned".

"The apparent inability to have their voices heard through formal channels is perhaps causing them to engage in informal ways to get heard, such as climate strikes," Mr Toomey writes in the report.

"The growing public dialogue and experience of issues, such as extreme

weather events and drought, are clearly affecting young people's view of the world," he says.

More than one in five respondents (21 per cent) said they had experienced bullying in the past 12 months, with 79.9 per cent of these young people reporting that the bullying took place at school, TAFE or university.

One-third (34 per cent), comprising 37.3 per cent of young women and 27.3 per cent of young men, said they had experienced bullying online and in social media.

A total of 29.9 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths said they had experienced bullying compared with 20.3 per cent of non-indigenous young people.

The respondents ranked coping with stress, school or study problems, and mental health as their top three concerns.

However, the majority of young people, 60.7 per cent, reported that overall, they were happy or very happy with their lives.

Nearly six in 10 (58.3 per cent) said they felt positive or very positive about their future while 12.2 per cent reported feeling negative or very negative.

"Young people are asking for change. We owe it to young people to not only listen but to also take action," Mr Toomey writes.

"We must stand alongside them to advocate for the changes they want to see, provide opportunities to have a say, and better support them with the services they need as they tread their path to adulthood."

[9News]

## ✓ FIJI: PENSIONERS URGED TO SPEAK AGAINST SOCIETY ILLS

**Suva, 26 November 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]



## ✓ GUAM: SUPPORTING YOUTH SPORTS

**Hagåtña, 25 November 2019** - Community Corporation President David Tydingco, back row, left, presents, a \$1,000 check to ACAS, a nonprofit organization supporting youth basketball, at the Tamuning Gymnasium.

The Tamuning Typhoons

Basketball Club is also pictured.

Community Corporation is proud to be able to support all youth-oriented activities that lead to the complete development of strong minds and healthy habits," Tydingco said.

Our ability to support youth programs is made possible through the significant contributions being made by Guam's Mega Bingo.

We look forward to supporting many more youth programs.

*[The Guam Daily Post]*

## ✓ NEW ZEALAND: VACCINE BOOST FOR YOUTH IN CLOSE-LIVING SITUATIONS

**Wellington, 13 November 2019** - A meningococcal catch-up programme is set to be funded for people aged 13 to 25 in their first year of close-living situations.

PHARMAC deputy medical director Dr Pete Murray said about 35,000 people living in boarding school hostels, tertiary education halls of residence, military barracks and prisons would

be able to get the vaccine. It was estimated about 8000 additional people per year would get the vaccine.

Associate Health Minister Julie Anne Genter called meningococcal, which can develop into meningitis or septicaemia and have long term consequences, a "serious threat which people at higher risk should be protected from".

"Cases of meningococcal are still relatively rare, but the consequences can be extremely serious, even fatal, and we know young people in close living conditions are at greater risk."

"New Zealand sees a number of meningococcal cases in our young people every year. The latest figures show 120 cases in 2019 to date, sadly with

eight deaths. Around half of these cases were in the W, C and Y strains."

The roll out will begin on December 1 - with young people living in close situations already eligible for one dose.

*[TVNZ]*

## ✓ 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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