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✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2019

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
10 November 2019	World Science Day for Peace and Development	Melaka, Malaysia
16 November 2019	International Day for Tolerance	Melaka, Malaysia
18 November 2019	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	Melaka, Malaysia
20 November 2019	Universal Children's Day	Melaka, Malaysia
25 November 2019	International Day for the Eradication of Violence against Women	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ BOSTWANA: ORANGE REWARDS YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

Gaborone, 21 October 2019

- ORANGE Botswana has injected a tune of P100 000 into growing youth entrepreneurs through the Orange Social Venture Prize competition with Kitso Books emerging as this year's winner.

Going home with the first prize amount of P50 000, the owners of Kitso Books Lame Motshabi and Rudisang Morake expressed delight for winning the competition which has come as a big boost.

Morake said the P50 000 prize money will help them to grow their business, saying as a small scale business they face the scourge of lack of funds.

“Winning this year's edition comes with lot of hope to us as young growing business.

At first we couldn't afford to have enough funds to enter the competition; hence

we depended more on our monthly student allowances to keep on with the completion,” said highly inspired Morake.

He said the good side that comes up with emerging as winners of the reputable Orange entrepreneurship initiative is that it opens more doors for them to lure investors who might value them.

Kitso Books, he said, is a platform designated to promote the culture of reading amongst Batswana emphasizing that it is online platform that has since offered offline services as well.

Both Motshabi and Morake are fourth year final students at the University of Botswana (UB) seating for Bachelor of Computer Science; hence their motivation to open an online bookshop.

Orange Botswana CEO, Dr Patrick Benon, has acknowledged that the competition has grown in leaps and bounds over the years. This year marked its 9th edition.

He said the competition rewards start-ups that utilise digital technologies to change and improve the lives of the community.

“The main objective of this competition is to unearth digital solutions that can solve existing social problems, therefore after these awards, Orange Botswana engages the winners to assist them technically to develop the winning ideas into operational businesses.

We coach the winners; invest time and financial resources to bring the ideas to life,” Dr Benon emphasised.

He added that their assistance is not only limited to technical support as they also assist through marketing plus communication to boost their brand visibility.

To date, he said, Orange has spent a whopping P850 000 for both Atlega and M-Agri Shop to promote winners of the competition.

The other winners of the Social Venture programme are Sejwalo App that took P30 000 for second place followed by More Life+ who came on position three walking home P20 000 rich.

The winners will compete for an International Grand Prize at the Africom Awards event set for Cape Town, South Africa next month.

[The Voice Online]

✓ KENYA: VIJABIZ PROJECT MENTORS YOUTH AGRIBUSINESS IN AGR-ENTERPRISES

Nairobi, 17 October 2019

- ONE in four businesses generally fail before their second year, and half do not survive beyond the fifth year; a situation experienced by many youth-led agri-enterprises in Kenya.

This is a concern in a country which has a very young population coupled with a high youth unemployment rate.

Economically viable agribusinesses could help to address this challenge; thriving youth-led agribusinesses are vital for job creation, make

agri-enterprises attractive to the youth and hence could contribute towards alleviating youth unemployment in Kenya.

Many youth agri-enterprises are confronted with a web of complex challenges that impede their growth, profitability and sustainability.

Hence, revitalising and enhancing youth agri-enterprises to prosper requires a vigorous approach. For this purpose, the Vijabiz project employs a mix of workshops, peer learning and mentorship to help

youth-led enterprises navigate the perils of establishing a start-up in order to thrive.

These multi-pronged approaches assists youth entrepreneurs to fast-track the adaptation of proven business practices, and innovate and grow their businesses in the cereals, dairy and fisheries value chains in Nakuru and Kilifi counties.

Vijabiz competitively selects mentors based on criteria pre-determined to ensure a best fit for youth enterprises.

Ustadi Foundation, a

Kenyan-based capacity development organisation and the local partner of CTA implementing the Vijabiz project, put out a tender and undertook due diligence to identify two winning firms.

Africa Initiative for Rural Development and Planet Resource Africa at Egerton University were selected to offer entrepreneurship training in Kilifi and Nakuru, respectively.



The mentorship process started in April 2019 and it is expected to run for 12 months.

Mentorship is a relationship in which an experienced or knowledgeable person guides a less experienced or knowledgeable one.

The mentor may be older or younger than the person being mentored, but he or she must have relevant expertise.

In order to enhance the work of the mentors to better serve the youth groups, Ustadi adapted tools from the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Start Your Business and the LEAP modules by the Dutch development organisation, SNV, for the mentors. Project staff gave the selected mentors an overview of the objectives of the project and the mentorship tools.

The mentors then visited all 163 youth groups and conducted a baseline assessment for each. Based on these assessments, the mentors developed plans tailored to the needs of each group which are currently being implemented.

Mentors will continue to visit the groups to guide them on various aspects of business development in their selected agri-value chains.

According to Eric Bosire, head of programs at Ustadi, the mentors will have one-on-one interactive sessions with the groups once every 3 months. They will work with the groups to identify and come up with home-grown solutions.

"We hope that the mentorship process, coupled with initial business development training, will equip young people with the knowledge and skills required to effectively run their agri-enterprises", says Bosire.

While the mentorship program is still at the start-up phase, it is not without challenges. For instance, not all group members are available when the mentors visit. Sometimes members skip mentorship sessions and do not fully benefit from the coaching.

"During one session, only part of the group members may attend and in the following session, those members who failed to attend the previous session now attend.

This makes it difficult for groups to follow up on actions previously agreed upon at mentorship sessions", says Bosire.

The vast area over which groups are spread in both counties is another challenge. As a result, it is hard to reach some groups, especially those in areas with poor roads that are impassable during the rainy season.

The Vijabiz project is also grappling with the reality of group dynamics. Some of the groups are not as cohesive as expected.

In such groups, mentors spend time that would have been spent on business coaching to help the groups deal with relationship issues.

However, the project

recognises that there are bound to be differences over investment and operational decisions in business.

Emotions and relationships in business ventures can determine its success or failure, hence group dynamics are monitored by the mentors.

The Vijabiz project hopes to evaluate effectiveness of the mentorship programme using the adapted ILO and SNV tools.

This will include looking at the application of the various skills required for running a successful agribusiness for the particular value chains.

"At the end of the mentorship programme, we hope that the groups will be registered business entities, the incomes of the enterprises will have improved, they will have created more employment opportunities for youth, and their enterprises will have grown", says Bosire.

[CTA]





✓ MALAWI: SPORTS FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN MALAWI

Lilongwe, 5 October 2019 - YOUTH-centred NGO Youth Wave is based in Malawi and uses sport to educate and empower young people.

Sport promotes social integration, encourages an active lifestyle and serves as an educational tool. It has an almost unparalleled reach into all spheres of society.

Sport teaches life skills that empower adolescents and youth to overcome difficult circumstances in their lives and take charge of their own futures.

Employing sports and linking it to other development goals in areas such as education, health (HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and mental health) and gender equality can

break the barriers and challenges young people face.

Sport is increasingly employed within a development cooperation context as an instrument for mobilisation, awareness-raising and integration, and is considered an innovative topic that provides impetus for change and sustainable development at both

individual and societal levels.

Youth Wave Malawi train football coaches across the country and today we continue the work in rural communities.

[Nyasa Times]

✓ NAMIBIA: ITULA PROMISES OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Windhoek, 27 October 2019 - INDEPENDENT presidential candidate Dr Panduleni Itula said if elected into power, his 12-member cabinet would comprise of 40 percent youth.

Itula also wants key decision-making positions in government structures and entities to be made up of 40 percent young people.

Launching his election manifesto in Katutura at the weekend, Itula said the youth were the worst hit by unemployment, characterised by high levels of inequality.

“This is aggravated by the fact that no specific tools and capacity have been cultivated to address this,” he said.

“Much of a greater problem is that those who claim to care for the youth under the guise of youthfulness representation do not have a slightest idea of what the youth want.

Nobody in the current political dispensation dared to ask, ‘what is the youth

want, how the youth want it done and when the youth want it done’,” stated Itula.

The independent candidate said he would only appoint 12 ministers to his cabinet.

“Our first priority is to rid us of the incompetence of an administration soaked in corruption and cronyism by a reduction in ministries and public organisations not working at all,” Itula said.

Itula further intends to launch a major housing programme, saying qualifying Namibians would be allocated a piece of land to construct a place to call home.

He said the country can borrow from the experience of other nations who have faced similar problems by using as necessary prefabricated housing and deploying the security forces to assist in construction.

He said this should also help to build up a skills set among construction workers so that the sector does not become problematic in future.

Itula announced that he would not reside in the presidential State House if elected into power.

“I am happy to remain with my comrades, neighbours and friends in Katutura,” he remarked.

Itula said he would introduce a N\$1 000 dual option direct government housing scheme, designed specifically to provide shelter and improve the standard of accommodation for the people in the so-called informal settlements.

“When you do that, you have two choices, you can choose to buy your materials and we will get our young people from VTC, bricklayers, electricians, plumbers to come and build, while the government pays them directly...No middleman,” he shared.

Itula stated they will introduce and enhance vocational education and verified job-seeker allowance. He said a lot of Namibian graduates do not have jobs and need to be given an allowance to

sustain them while looking for a job.

“Even if you live in Windhoek, going to town to hand in your CV you need taxi (fare) and needs someone to print out and photocopy documents.”

According to Itula, his intentions are to put Namibia on the right path and implement the necessary changes.

“My appeal to Namibians, irrespective of your political persuasion, is to stop our slow sleepwalking into stagnation and bankruptcy by featherbedding the few.

Itula, who addressed a relatively well-attended rally in Walvis Bay yesterday, said he would not resign from Swapo despite the ruling party’s secretary-general Sophia Shaningwa indicating last week that he has ‘excommunicated’ himself from the party after being duly nominated as a presidential candidate.

[New Era]



✓ ZAMBIA: NEW DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM TARGETS YOUTH

Lusaka, 13 October 2019 - ZAMBIAN social enterprise, Asikana Network has partnered with Facebook to launch a digital literacy program in Zambia eZibo Digital Literacy aims to train youth between the ages of 13-18 in Zambian schools.

The programme will challenge students in understanding how they can stay safe online and provide practical tips and guides.

It will educate the youth in secondary schools on topics around self-awareness online, and how to behave online as a good digital citizen.

“The Internet is a gateway to a world of economic opportunities, educational possibilities and friendships for many young Zambians,” says Emilar Gandhi, Head of Public Policy for the SADC region at Facebook.

“But it is also important for them to learn how to protect their personal information and to safeguard themselves online.

Increasing awareness and ensuring that young people feel empowered is important and something we’re committed to.”

Asikana Network will be responsible for administering the basic curriculum of eZibo as well as Facebook’s lessons on safety and the resources available to learners.

The program will involve delivery of set materials provided by Asikana Network and Facebook

through a 2 hr/day session after-school hours between September and December.

This training will be carried out in 30 schools in 6 provinces namely Lusaka, Central, Eastern, Southern, Western and Copperbelt, as well 6 community schools across those provinces where the training will also be open to the general public.

[IT News Africa]

NEWS



✓ **BERMUDA : ARGUS DONATION TO YOUTH COUNSELLING PROJECT**

Hamilton, 12 October 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROCESSING teamwork.

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

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

[Royal Gazette]

✓ **BARBADOS: YOUTH NEED EARLIER EXPOSURE TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

Bridgetown, 27 October 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We are recognising that if

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Barbados Advocate]



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Stabroek News]

✓ JAMAICA: CORPORATE JAMAICA URGED TO HELP TRAIN YOUNG PEOPLE

Kingston, 14 October 2019 - INDUSTRY, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, Audley Shaw, has called for Corporate Jamaica to partner with the Government to help more of the nation's youth acquire skills and competencies as part of the development of the country's human capital.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Loop News Jamaica]



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

Lima, 27 October 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 Pajaten BR - Peru).

The developed local and regional projects by the participants are linked to the core topics of UNESCO's Natural Science Sector.

It is important to note that the selected projects are not only on youth, they are also led by young people.

[Devdiscourse]

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

Port of Spain, 8 October 2019 - A group calling itself the Youth Government of Trinidad and Tobago (YGTT) was launched on Friday at the Central Bank Auditorium, in the presence of Senate Vice President Nigel de Freitas, Deputy Speaker Esmond Forde, Port of Spain Mayor Joel Martinez and Adrian Leonce, parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities.

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

been inspired by a similar group in Tatarstan in Russia.

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

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

Benoit, a music teacher at the Education Ministry,

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

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

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

social media management.

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

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

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

[Trinidad News]



✓ **BANGLADESH: RIGHT SKILL SETS HOLD KEY TO UNLEASH YOUTH POTENTIAL**

Dhaka, 14 October 2019 - NEARLY half of Bangladesh's total unemployed youth are university graduates while almost a third (15-29 years of age) are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET).

However, empowering them with proper skill training can unleash the youth potential of Bangladesh, speakers said at a roundtable discussion in the city on Monday.

Noting that every year over two million youth enter into the labour market, the speakers called for removing the mismatch between the education system that the youth go through and the actual skill sets that the market demands of them.

They came up with this at the round table discussion titled "Skill Development for Young People: Modalities of Training and Standards of Certification", jointly organized by Dhaka Tribune and ActionAid Bangladesh held on Monday at Dhaka Tribune Conference Hall.

With Dhaka Tribune executive editor Reaz Ahmad in the chair, National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) executive chairman (secretary in-charge) Md Faruque Hossain attended the program as chief guest.

Faruque Hossain said, to make a skillful young generation, holistic dedication and concerted efforts are mandatory from all sectors.

"All the organizations and institutions which facilitate skill development training programs to the young generation have to be brought under a single umbrella of NSDA", he said.

"The quality of the training should be ensured on global and national standards so that young generation can meet the demand of local as well as international labour market," he added.

Reaz Ahmad said, social dignity and recognition is a must in technical and vocational education and training to make a skilled young generation.

"Because of inefficient and unskilled labour forces in our country, foreign nationals who are working in the mid-level managerial positions earn billion dollars every year," he said.

"With appropriate skill development of our younger generation, we can replace them (foreign workers) with our own people," he added.

Munsur Hasan Khandaker, principal of SOS Vocational Training Centre Dhaka said, though many training centers are providing short and long term skill development courses and sessions to our young generation, most of the centers do not meet proper standards.

"There is a lack of specialized trainers and modern equipment in this sector which create barriers to maintain the quality of the training," he added.

Asad-Uz-Zaman, policy specialist (Skills for

Employment) of a2i said, training centers should be prepared as per the demand of local and global markets.

"There should be a matchmaking platform between industries and trainees so that a trainee can get the chance of apprenticeship in the industry to enrich his/her skill and knowledge in the specific sector," he added.

Shamima Nowshin, senior program officer of Oxfam International Bangladesh said, the training which is provided by different organizations should be assessed according to the field level demands.

"After providing training the authorities should give guidelines to the trainees so that they can use the skills and knowledge gained in their careers," she added.

Ismat Jerin Khan, director of SME Foundation, Dr Shah Alam Majumder, specialist (Course Accreditation) of Bangladesh Technical Education Board also spoke, in the event moderated by ActionAid Manager Nazmul Ahsan.

[Dhaka Tribune]



✓ **INDIA: LAUNCHES NEW YOUTH INITIATIVE 'YUWAAH'**

New Delhi, 20 October 2019 - MINISTER for Women and Children's Development, Smriti Irani, along with an alliance of national and international partners, launched a bold new national initiative to transform the countries to education, skilling and employment for its more than 300 million young people aged 10-24 years.

Sending his strong support to the YuWaah! partners for the launch, PM Modi said in a letter, "YuWaah the Generation Unlimited partnership, will go a long way in empowering our youth to acquire skills to enhance their creativity and potential to build the new India of the 21st Century.

I am sure that this partnership will make our youth the harbingers of social change."

India is one of the first countries in the world to launch its national initiative linked to the global Generation Unlimited movement which began in New York in September 2018.

Supported by UNICEF, Generation Unlimited brings young people together with the private sector, governments, international and local organisations to tackle the urgent challenge of investing in their learning and training so that they are prepared for the complex and fast-changing world of work and can be active and engaged citizens.

By 2030 there will be two billion young women and

men seeking opportunities for a bright future throughout the world. Speaking at the launch at the Habitat Centre in New Delhi, Minister Irani said, "The Government is determined to lead in making YuWaah! a transformational alliance that brings a national step change in preparing young people for the transition from education to 21st-century work."

A strategic partnership with over 30 partners was established at the launch, to shape the next steps for YuWaah! in India. Fore also announced that UNICEF will support the start-up of the YuWaah! Secretariat, supporting partners to work together to scale up engagement with young people for solutions.

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore congratulated the Prime Minister and his Government for their leadership on transforming opportunities for India's young people by targeting the transition between school and employment. "Any country's greatest asset is the energy, ideas, and vision of its young people. As young people build their own futures, they'll build India's future. Investing in them is the best investment India can make," he said.

Also attending the launch were Chief Executive Officer, Niti Aayog, Amitabh Kant; Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India Dr. K. P. Krishnan; Secretary,

Youth Affairs, Upma Chawdhry, UN Resident Coordinator, Renata Lok-Desallien, Dilip Chenoy, Secretary-General of FICCI, UNICEF Special Representative for Young People, Ravi Venkatesan and other high-level invitees today launched this multi-stakeholder partnership to transform the lives of children and young people across India.

The voices of young people were prominent at the launch. Participants visited the interactive Solutions Café, an exhibition by young people sharing their innovative ideas for developing skills, accessing employment and being engaged citizens and active change-makers in society. Minister Irani and Executive Director Fore also launched a special 'U-Report' digital survey, aimed at listening to and engaging youth throughout the country to ensure that their voices and solutions shape the actions of YuWaah! partners.

The National Youth Challenge was also launched kicking off the YuWaah! alliance's activities. Pravin Dhanawade, a youth leader, and Amitabh Kant, CEO of the National Institution for Transforming India (Niti Aayog) jointly launched the Youth Challenge to engage young women and men across the country to share solutions which:

Promote formal or informal education experiences that build skills young people need for productive lives and the future of work.
Improve connections

between young people and existing work opportunities. Promote equitable access to quality education, training, employment, entrepreneurship and civic participation.

Partners in the YuWaah! alliance will support the best ideas to scale up solutions. Over 250 existing solutions for expanding young people's opportunities in skill development, learning, employment, entrepreneurship and civic engagement have already been mapped. Further to this, a 'call for solutions' was launched to fill gaps and strengthen collaboration among organizations and young people.

[BW Businessworld]



✓ PAKISTAN: 2 MILLION JOBS FOR PAKISTANI YOUTH

Islamabad, 30 October 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: YOUTH IN PHILIPPINES PREFER WORKING OVERSEAS

Manila, 14 October 2019 - THE Philippines' long history of migration is deeply ingrained in the country's social, economic and cultural climate.

This migration trend now resonates with the country's youth, especially the newer generation (Gen Z), as they begin to enter the workforce.

Based on a 2019 survey conducted by the World Economic Forum (WEF) last August, 52.9 percent of Philippine youth aged 15 to 35-years-old would like to work overseas. This aspiration was shared by

youth in Thailand with 51.9 percent wanting to work abroad.

The WEF survey found that Singapore's youth preferred to stay and work in their home country, followed by Indonesia (60.4 percent) and Vietnam (54.5 percent).

This is perhaps due to the opportunities available for the young to earn a living, climb the management ladder and opportunity to upskill.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, there were 2.3 million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)

across the world in 2018. The statistics also found that there were more females than males among the OFWs, comprising 55.8 percent, where half of them belong to the age group of 25 to 34 years. Filipinos are migrating to Saudi Arabia (24.3 percent), United Arab Emirates (15.7 percent) and Hong Kong (6.3 percent).

Most Filipinos go abroad to get a higher salary.

But the young are also motivated to leave their country to acquire new skills, pursue a career and experience other cultures. Some seek this opportunity to reunite

with families that are already living abroad.

According to 2018 Asian Development Bank (ADB) report on youth unemployment, young people still struggle to find jobs after they leave school in the Philippines because it is not able to absorb all new entrants to the job market.

Limited job opportunities in the country, along with high paying job abroad leads to the country's brain drain.

[MissionNewswire]

✓ THAILAND: YOUTH MEET TARGETS ENVIRONMENT

Bangkok, 26 October 2019 - FOLLOWING the theme of Thailand's chairmanship of Asean this year, young leaders from the region chose "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability" as their own motif at a recent event.

At the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (Yseali) Summit held in Phuket this month, 150 young leaders aged 18-35 years from Asean member countries and Timor-Leste gathered to share ideas and

exchange knowledge under the theme.

Yseali is the US government's signature programme to strengthen leadership development and networking in Southeast Asia, according to US Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce, who added it is also about promoting cross-border cooperation to solve regional and global challenges.

In Phuket, the young leaders learned how to reduce plastic waste in the sea with the province's hotel association, and attended field trips to Phuket Marine Biological Centre, a pineapple eco-farm and also a local goat farm.

The idea of "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability" is represented by the Rua Hang Yao (long-tail boat) which is a feature of the Yseali summit's logo.

The traditional wooden boat was commonly seen on Phuket's beaches and used to ferry tourists from island to island, and also used to bring fishermen and their supplies to their daily fishing grounds. It is a symbol of local identity, sustainability and unity.



Independent researcher Koranis Tanangsnakool, 34, who was among the participants told the media how damage to aquatic life by plastic waste motivated her to establish the environmental organisation "ReReef" to make consumers aware of the problems their habits cause.

"Plastic waste in the sea decomposes into microplastic which is eaten by aquatic creatures and causes their death. The food chain will eventually be broken by the microplastics introduced into it by humans," she warned.

She said sunblock that people often apply before going into the sea also contaminates the water. She and her partners have created their own "ReReef" sunblock which is harmless to coral reefs in Thailand.

"We must avoid the sunblock that contains Oxybenzone, Octinoxate, 4-Methylbenzylid Camphor (4MBC) and Butylparaben because these chemicals harm coral reefs," she added.

[Bangkok Post]

NEWS



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

Baku, 23 October 2019 - 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]

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

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

City of Brussels, 14 October 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: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN BULGARIA

Sofia, 1 October 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]



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

Berlin, 8 October 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, 26 October 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: MISSION AUSTRALIA URGES DUBBO YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN SURVEY

Canberra, 1 October 2019 - A 2018 Mission Australia survey has revealed the top three issues of national significance according to Dubbo youth were mental health, alcohol and drugs and bullying.

Twice the proportion of last years female survey participants from Dubbo

highlighting mental health as an important issue.

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

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

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

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

[Daily Liberal]

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

Suva, 27 October 2019 - YOUNG men and women are urged to refrain from being engaged to activities that will encourage racial and gender discrimination.

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

MP Moseses Bilitavu.

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

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

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

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

“The words and sentiments expressed by Honourable

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

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

[FBC News]

✓ GUAM: FSM TO FUND YOUTH PROGRAMS ON GUAM

Hagåtña, 8 October 2019 - SPEAKER Tina Rose Muña Barnes on Monday received a visit from Speaker Wesley W. Simina of the FSM Congress who shared that the FSM National Congress is cognizant of the issues on Guam with regards to COFA migrants.

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

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

summit on Guam for the FSM community who have made Guam their home.

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

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

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

[Pacific News Center]



✓ NEW ZEALAND: AWARDS SHINE LIGHT ON INSPIRING HASTINGS YOUTH

Wellington, 25 October 2019 - AT a special awards evening at Waipatu Marae this week, 24 deserving young people were recognised for their achievements against the odds at the 2019 Youth Potential Awards.

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

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

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

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

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

The recipients then went on stage to receive their award

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

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

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

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

"Some of our other award

recipients want to go on to become surgeons and study languages, which is amazing given the enormous difficulties they have overcome. Sometimes life is not very easy and it takes courage to face the

challenges in front of you these awards are about recognising your attitude of strength in the face of challenging times," she said.

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

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

[Scoop.co.nz]

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

Apia, 20 October 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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