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✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
5 September 2017	International Day of Charity	Melaka, Malaysia
8 September 2017	International Literacy Day	Melaka, Malaysia
15 September 2017	International Day of Democracy	Melaka, Malaysia
21 September 2017	International Day of Peace	Melaka, Malaysia
29 September 2017	12th Global Youth Peace Festival	Chandigarh, India



✓ GAMBIA: BARROW CALLS FOR INVESTMENT IN YOUTHS TO CURB MIGRATION

Banjul, 2 August 2017 - PRESIDENT Adama Barrow of the Gambia Monday used his meeting with a delegation of European Union officials to called for the creation of jobs and other opportunities for Gambians youths to address the rising tides of illegal migration to Europe.

The Gambia is one of Africa's smallest nations, with a population of just under two million. And yet its citizens have consistently ranked among the top five nationalities taking the Central Mediterranean route from Libya to Italy.

The country is also ranks highest among sub-Saharan African countries in terms of the numbers of its migrants who are unaccompanied minors.

In 2016, 13 per cent of unaccompanied children arriving in Italy were Gambian, according to UNICEF.

In total, nearly 12,000 Gambians arrived in Italy via the Mediterranean in 2016, a 36 percent increase from 2015.

Mr Barrow said his government recognizes that

migration was a challenging issue, as young people leave for the West with the hope of better livelihoods.

He urged all stakeholders to engage in dialogue, as migration was a global problem that could be best addressed through job creation for the youth.

He called for investments that would create jobs to engage the youth in industrial development and in agriculture.

He said his administration would cooperate with the European Union on

migration issues and create opportunities for the youth.

Mr Barrow's government has made tackling irregular migration a priority.

It plans to focus on creating jobs and training opportunities to reduce the 40 percent unemployment rate among young people, the main push factor behind the Gambia's exodus.

[Jollofnews]

✓ GHANA: NGO TRAINS YOUTH IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Accra, 2 August 2017 - PLAY soccer Ghana, a non-profit organisation, has organised training in project management for volunteers at Samrit Hotel in Cape Coast.

Participants built their capacity on project management in order to apply the knowledge acquired in their day-to-day activities in the implementation of programmes initiated by the organisation.

Play soccer Ghana works in the area of education, health, water and hygiene, child and youth development services among others.

It collaborates with local, national and international organisations that share its commitment to maximise scarce resources and develop grass-roots initiatives that can positively impact communities.

The volunteers, made up of 16 youth and young adults, were recruited from the implementing communities to serve as instructors to teach the programme in their communities after the workshop.

In a presentation, the head of Monitoring and Evaluation of STAR-Ghana, Mr Frank Amoateng, who was the facilitator for the workshop, underscored the importance of project management and said it was for that reason the workshop was being organised to equip the participants with the rudiments of project management in order for them to be able to effectively monitor projects being implemented in their communities by Play Soccer.

After the two-day workshop, participants expressed satisfaction with the knowledge acquired and said the modules they were

taken through would help them to determine their role and contribution to developing and implementing projects.

They asked the organisers to make such learning a frequent occurrence, and recommended that one of the components of the project cycle, Needs assessment, be replicated in implementing communities to ascertain the relevance of the initiatives in the communities.

[Graphic Online]



✓ RWANDA: RWANDAN YOUTH LAUNCH FREE SELF-DIRECTED COMMUNITY TRAINING

Kigali, 1 August 2017 - THREE young technology entrepreneurs in Rwanda have decided to take on the job of providing free app development skills and training to the youth in the country.

The trio Ildephonse Mungwarakarama, Theogene Niyonsenga and Jerome Habimana started a company in 2014 called House of Technology.

Their aim is to bring technology to the youth all over the country so as to improve academic outcomes and prepare the

future workforce.

They launched a programme last week called Code for Good.

This programme is open to the public who want to be trained in app development, help to train others, or offer support for future projects.

On their website code.rw the trio said they are not only focusing on university students or graduates, but high school students and those below the age of 18 to prepare them for the future.

Registration is done through

their website, and the training will be conducted in the various communities where people register, and by volunteer developers in these communities.

Certificates will be awarded for the free training and beneficiaries will be expected to also pass on what they have learned to others to build a hi-tech community.

The Code for Good programme is also developing an Online Children's Creative Writing and Reading Portal to involve parents, teachers

and authors to engage and motivate children to read and write stories and poems themselves in their native language.

This is remarkable because, as we dance to Google's offer to train 10 million people in Africa in technology skills, these young Rwandans believe they can do it themselves and develop a community of tech literates.

[Africa News]

✓ TANZANIA: MAJALIWA COUNSELS YOUTH AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

Mbeya, 1 August 2017 - PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday reiterated the importance of nurturing a drug-free generation, imploring youth to avoid using drugs and instead use the opportunity to access treatment at the methadone clinics.

Speaking here after launching the Methadone Clinic and services for People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) at Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital (MZRH), the premier commended Walter Reed Programme and MZRH efforts in providing the one stop clinic to reduce harm and combat HIV epidemic in the country.

He particularly applauded the referral hospital for establishing the methadone dispensing services for heroin users in the region.

"This is the fifth methadone clinic in the country; it's encouraging to see that Mbeya Zonal Hospital will

now offer the services to our youth. Provision of Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) or Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) is one of HIV prevention strategies the government, through the ministry of health, is working on to reduce the HIV/AIDS risk factors," said Mr Majaliwa.

The newly-opened clinic is a gift to Tanzanians from Americans and is financially supported by the US Department of Defense-Walter Reed Program (WRP)/President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), with technical assistance from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The clinic offers MAT for heroin injectors in Mbeya and the Southern Highlands regions in general, expected to serve up to 600 clients in the first 12 months of operations.

The clinic, besides dispensing methadone, will also offer HIV counseling, testing and care and treatment; TB clinic services; cervical cancer screening services, STI diagnosis and treatment, and substance abuse counseling and psychosocial support.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 10 per cent of new HIV infections worldwide are attributable to injecting drug use, often of an opiate like heroin.

In Tanzania, people injecting drugs are estimated at 30,000 with a high HIV prevalence of 36 per cent, according to the National Aids Control Program (NACP) report in 2014.

[Tanzania Daily News]



✓ ZAMBIA: VEEP URGES THE YOUTH TO USE MUSIC TO HARNESS GLOBAL PEACE

Lusaka, 1 August 2017 - VICE President Inonge Wina has urged young people to use their musical talents to harness peace in the world.

Mrs Wina says music is a global language with immense influence that should be used positively by youths to create peace in the world.

ZANIS reports that the Vice President said this when she officially opened the 2017 Chengdu International Sister Cities Youth Musical Festival in Chengdu, China, yesterday.

Mrs Wina has challenged the youths to use the festival to promote global cultural cooperation and integration.

She said youths should strive to better understand each other's culture in order to break barriers and bring communities closer.

Mrs Wina said today's society has become interdependent hence the need for increased people to people interactions.

She commended the organizers for staging the event stating that such cultural events are cardinal for maintaining global peace and development.

The Vice President urged the young artists and musicians to consider participating in the Livingstone International Music and Arts festival to be held later in the year.

The International youth cultural festival draws participation of youths from all the five continents of the

world. Mozambique, Nigeria and Zambia represented Africa at the festival.

Zambia's cultural dance troupe mesmerized the Chinese lead audience with their feet stomping, flawless entertaining traditional dances.

The aura prompted the audience to use their mobile devices to capture the entertaining Zambian dancers.

The cultural dance was followed by a fashion show by Fay designs showcasing designs from Zambia.

[Lusaka Times]

NEWS



✓ BERMUDA: YOUTH TALK ON MANAGING MONEY

Hamilton, 11 August 2017 - THE importance of saving money will be the topic of discussion at a Generation Next town hall meeting on Wednesday.

Micah Davis, the general manager of the Bermuda Credit Union, will give a presentation on fiscal responsibility at the event, in the Bermuda Industrial Union's Dr EF Gordon Hall.

Mr Davis has worked in the

credit union movement in Bermuda and overseas for more than 30 years and has been appointed international credit union development educator by the World Council of Credit Unions in Madison, Wisconsin.

He has been general manager of the BIU Members Credit Union Co-op Society since 2008.

Generation Next member Aminah Simmons said: "Generation Next believes it

to be of paramount importance that all of Bermuda's young people are adequately prepared to make effective decisions with all their finances and resources.

"We are confident that through these efforts our young people will have a greater financial literacy and allow for a greater sense of financial independence.

"We are pleased to partner with the Bermuda Credit

Union to provide this youth town hall meeting focused on financial education among young people."

All young people in attendance will have the chance to open an account with the Bermuda Credit Union without any opening fees.

[Royal Gazette]

✓ CANADA: GOVERNMENT PROVIDES JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH LIVING IN RURAL

Windsor, 2 August 2017 - BUILDING a strong middle class means giving Canada's youth the tools they need to find and keep good jobs.

As part of this commitment, the Honourable Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board and Member of Parliament for Kings Hants, Nova Scotia, on behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, announced a new project today that will give youth in the communities of Colchester and West Hants job skills training and hands-on work experience.

The MetroWorks

Employment Association will once again organize employability skills workshops, safety training courses, guest speakers, job site tours, one-on-one support services and work placements for up to 48 local youth.

A special opportunity to gain one week of technical skills training at Carpenter Millwright College will also be offered to interested applicants.

All participants will obtain positions in hospitality, customer service, trades, construction or agricultural industries tied to organic farming.

One main goal is to provide opportunities for the youth to find good jobs in smaller communities in their home province.

The Government of Canada will provide approximately \$690,000 in funding for this project through the Skills Link program of the Government's Youth Employment Strategy.

Skills Link supports projects that help young people who face more barriers to employment than others develop basic employability skills and gain valuable job experience, which assists them in making a successful transition into the labour

market or returning to school.

These could include youth who have not completed high school, single parents, Indigenous youth, young people with disabilities, youth living in rural or remote areas and newcomers.

MetroWorks received funding for Skills Link projects over the past six years and has successfully helped disadvantaged individuals and those facing barriers to employment get a job or return to school.

[Markets Insider]

✓ DOMINICA: NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY UNDER REVIEW

The Ministry of Youth and the Youth Development Division met Wednesday, August 17th to officially launch the Dominica National Youth Policy Review.

At the launch, Youth Officer Gregory Riviere explained, "In April 2004, the current Youth Policy

was tabled in Parliament. Twelve years later, many of the people in the policy world would argue that that much of the content was outdated and required fresh ideas that would truly represent the youth of 2016 and beyond," Riviere said.

He continued, "Besides, we need a policy that can fall in

line with the line with the sustainable development goals as articulated by the United Nations.

We need a policy that will be ready to inform a CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan 2017-2022.

"Most of all, we need a policy that is youth-driven;

one that will allow the young people of this country to reach their full potential so that they may contribute profoundly to the development of this lovely island."

Review notes that this policy will be a working document.



Chief Youth Development Officer, John Roach gave some background on the policy.

He explained that the policy came from a recommendation that youth work in Dominica should supplement the efforts of schools and formal trainings to prepare young people for their lives as adults.

The policy originated to cater for all young people including those out of school, the unemployed and underemployed, young women, urban and rural youth, youth with disabilities and uneducated youth.

Roach added that, "The aim of the National Youth Policy Review is to develop a new National Youth

Policy that is evidence-based and fit for purpose in 2016 and beyond.

The process will also include a review of the Youth Ministry's capacity, identification of gaps and recommendations for the establishment of necessary frameworks, systems and processes which will improve the administration, coordination and delivery of youth development services in Dominica."

Stakeholders at the launch included youth officers, youth organizations and Government officials.

President of the National Youth Council, Senator Jahisiah Benoit wants the new youth policy to be both effective and current.

He said, "Dominica can feel proud that we have implemented the major provisions of our existing youth policy. From this review, we want to see an upgrade in our approach to effective policy implementation."

He says a successful process will not just depend on Cabinet but the youth groups across the country who will "breathe life into this policy and make sure that it is something relevant to our young persons."

Hon. Minister for Youth, Justina Charles was represented by the Minister for Information, Science, Telecommunications and Technology, Hon. Kelver Darroux.

He said, "Any review of

any policy has to be practical. We can come up with nice terms and surveys but at the end of the day, the practicality of the policy, I believe, is most important."

Henry Charles is Consultant on the six month project, he highlighted the main aspects of the policy to stakeholders.

"UNESCO in 2014 described a youth policy as an overarching vision for youth programming and they say it is a multi-faceted instrument. It covers issues of education, economics, youth participation, culture, well-being, innovation..." he listed.

[GIS Dominica]

✓ GUYANA: YOUTH IN NATURAL RESOURCES MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

Georgetown, 14 August 2017 - THE Ministry of Natural Resources on Monday launched its three-week Youth in Natural Resources Mentorship Programme which aims to introduce young people to the natural resources sector through the work of the Ministry and its agencies and corporate partners.

"In doing so the youth are expected to come to an understanding that working in the natural resources sector can be fulfilling and rewarding, and when done correctly, can sustain the environment and rich biodiversity." the ministry said in a statement.

Immediately following the launch in the Minister's boardroom, the participants, aged 15 to 18, embarked on a familiarization tour of the

Ministry, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, the Guyana Gold Board and the Guyana Forestry Commission.

Speaking to the participants, Minister Trotman said that they must grow to fall in love with their country by exploring it and the rich diversity, and to always remember that in the thrust to conserve and protect, the people in the hinterland communities also must always be considered foremost.

The Minister remarked that despite the perception that natural resources extraction is negative because of its potential for environmental degradation, the Ministry is working to bring a healthy balance between the extractive industries and the environment.

He said that the programme

is to demonstrate that there is virtue in the extractive industries.

He noted that mining, along with other extractive activities, is a wholesome endeavour which brings foreign exchange to the country, provides jobs and incomes to thousands and allows young people to become chemists and engineers, among other fulfilling professions.

"I hope that when you go out to these different places...like me you will fall in love with the country. Wherever we go try to see the beauty of your country," Minister Trotman urged. He told the participants that the programme, which will come to an end on August 28, 2017, will involve some community work such as tree-planting. Referring to the young people as pioneers for being

the first batch, the Minister expressed the hope that some of them could be around next year to assist with the second batch of youth participants.

[Stabroek News]



✓ JAMAICA: PRIME MINISTER TO LAUNCH YOUTH SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

Kingston, 10 August 2017 - PRIME Minister Andrew Holness will officially launch the National Youth Summer Employment Programme on Thursday August 10, 2017 at the Jamaica College Auditorium.

The programme is spearheaded by the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development and will be implemented through the Municipal Corporations/Municipality which will see to its effective running.

This initiative is specially designed to meet one of the Government's key priorities, which is to facilitate the empowerment of Jamaican youths by creating opportunities for them through employment.

Over 2,300 young people from various communities across Jamaica will be employed by the programme.

They will undertake a number of functions which will include the auditing of street lights and identifying vulnerable persons within communities who may require assistance during periods of natural disasters and other forms of emergency.

The Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Desmond McKenzie is very optimistic about the programme and the results it will yield.

"At the end of this programme both the participants and the Municipal Corporations are

expected to reap tremendous benefits.

These young people would have further developed their Knowledge base and skill set and the Municipal Corporations will have improved records on street lights and vulnerable persons," said Minister McKenzie.

The programme will start the third week in August and run throughout the remainder of the month into September.

[Loop Jamaica]

NEWS



✓ INDIA: YOUTH TOLD TO COME UP WITH INNOVATIVE IDEAS

Bhimavaram, 11 August 2017 - ANDHRA Pradesh Innovation Society (APIC) Manager Undavalli Suryanarayana said that four incubation centres have been set up in the state to develop analytical thinking among youth.

He was the chief guest in the concluding-day session of a three-day training programme on Internet of Things (IoT) organised by Innovation Society at SRKR Engineering College, Bhimavaram, on Wednesday, Suryanarayana said that four incubation centres have been set up in

Tirupati, Anantapur, Kakinada and Visakhapatnam.

In Tirupati centre, American experts are imparting training to students in the name of XLR-8, while in Visakhapatnam, China's top telecom company GT Soft would impart training to youth.

He said if youth come forward with innovative ideas, the government would extend financial assistance ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 5 crore for each new product.

He said youth should utilise the opportunity to produce new products and added the government had already prepared a plan in this regard.

He suggested the students to register at the incubation centres to explore their innovative ideas. College technology centre head N Gopalakrishnamurthy presided.

College Principal Dr G Pardhasaradhi Varma said new products have been produced in the college's incubation centre were introduced into the market.

D Kavya, Director of Bengaluru's IB Hubs, vice-president V Sessa Sai also spoke.

College Principal Pardhasaradhi Varma and Undavalli Suryanarayana have given away certificates to the students who participated in the training programme and released the incubation centres' brochures prepared by Innovation Society for youth.

[The Hans India]

✓ INDONESIA: INDONESIAN YOUTH WAGE PEACE ONLINE

Jakarta, 8 August 2017 - YOUNG people are helping Indonesia's National Counterterrorism Agency battle violent extremism online by uploading content that embraces pluralism and peace.

About 60 "Cyberspace Peace Envoys" gathered in Malang, East Java recently to discuss anti-radicalism campaigns they have launched - and the need for such efforts.

"We found 17,000 messages containing hate speech everyday, while positive contents were only 1,500. It's really concerning," said M. Yasin Arief, a participant.

He and some friends create images and short stories featuring the words of figures such as former Indonesian President Andurrahman Wahid, South Africa's anti-apartheid hero Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi, leader of

the Indian independence movement. Their Instagram account Sabda Perubahan (The Sound of Change) has 154,000 followers.

Viki Maulana also attended a "Cyberspace Peace Envoy" training held by the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) in Malang from July 23-27.

He said his group was responsible for delivering messages on social media every week that strengthen national unity and humanity.

The messages can be memes, graphics, videos, comics or texts. But his preferred medium is cartoons.

"Visual arts like comics are the best, because it's easy for people to understand. We try not to be patronizing, because who are we, anyway?" he said.

The BNPT training is being held in seven Indonesian cities this year. Bloggers, programmers and visual artists are among those taking part.

Launching training in West Sumatra this week, the nation's top counter-terror official said that no region was immune from the threat of violent extremism.

"There is no region, province, city or regency free from terrorism or radical ideology," BNPT chief Suhardi Alius said in Padang, the provincial capital, late Monday.

Sujatmiko, a BNPT official heading the counter-messaging efforts, said young people are needed to balance terrorist ideology online, which is spreading at an alarming rate.

"Why young people? Because the target of the brainwashing is young people," he said. "So young

people should be armed, not only with knowledge but with ideology and religion." "With these peace envoys we are creating a young generation to help BNPT carry out counter-messaging in cyberspace with positive, peaceful content," he said.

In July, National Police Chief Tito Karnavian said police had arrested 336 terrorism suspects from 2015 through June 2017.

In June, Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said that 430 Indonesians had been deported from Turkey after trying to cross over into Syria during that same time period.

The flow of foreign nationals to an Islamic State "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria has slowed considerably as its territory has shrunk.

[Benarnews]



✓ NEPAL: DISCUSSION ON YOUTHS' ROLE IN PEACE BUILDING

Kathmandu, 12 August 2017 - On the occasion of International Youth Day 2017, the Global Peace Youth Corps Nepal (GPYC Nepal) conducted a discussion program at St Xavier's College, Maitighar on Monday.

The students studying in various levels at the college

participated in the program. They discussed on the topic 'Role of Youth in Peace Building'.

As per the press statement released by St Xavier's College, a total of 39 students participated in the discussion.

Rupa Upreti, board member of National Youth Council,

was invited as the guest speaker for the event. In her speech, she urged the youths to be enthusiastic and energetic toward maintaining peace and harmony in the country.

During the discussion, one of the participants talked about the importance of youths' participation and interest in political

discussions.

Similarly, another student suggested participation of youths from slum areas to learn more about their opinion on the topic.

[Republica]

✓ OMAN: AWARD FOR INITIATIVES OF YOUTH LAUNCHED

Muscat, 10 August 2017 - UNDER the patronage of Ali bin Khalfan Al Jabri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, the fifth edition of Al Roya Youth Initiatives Award 2017 was launched at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on Wednesday, in the presence of innovators, interested youths, officials and applicants.

Ali bin Khalfan Al Jabri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, said in a press statement: "These initiatives and awards support the efforts of the Sultanate's

Government to encourage youth and motivate them to provide more initiatives that contribute to the service of the country and its economy".

He pointed out that Al Roya Youth Initiatives Award 2017 includes initiatives in the field of culture and science, which is the focus of the government.

He added that all governments seek to establish a developed society where technology is an impulse for diversifying areas of development of the national economy.

"By announcing the launch of the fifth edition of Al Roya Youth Initiatives Award 2017 Al Roya, Al Roya renews its commitment to continue supporting our young innovators for four years," said Hatem bin Hamad Al Ta'ee, Editor-in-Chief of Al Roya newspaper, Supervisor General of the award.

Said Al Balushi, Senior Vice President for Technical Affairs at Occidental Oman, said that the company's support for Al Roya Youth Initiatives Award stems from its deep

belief in the importance of encouraging the youths to innovate and excel in various fields.

He added that the company's keenness to support the award translates into clear interest in this type of initiatives, which fall within the strategic partnerships between the company and other institutions.

[Times of Oman]

✓ QATAR: QFC COMMITS TO SHAPING FUTURE YOUTH LEADERS

Doha, 7 August 2017 - QATAR Financial Centre (QFC) has reiterated its commitment to investing in Qatar's youth and shaping future leaders through comprehensive training programmes that it launches in this regard to provide Qatari youth with the necessary tools to succeed in the private sector.

QFC Authority CEO Yousuf Mohamed Al Jaida made the remarks as the centre hosted 30 participant students in the summer camp for high school and university students, which is

held by Bedaya Centre for Entrepreneurship and Career Development.

The visit aimed to raise awareness on existing organisations and companies in Qatar.

"We constantly look to assist in shaping future leaders and have developed a 360 internship programme to provide Qataris with the necessary tools to succeed in the private sector.

I am confident that with your perseverance and

determination, you will all play an integral part in securing a brighter, more promising future for Qatar, by continuously growing and enhancing our private sector," Al Jaida said during his welcome address. Bedaya General Manager Reem Al Suwaidi said QFC directly supports Bedaya's mission.

"We focus on inspiring and encouraging students to learn. To acquire the necessary basic skills, instil the value of their own work and communication skills, break the barriers of fear,

take responsibility through a range of integrated solutions, and provide them with the ability to deal with the needs of the market and commodities and develop their skills by taking advantage of their time during the summer period."

The students were shown around QFC to learn about the entity and its activities.



They were also given a chance to speak to senior management in different departments to gain a better idea of the workings of the centre.

path by providing them with practical skills that contribute to their success.

[The Peninsula Qatar]

QFC's youth engagement programme comes in line with the human and economic development pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

In 2009, the entity established the Qatar Finance and Business Academy (QFBA) to raise the financial services industry standards and help organisations and professionals achieve their learning and business .

Last year, QFC launched the region's first ever Hearing Impaired Program, which aimed to ensure that students with hearing impairment have equal access and an equal opportunity at higher education programmes and services to better equip them for life after graduation and ease their transition to the workforce.

QFC is a business and financial centre that provides a platform for firms to do business in Qatar and the region. It offers its own legal, regulatory, tax and business environment, which allows 100 percent foreign , 100 percent repatriation of profits, and charges a competitive rate of 10 percent corporate tax on locally sourced profits.

Meanwhile, Bedaya works to empower support and guide Qatari youth to launch their business and start their career, while helping them discover their

NEWS



✓ AMERNIA: ONLY 35.4% OF ARMENIAN YOUTH PURSUE PROFESSION

Yerevan, 12 August 2017 - GENERATION of Independence: Research Among Young People” found out that Armenia’s youth today is “vulnerable and incomplete”.

The study was carried out by the Armenian branch of Friedrich Ebert Foundation in cooperation with Faculty of Sociology of YSU.

They surveyed 1200 people aged 14-29 from Yerevan and 10 marzes of Armenia.

According to the research, young Armenians have uncertainty in public life, and social activity is more characteristic for the males.

The youth don’t trust state agencies and display minimal political involvement.

“We initiated the research to understand young people in Armenia, as they are the sector of society that starts changes, moves forward and succeeds.

Our goal was to stress the importance of young people’s role in the society and political decision making,” Director of the FES South Caucasus Office Julia Blazius told the press today.

She noted that the research outlined main problems and

stressed certain points in education and employment.

The research discovered that one of serious problems is lack of financial resources for acquiring professional education. 24.3% of young people in Armenia don’t want to continue their education for that reason exactly.

On the other hand, professional knowledge doesn’t guarantee a job, and only 35.4% of the youth pursue their respective profession.

Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Armenia Karine

Harutyunyan attached importance to such researches.

“They raise awareness in the ministry about young people’s problems, help us plan the efforts and make targeted decisions,” Deputy Minister said.

According to her, those problems aren’t new, and the research contains important issues and stresses, such as lack of state funding for higher education and resulting low quality of education, etc.

[Armenian Weekly]

✓ AZERBAIJAN: AZERCELL DECLARES FURTHER SUPPORT OF YOUTH

Baku, 18 August 2017 - AZERCELL CEO Vahid Mursaliyev met with the students who had obtained the title of Azercell scholars.

The operator reports that Mursaliyev stated at the meeting that in addition to monthly stipend from Azercell, the program will also provide the students an opportunity to enrich their knowledge about telecommunications, participate in Azercell’s

corporate events and social activities, receive various trainings, as well as take internship at the company. “Azercell has supported the youth and students since the company started its business activity. A number of student programs, internships and other projects have been carried out so far.

We also concluded cooperation agreements with the universities you study in. All these steps are

aimed to develop our education”, he stated.

The stipend winners currently study in Baku State University, Azerbaijan State Economic University, ADA University, Public Administration Academy under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khazar University, Gafqaz University, Ganja State University, Nakhchivan State University, Baku High Oil School, State Oil and Industry University,

Azerbaijan Technical University, Mingachevir State University, Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction and Ganja Agrarian University. Azercell has conducted the Student Bursary Program annually since 2008. Over 130 students from various universities in Azerbaijan have benefited from the Program.

[Azerbaijan Business Center]

✓ GEORGIA: YOUNGSTERS CAN SHARPEN BIRD ID SKILLS

Tbilisi, 18 August 2017 – IT’s time for young birders to begin honing their bird-identifying skills as they prepare for the 12th annual Georgia Youth Birding Competition, set for April 29-30.

Registration is open and online at www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC.

This fun, free competition has been connecting young people with wildlife and having a positive impact on conservation for more than a decade.

The reach extends even beyond Georgia, with Race 4 Birds Foundation (www.race4birds.org) using the event as a model for youth birding competitions

nationwide.

Coordinator Tim Keyes of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is enthusiastic about the future.

“We will continue growing an enduring passion for birds and the outdoors with every year’s event in Georgia, and inspire a growing number of events

for a wildlife biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Nongame Conservation Section.

He said the Youth Birding Competition has developed “amazing competitors” who have gone on to study biology in college.



Some former birding novices are now veterans, and bringing younger children under their wing in birding.

The event has inspired a young birders club, a growing network of young birders connected through social media and participation in American Birding Association and Audubon Society camps for youth.

The competition also continues to set state records for birding youth. The top team in 2016

identified 170 species, the second consecutive all-time high for the event. The fun gets going April 29-30 when the 24-hour statewide birdathon for teams varying in ages from kindergarteners to high school seniors returns.

The deadline to register is March 31. Complete information, including online registration, is at www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC.

The competition and an accompanying T-shirt Art Contest are sponsored by DNR's Wildlife Resources Division, The

Environmental Resources Network Inc. (TERN) friends group of the Nongame Conservation Section - and others including the Georgia Ornithological Society and the Atlanta and Albany Audubon societies.

A banquet and awards ceremony will be held April 30 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center near Mansfield.

Teams register online in one of four age divisions and compete against other groups their age. Participants can also

volunteer to raise money for conservation organizations. The Youth Birding Competition is designed for youth of all skill levels.

Those new to birding can take advantage of mentoring opportunities offered through the competition.

As a voluntary part of the competition, teams also raise money for conservation.

This year's pledges pushed past \$20,000 the total raised over the event's 11 years.

[Coastal Courier]

✓ ROMANIA: YOUNG PEOPLE SET TO MAKE LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY TO ROMANIA

Bucharest, 17 August 2017 - A GROUP of young people from North Belfast are gearing up for a potentially life-changing trip to Romania.

Twenty youths, aged between 15 and 18, who are part of the Romania Project in the New Lodge area, are to travel to the country in just a few weeks.

The New Lodge Youth Project, as part of Ashton Community Trust, started back in 2015 and enabled young people to get involved in an extensive programme which involved personal development,

supporting young people with disabilities at the 174 Trust, volunteering to help Belfast's homeless and intergenerational work with the local elderly.

Youth worker Sean McMullan, who is in charge of the project, said the project was much more than just a trip abroad. "The young people learn so much throughout the year within the programme which benefits them whilst out in Romania," he said.

"The young people volunteer weekly in the 174 Trust with young people with disability, taking part

in homeless work and also learning a lot about themselves.

"Whilst in Romania the young people work in a local disability centre, orphanages, family homes and engage with young people their age to experience the culture of a young person living in Romania.

"The young people are a credit to us at the youth centre, to themselves and to their families as well. The Romania Project experience is one that is life-changing and it is a privilege to be a part of this experience with all of these dedicated young

people.

"Whilst already making a big impact in their community I know that these young people will be great role models for other young people in their youth centre and community for a long time to come."

The project has won two awards for positive change and continues to impact positively on young people's lives in the New Lodge district.

[Belfast Media Group]

✓ SPAIN: SPAIN JOBLESS RATE TO 18.6PC, YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AT 43PC

Madrid, 20 August 2017 - SPAIN youth unemployment rate edged down to a seven-year low of 18.6 percent at the end of 2016, the National Statistics Institute reported today.

The number of young people out of work fell by 83,000 in the October-December period,

to 4.2 million. Over the year, the unemployment rate dropped by 2.3 percentage points, the institute said.

The jobless rate for young people under 25 years of age remained at a high 43 percent, down from 46 percent at the end of 2015. Despite recent

improvements, Spain still has the second-highest unemployment rate in the 28-country European Union behind Greece.

The conservative government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has made reducing youth unemployment and boosting economic growth its main

goals since taking office in 2011.

[Socialist Alternative]



✓ AUSTRALIA: YOUNG PEOPLE URGED TO GET INVOLVED

Canberra, 4 August 2017 - PASSIONATE and progressive young people have the opportunity to make a difference by becoming a member of the City of Bunbury Youth Advisory Council. The YAC plays a pivotal role in organising youth events and being a formal committee of the council which advises the Mayor and councillors on plans, strategies and proposals

affecting the region's youth. Successful applicants, aged between 12 to 25, have the opportunity to work on exciting projects that benefit young people in Bunbury such as Youth Connections, SHIFT Festival, the City of Bunbury Australia Day Celebrations and TEDx Youth Bunbury.

It is also a great place to learn leadership skills and support a variety of youth

initiatives.

Bunbury Youth Mayor Sean Smith urged interested young people to be proactive and get involved.

"If you are passionate about Bunbury and an innovative thinker, or you have an interest in local government, then YAC is the perfect place for you," Mr Smith said.

Application forms can be downloaded from the City of Bunbury website www.bunbury.wa.gov.au by searching under Youth under the Community tab, or by visiting Customer Service at the City of Bunbury Administration Building.

[The West Australian]

✓ FIJI: EIGHT SET FOR YOUTH FESTIVAL

Suva, 2 August 2017 - A GROUP of eight youth delegates have been selected to represent Fiji for the first time at the Spirit of Sharing (SOS) Festival of the Future in New Zealand this week.

The eight were chosen out of 97 applicants.

Farewelling the youths in Suva on Monday was the Assistant Minister for Youths and Sports Ilesia Delana.

Mr Delana said this was a time to interact with youths from other nations and discuss issues concerning

youth development.

"The Festival of the Future will bring together young people from countries including New Zealand, Australia, India and the United States of America," he said.

"It will be an opportune time to connect with your peers, innovators and practitioners and explore issues pertaining to youth development."

"Ensure you learn from their success stories which will contribute to your growth as representatives of every Fijian youth."

Mr Delana encouraged the delegates to share their experiences with other youths from the different nations as it was a two-way communication and learning process.

"Be inspired and return with determination to make changes, take action and foster a future you desire for you and your peers, but please also behave as we would expect disciplined youths representing Fiji," he said.

Meanwhile, one of the youngest delegates, Year 13 student of Nadi Muslim College, Raniyah

Muhammed, said she was excited about the trip.

"I am looking forward to listening to stories from the international youths and I hope to learn a lot from them and make a difference in my country," she said.

[The Fiji Times Online]

✓ PAPUA NEW GUINEA: YOUTH HAVE VITAL ROLE IN PROMOTING PEACE IN THE COUNTRY

Port Moresby 9 August 2017 - IN celebrating International Youth Day on 12th August, the United Nations in Papua New Guinea reiterates its recognition that young people's inclusion in the peace and security agenda as well as in the development context is a key to promoting sustainable development and building peace.

With a theme of "Youth Building Peace", International Youth Day 2017 celebrates young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation of societies for social justice and sustainable peace.

The United Nations advocates to all nations to accelerate attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, by fostering peaceful

and inclusive societies. Its goal 16 specifically addresses the issue of peace and aims to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, in which youth plays an important role in deterring and resolving conflicts as agents for change.

Acting Executive Director of the United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA), Dr. Natalia Kanem said building peaceful, cohesive and resilient societies requires the full and meaningful participation of young people by investing in them in ways that build their capabilities and creating opportunities that will enable them to realize their full potential in life are a prerequisite for their engagement in civic affairs.



She said if we want a more peaceful world, we can no longer afford to leave young people behind and we must listen to and work with them.

In a country where almost 30 percent of the population is between the age of 10 and 24, young people can and should be regarded as agents for positive and constructive change as they play a critical role in promoting sustainable development and maintaining peace

“I have met many young Papua New Guineans who are passionate about bringing a positive change

in their communities and have devoted themselves to advocating for and achieving the betterment of the nation and we are always inspired by them and remain determined to support their endeavours,” said Mr. Roy Trivedy, UN Resident Coordinator in Papua New Guinea.

The United Nations in Papua New Guinea is committed to supporting youth in the country and to reinforce this commitment, UN agencies in Papua New Guinea are organizing two events to commemorate International Youth Day. UNFPA will be hosting a Youth road show today

(Friday) in Buka, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea, the Australian Government, the World Vision, and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Government to acknowledge, and promote the importance of youth in the peace and development of the region and the country.

UN Women will be holding a road show at the Stop and Shop car park, Waigani Central in Port Moresby and the event is aimed at reaching out to youths, showcasing activities and highlights from the Sanap

Wantaim campaign funded by the Australian Government. The road show is organized as part of the campaign and promotes awareness around creating safe public spaces and ending all forms of violence.

During the event, the Sanap Wantaim youth advocates who represent key youth organizations in Port Moresby will project their messages through song, dance and speeches, with mobilizing the youths of the city to take action for peace.

[Post –Courier]

✓ SAMOA: SAMOA CALLS ON OLDER GENERATION TO LISTEN TO YOUTH VOICE

Apia, 16 August 2017 - SAMOA's deputy prime minister has called on the older generation to listen to the voices of the youth and support their initiatives as they will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Speaking at the opening of

Youth Week in Apia, Fiame Naomi Mata'afa acknowledged many young people's achievements and contributions to Samoa's development.

Youth make up 64-percent of Samoa's population.

She also encouraged the youth to utilize their talents and skills to develop their families, villages and the country and acknowledged those who have excelled in sports on the world stage.

Fiame made particular reference to Samoa's recent

gold medal won at last month's Commonwealth Youth Games rugby sevens tournament.

[Radio New Zealand]

✓ SOLOMON ISLAND: YOUTHS END TRAINING

Honiara, 11 August 2017 - MORE than 30 youths around Honiara have successfully completed a youth innovation workshop on Wednesday.

The Solomon Islands Youth Innovation Training and Planning Workshop was funded and organised by United Nations Peace-building Fund (UNPBF) project.

The workshop introduced participants to the concept of innovation to help them understand entrepreneurship, social innovation and peace-building whilst

sharing best practices of working with young in Solomon Islands and in the Pacific.

“I am happy to be here in Honiara to train these youths,“ facilitator Ms Kelin Linka told Solomon Star in an interview.

Mr Linka is from the UNDP Youth Economic Empowerment Unit from the Bangkok Asia-Pacific Hub Office.

She said youths are a powerful age group in any nation and she was only here to train them to be innovative.

Mr Linka said during the training she noticed that innovation is not something new in Solomon Islands.

“Solomon Islands is a country with a high youth population and increasing youth entrepreneurship.

People here are innovative and by being innovative people can address problems and try out new concepts. Innovation is not all about technology.“ She said the training was held in preparation for a National Innovation Summit in October 2017.

It aims to help strengthen

the capacities of young leaders to design and implement ideas and business models for social impact in their communities.



UNPBF is supporting national stakeholders to sustain peace by creating an inclusive space for dialogues, supporting implementation of Solomon Islands national peace policies and engaging women and youth in peace activities implemented jointly by UNDP and UN Women Solomon Islands, in close collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation & Peace, and Ministry of Women, Youth, Children & Family Affairs.

Two of the workshop participants, Danny Kakadi and Manna Levo said they were happy with the training.

“We learned a lot during the training. We looked at innovative ideas and how we could utilise them to help ourselves without relying on other organisations and the government to support us.

“We- the youths of our country have many innovative ideas but have not utilised them and hopefully those of us who attend the workshop will materialise our ideas to earn a living.

[Solomon Star]

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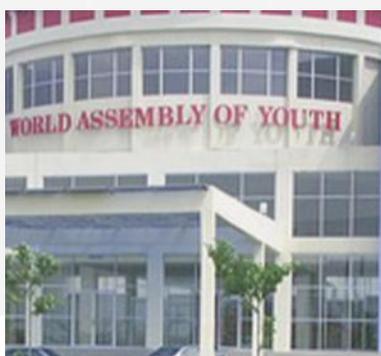
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