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✓ *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2017*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
9 August 2017	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	Melaka, Malaysia
12 August 2017	International Youth Day	Melaka, Malaysia
19 August 2017	World Humanitarian Day	Melaka, Malaysia
23rd - 30th August 2017	28th International Youth Forum	Melaka, Malaysia
24 August 2017	WAY 68th Anniversary	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ GAMBIA: 'INVESTING IN YOUTHS IS KEY TO ENHANCING AGRICULTURE'

Banjul, 7 July 2017 - THE minister of Youth and Sports has underscored that investing in young people living in the rural areas is key to enhancing agricultural productivity and food security, thereby boosting rural economies and reducing rural-urban drift.

Henry Gomez was speaking recently during the graduation of 2nd and 3rd batches of The Songhai Gambia Initiative at a ceremony held at Chamen village, North Bank Region.

He acknowledged that the government of The Gambia under the leadership of President Adama Barrow

has recognised the role of young in the rapid socio-economic development of the country.

Minister Gomez indicated that the rapidly rising population of young people in The Gambia poses development challenges, but can also be transformed into an opportunity for effective contribution to national development.

"Without the relevant investment in youth to realise their full potentials, young people can easily be exposed to vices such as forced migration, radicalisation and violence extremism".

He called on the graduating class to always practice passion and commitment that they have demonstrated during the course of their training, positing that they should remain as signing examples anywhere they may find themselves.

He acknowledged that young people have enormous potentials for innovation and risk-taking that is often at the core of growth and development in rural areas, particularly in smallholder agriculture.

The Gambia Songhai Initiative, he went on, is implemented based on the Songhai model, an

innovative institution with components to develop a functional agricultural system that is functional through mother farm and to inculcate agro-entrepreneurs and promotes services to leverage them, thus creating a spread effect by building a critical mass of successful young entrepreneurs throughout the country.

Speaking on behalf of the project technical team, Jude Nwachukwu congratulated the graduating class for their dedication, commitment and hardwork throughout their training.

Other speakers include, Nessie Golakei-Goold, of the UN System in The Gambia.

✓ KENYA: YOUTH, THE FUTURE IS OURS FOR THE TAKING

Nairobi, 6 July 2017 - KENYA is a young country, both as a sovereign state and in terms of its demography.

Countries all around the world are struggling with youth unemployment, and, indeed, underemployment.

Our President has made this matter his most urgent priority in the past four years, and moving forward to the next five.

He certainly unveiled a manifesto for the youth.

There has rightly been great fanfare around the apprenticeship programme that will be piloted and rolled out by the next UhuRuto administration.

We should all remember, however, that the

locomotive for positive youth empowerment already left the station in 2013.

The government supports providing low-interest loans to youth-owned enterprises, enabling them to grow their businesses.

About Sh11.8 billion has been disbursed to 893,438 young people under the Youth Enterprise Development Fund.

It has given us young people the opportunity to be pioneers, to engage in a plethora of fields we could only previously have dreamt about, both in the formal and informal sectors.

In addition, the government awarded a staggering Sh42.8 billion to youth, women and the disabled, an

unprecedented scale, through a programme that has caught the attention of the entire continent.

The 30 per cent scheme Access to Government Procurement Opportunities has aided close to 40,000 businesses and 200,000 Kenyans.

All the while, a mass of new and innovative entrepreneurship training programmes has helped at least 12,000 small businesses, providing young Kenyans with the skills to compete in local, regional, and in some cases, global markets.

So when Jubilee's youth-focussed manifesto was unveiled on Monday, I for one was not surprised.

The new government has

promised to create a revamped Youth Development Council to coordinate youth-related activities and facilitate the training and mentoring we need to enter the workforce.

The government will work with the private sector to ensure that the training is specific to the jobs that are required, a simple matching of supply and demand.

Utilising new, burgeoning techniques, including big data analysis, the Jubilee government has committed to ensure that every young person seeking employment will have a fair chance.

The Ajira Platform and online registration will revolutionise job seeking.



Through the Youth Development Council, graduates will be efficiently matched with potential employers.

The National Youth Service, already making waves, will receive additional budgets and responsibilities, working with international organisations and receiving full support from the national and county governments.

This momentum will be used to underpin a host of commercial projects in Kenya and across the EAC.

The guarantee that 30 per cent of all appointments, projects and budgets will be reserved for youth is one of the most fundamental commitments of this

manifesto. Not to be taken lightly, it is a powerful sign that President Uhuru Kenyatta and his team believe in us, and are willing to put their faith in our drive, creativity and energy, where perhaps traditionally experience and age would have been favoured.

Jubilee believes in the creativity of our youth.

The party manifesto commits to enlarging 'Studio Mashinani' and 'Talent pia ni Kazi', where young people can come and make their music and promote their creative talents.

Creativity is also the name of the game when it comes to Jubilee policy.

By linking training and skills to specific jobs, the Ajira Platform will be used to make sure that where skilled workers are required, skilled workers are received, and where unskilled workers are required, they too are received.

With a proven record of massive development projects, the building of roads and housing, irrigation, water infrastructure and electrification will bring more and more employment opportunities to young Kenyans, ultimately putting shillings in their pockets.

As has been well noted in the media, the creative tax incentive programme will enable more and more Kenyan graduates to obtain

internships and apprenticeships across the private sector, and in particular Kenya's world famous 'Silicon Savannah'.

Simultaneously, talented young people will continue to be handpicked to work in the Public Service through the new Young Professionals Management Programme.

Finally, with the establishment of the Biashara Bank, more young entrepreneurs will be able to receive attractive, available and affordable financing programmes to develop their businesses start-up. Kenya is just around the corner.

[The star]

✓ NAMIBIA: NSA EXPLAINS YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Windhoek, 14 July 2017 - THE Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) has explained that employment and unemployment rates are derived from the labour force or the economically active population.

In Namibia, this population is 1,026,268 people, and out of this about 676,885 persons are employed (66 percent).

The unemployment rate among the youth is 43.4 percent for those in the 15 to 34 year old age bracket.

This age bracket adopted by the NSA is the official definition of youth, as recommended by Africa Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for the purpose of international comparisons of labour

statistics. The 70 percent unemployment rates in the age group 15 to 19 years, which recently made headline news in the press and on social media, must be seen in relation to the labour force population of that age group, which is 51,725 persons, the NSA said.

The total population in this age group is 242,819 persons, of which majority of them (about 191,094 people or 78.7 percent) are regarded as "economically inactive" (in school and not available for work and those who are disabled), because they are still in school or training, or for other reasons like disabilities, explained the NSA spokesman Nelson Ashipala. Ashipala noted that the survey results recorded

46,377 persons who are not in education and/or not in training either, plus 5,348 who are in education/training, which makes up 51,725 people in the age-group 15 to 19 years during the interview period in October/November of 2016.

"As per International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions, work or employment takes precedence over anything, and also the entire Labour Force Survey Analysis is always and has always been from 15 years and above.

Hence, we cannot exclude them unless they state that they are not available for work either, because they are in school or for other reasons which makes them inactive," said Ashipala.

Historically, unemployment rates in this group has always been high due to the fact that many of those who found themselves in the labour force have low qualifications as well and the labour market is not able to absorb them.

"The question that should be asked is: why do we find so many youths who are supposed to be in school now in the labour force, rather than questioning the validity of the results of the survey, which has been consistent in all the four surveys conducted by the NSA.



“In fact, it is true that the picture should have shown many (if not all) of the 15 to 19 years to be in the category of economically inactive, as they should be in school.

This means that there is a need for a socio-economic

analysis on this matter and it also implies that the Ministry of Labour, through its labour inspectors, needs to look into the matter of minimum legal age of employment,” Ashipala added.

In addition, the strict

unemployment rate (people who have actively been looking for work during the four weeks prior to survey) for the youth aged 15 to 19 years is 51.3 percent.

“This figure is still high and it tells a story of the dire need for an income at this

age (15 to 19 years),” Ashipala noted.

[New Era]

✓ TANZANIA: LUGALO GOLF CLUB KEEN TO PROMOTE YOUTH PROGRAMME

Dar es Salaam, 6 July 2017 - NEW appointed competition Secretary at the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) Lugalo Golf Club of Dar es Salaam, Enock Magile has vowed to work hard and promote juniors programmes.

Lugalo Captain Japhet Masai told the 'Daily News' in Dar es Salaam yesterday that Magile was appointed at the position effectively from July 4th, this year.

Magile is determined to

make club home of golf, attracting a pool of young players from across the country.

Speaking to the 'Daily News' after appointment, Magile expressed his delight, saying he will work diligently to take the sport at the club to the new heights. Magile said: "I understand the challenge ahead to fulfil our club's ambitions.

I'm ready to work hard, hand in hand with other

officials and members to ensure that Lugalo continues to be at the top level."

However, Magile said that the huge task is to find potential sponsors to facilitate juniors' programmes and competitions.

He said, the aim is to have as many junior tournaments as possible to develop their talents and give them competition experience.

"I will also ensure that Lugalo put friendly environment for both club and national competitions to be staged more frequently.

It is our objective to work with national body TGU to help development of the game in the country at large," he said.

[Tanzania Daily News]

✓ ZAMBIA: TELL ZAMBIAN YOUTH ABOUT YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND- CHISAMBO

Chililabombwe, 13 July 2017 - CHILILABOMBWE District Youth Development Coordinating Committee Chairperson Samson Chisambo has urged all District commissioners, Executive Mayors and councilors in Zambia to sensitize the youth on how to access the youth empowerment fund.

In an interview, Chisambo observed that despite Government introducing the Youth empowerment fund, a number of young people across the country have continued facing challenges in terms of empowerment due to lack of information regarding the youth Empowerment Fund.

Chisambo noted that lack of information on how to access the funds is a serious

setback which should be dealt with by all relevant authorities in various Districts in order for the youths to be self-reliant.

Chisambo has since stressed the need for relevant authorities to ensure that they avail all the necessary information to the young people regarding the Youth Empowerment Fund which is aimed at uplifting the livelihood of many youths in Zambia.

“I urge all District commissioners, Executive Mayors and councilors in Zambia to sensitize the youth on how to access the youth empowerment fund” Chisambo said.

[Lusaka times]



✓ BOLIVIA: VETERAN'S ORGANIZATIONS ASSIST YOUTH

Brunswick County, 19 July 2017 - AMERICAN Legion Post 543, St James, and the Wilmington's 40&8 Voiture 245 combined forces on June 4. Representatives from both organizations visited Horseplay Farms/ Our Heroes Inc. in Bolivia.

Tuition assistance is

provided for veteran's dependents and children with physical, emotional and special needs.

These youngsters will be introduced to a five-hour "Horse Sense Workshop," learning skills from basic horsemanship, grooming, to personal space barriers.

Equine therapy has been proven to be quite beneficial in developmental therapy.

They also visited the Brunswick County Youth Council Inc. "LAX BBQ" fundraising event.

This fledgling organization

is looking to introduce the children of Brunswick County to opportunities combining fellowship, scholarships and programs that may have been underutilized until now.

[StarNewsOnline.com]

✓ CANADA: GIVES 128 BOLTON-AREA YOUNG PEOPLE JOB SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Bolton, 24 July 2017 - WHEN Canada's young people get the training and experience they need to be able to find and keep good jobs, the middle class grows and the economy thrive.

Today, Rodger Cuzner, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour,

on behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, announced that the Government of Canada will provide funding to help 128 young people who need it most overcome barriers to getting a job or returning to school. Caledon Community Services' LIFE for Youth project will

receive close to \$1.5 million from the Government. Through the LIFE for Youth project, youth will attend workshops that are tailored to their needs.

These include sessions on job searching and networking, time management, communication skills, conflict resolution, stress

management and health and safety certification.

They will also get valuable work experience in sectors like retail, food services, construction and manufacturing.

[Canada NewsWire]

✓ GUYANA: JOBS STILL A CHALLENGE

Georgetown, 1 July 2017 - ACROSS the globe, the evidence points to the fact that there is a high level of youth employment.

This is confirmed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) which estimated that the global youth unemployment rate was expected to reach 13.1 per cent in 2016, and would remain at that level through to 2017.

The upward trend is apparent, based on the fact that in 2015, global youth employment stood at 12.9 per cent.

In August 2014, Geoff Tily, a senior economist in the Trade Union Congress in the United Kingdom, made the observation that the global youth unemployment rate was more than double

the global unemployment rate, which stood at 5.8 per cent in 2015 and was (as of January) expected to be unchanged into 2016.

With this being the case, it means that governments are challenged to find creative ways to grow their economies.

It would be expected that governments will critically examine measures of stimulating the private sector to invest and to create new forms of business that will absorb many young workers.

In the English-speaking Caribbean where, for the most part, negative growth is being recorded, this has given rise to unprecedented levels of youth unemployment.

As a solution to this crisis, there seems to be a deliberate strategy to promote entrepreneurship and the creation of an informal sector. While there is merit in this, it does not solve the problem of finding employment for the vast majority of well educated young men and women coming out of schools, colleges and universities.

The solution itself may be cosmetic in that entrepreneurs and members in the informal sector find themselves challenged as it relates to sustainability. A study commissioned by the Caribbean Development Bank in 2015, revealed that youth unemployment rates in the Caribbean are among the highest in the world.

One of the main findings was that nearly 25 per cent

of youth in countries for which statistics were available, were unemployed. The data showed that the regional countries with the highest persistent youth unemployment were Guyana and Suriname which, since 2000, have consistently been above 30 per cent, with the rate in Guyana hovering around 40 per cent since this time.

What makes for interesting reading is the fact that most countries had a relatively consistent youth unemployment rate over the period, but the Bahamas, Barbados and, to some degree, Belize, demonstrated a spike in youth unemployment since 2007.



This has been attributed in part to the recent global economic crisis.

The youth employment problem which is being experienced has been around for some time.

The findings of a study which was commissioned by the Caribbean Office of the International Labour Organization and undertaken by the late Dennis Pantin, economist and researcher at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus (1996), revealed that the youth cohort looms larger in terms of unemployment.

It was estimated that

404,000 persons or 15 per cent of the region's labour force was unemployed at the time.

A 1993 Commission on Youth in Barbados found that among the reasons advanced to explain youth unemployment in the island were inadequate education, lack of appropriate training in terms of multi-skilling, relevance to modern technology, exceedingly high occupational and wage aspirations, lack of work experience and inappropriate attitudes.

It can be said that there are ongoing efforts to address some of these deficiencies. The introduction of training and use of new

technologies, along with a focus on technical and vocational education, the development of skills and competencies, employability skills and job apprenticeship schemes, are the means being adopted to enhance the preparation of young people for the world of work.

It is now up to governments and the private sector across the Caribbean region to drive investments so as to create new business ventures and job opportunities.

Where there remains a limitation on available jobs at the domestic level, the export of labour ought to become a serious

consideration.

The move in this direction may be guided by information shared by the ILO that "Globally, the share of young people between 15 and 29 years old who are willing to move permanently to another country stood at 20 per cent in 2015.

The highest inclination to move abroad, at 38 per cent, is found in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, followed closely by Eastern Europe at 37 per cent."

[Barbados Today]

✓ JAMAICA: PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON GANJA FOR YOUTH

Kingston, 23 July 2017 - THE National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) will be embarking on a full scale youth public education campaign to delay initiation into smoking and to provide young persons with information about healthy coping and lifestyle options.

Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, provided details at the sitting of the House of Representatives on July 18.

He was making his contribution to a private member's motion brought by Member of Parliament for Central Kingston, Rev. Ronald Thwaites, on public health issues arising from tobacco and ganja.

"In fact, we are well advanced in completing that public education programme and the Ministry of Health has

allocated some \$50 million over a period of time to support it," Dr. Tufton said.

He noted that the campaign will build on the youth #talkdtruth #FutureComeFirst prevention programme that is owned by the NCDA, adding that the programme will utilize mass media campaigns, to include social media and special edutainment strategies.

"This campaign will be implemented over a two-year period, and then evaluated and adjustments made to the main promotional messages, if necessary.

A defining feature of this campaign is the integration of peer and family support strategies to support and maintain behaviour change," the Minister said.

Dr. Tufton said reports from key stakeholders in the law-enforcement, education and health sectors have been consistent regarding public perception of the recent Amendments to the Dangerous Drugs Act. The perception, he said, particularly among young people, is that ganja is now a legal drug to be used at leisure, regardless of location, age, quantity and context.

The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2015 was passed to provide for "the modification of penalties for the possession of cannabis in specified small quantities and the smoking of cannabis in specified circumstances, and for a scheme of licences, permits and other authorizations for medical, therapeutic or scientific purposes".

This amendment has been referred to as the 'decriminalization of cannabis.'

The Health Minister said the impact of cannabis on cognitive functioning along with the existing challenges with education/literacy in school children and the increased prevalence of cannabis use and misuse by Jamaican adolescents is a major concern.

"There are edibles (cookies and sweets) present in the Jamaican context some being sold within prominent schools," Dr. Tufton noted.



He cited a study by Professor Archibald McDonald (1999) examining trauma injuries presented at the University Hospital, which showed that 46 per cent of patients were positive for cannabis; while 50 per cent and 55 per cent of victims of road traffic accidents and interpersonal violence, respectively, were

positive for cannabis.

Also, within the general population, a Drug Prevalence Survey conducted by the NCDA in 2016 among 4,623 individuals islandwide, revealed that 28 per cent of the population (12-65 years) had used cannabis at some point in their lifetime and

18 per cent used it in the past year with the average age of first use being 16.

Dr. Tufton said there has been much public discussion about the implications of the new legislation, and much misinformation surrounding its provisions.

He added that the consensus is that a public education strategy is urgently required to address the implications of these changes for various groups in the society, especially targeting youth.

[Jamaica Information Service]

✓ TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: URGES YOUNG PEOPLE TO STAY AWAY FROM TROUBLE

Port of Spain , 25 July 2017

-YOUNG people are being urged to be focused, engage in positive activities and stay out of trouble during the holiday period.

The advice comes from the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Convention.

Nikoli Edwards, founder of the group, in a News Power Now interview this afternoon appealed to young persons to avoid getting into trouble and, instead, participate in events that will help empower them.

[Power 102 FM]

NEWS



✓ INDIA: I-T DEPARTMENT HOLDS WALKATHON TO EDUCATE YOUTH

New Delhi, 24 July 2017 - OFFICIALS of the Income Tax (IT) department in Thane held a walkathon on Sunday to flag-off their three-day campaign for the IT Day on Monday to create awareness about tax compliances among the youth.

A walkathon organised by the Thane circle of the IT department saw hundreds of

students from Saraswati School along with IT officials helping to spreading the message of paying regular income tax.

The event was part of the three-day series of events organised by the department on the eve of 157th Income tax day that is observed every year on July 24. The IT day is observed every year to mark the start

of IT collection and formation of the department in 1860.

"We have arranged several informative sessions along with public participation programmes like tree plantation, distribution of solar powered bulbs over three days to commemorate the day this year," said Sudha Ramchandran, joint commissioner of IT

department, Thane.

The celebrations, said officers, will culminate on Monday with an informative event at Gadkari Rangayatan in the presence of senior officers from the department and chartered accountants.

[Times of India]

✓ MALAYSIA: LAM THYE: FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH OF MALAYSIAN YOUTH

Petaling Jaya, 2 July 2017 - MALAYSIA needs to focus more on the mental health and emotional well-being of young people, said National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye.

Lee, a member of the Health Ministry's Mental Health Promotion Advisory Council, said the recent increase in violent behaviour and suicidal tendency among Malaysian youth should be viewed seriously.

"The government and community cannot remain silent any longer and must address the issue, especially the stigma of mental disorder," Lee said in a statement on Sunday.

He said that awareness of mental health issues must be raised in schools while mental healthcare be made more accessible.

"We must also ensure that patients' rights are not being discriminated and they be allowed to make informed choices on their treatment and be legally protected," he said.

Lee quoted data from the 2015 National Health and Morbidity Survey, which found that 29.2 per cent of Malaysians above the age of 16 suffered from mental illness.

This number constituted an 11.2 per cent increase from 2006.

He said a government campaign is needed to encourage those facing depression and other mental health disorders to seek help from mental healthcare centres.

"At the same time, the government must address the shortage of competent experts, especially clinical psychologists, to deal with mental health problems.

"Malaysia is also lacking in psychiatrists as at present, there are merely 360 registered psychiatrists in the public and private sectors," he added.

He explained that psychiatrists are trained medical doctors who can prescribe medication while

psychologists focus more on psychotherapy and use behavioural intervention to treat emotional and mental issues in patients.

Lee said that efforts were also needed to promote mental health issues in workplaces.

He called on employers to establish occupational safety and health committees to address mental health problems in their employees.

He also suggested that organisations introduce employment assistance programmes to provide prevention and early intervention for employees facing stress, emotional and mental health issues.

✓ PAKISTAN: YOUTH TO DEVELOP BILLION-\$ COMPANY IN TAX-FREE ENVIRONMENT

Islamabad, 19 July 2017 - DR. Umar Saif who founded Pakistan's largest startup incubator, Plan9, the founding Vice-Chancellor of one of Pakistan's premier technology university (ITU), named as one of the top innovators in the world by MIT Technology Review (TR35) & Young Global Leader by the World

Economic Forum (YGL), Chairman PITB and Advisor to the CM said that it was an encouraging news for Pakistan's startup ecosystem that the government has made Tech Companies and Startups in Pakistan tax free in the federal budget 2017-18, which would accelerate the pace of startup activity. He further stated that

Pakistan's youth has potential to develop Skype from Pakistan as we made this platform for Startups and waiting for that billion dollar company from Pakistan, which would make the nation proud. The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB)'s Tech Incubator, Plan9's Launchpad 10 attracted

large number of crowd from academia, industry and local as well as foreign investors at Arfa Software Technology Park on its opening here on Wednesday.



The Launchpad is Plan9's flagship event and marks the induction of the new cycle.

Almost 100 plus startups have set up stalls. Nabeel A Qadeer Director Entrepreneurship PITB introduced the event.

During the past five years PITB's incubated nine Startups got investment worth \$2.5 million with a valuation of US \$ 70 million.

This year, Plan9 will be giving out a cash prize of PKR 100,000 to the winner of Startup Expo.

During the weeklong 10th cycle celebrations, the startups and all attending will participate in workshops, discussions and screen their work. A panel of expert judges will decide the successful Startups for incubation.

In 2013 first cycle was launched, which attracted just 100 plus applicants. In

each year two cycles of Startup incubation each for six months are conducted by PITB's Tech Incubator Plan9 while over 2000 applications were received for the ongoing 10th Launchpad and after necessary scrutiny over 100 applicants are selected.

Among these 100 participants only successful Startups will be allowed incubation for six months at Plan9 while those who have already been incubated were not considered eligible as

per set rules.

Plan9's Startup Expo is the first day of the event where startups from across the country have come and setup their stalls and interacting with the entrepreneurial community. The startup expo will be attended by investors and mentors to interact with the startups, giving tips and tricks for success.

[Pakistan Observer]

✓ PHILIPPINES: 200 YOUTH LEADERS ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS AT ASEAN FORUM

Sabela City, 17 July – WEARING the traditional attire of Yakans, Tausugs, Sama, Chavacanos, and Tagalogs, among others, made the ASEAN youth forum memorable to over 200 delegates from selected schools and youth organizations that converged at Basilan State College Amphitheatre on July 14.

The vibrancy and enthusiasm of the youth as shown in their colorful cultural wear depicting the local cultures in Basilan became more glaring as two delegates from every school and youth organization represented the traditional costume of the 10 ASEAN countries.

In this youth-centered event, participants engaged in a unique platform of exchange and dialogue with some active resource speakers from different organizations.

The first glimpse of the youth's enthusiasm in learning about Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was apparent at

the beginning of the forum when Roderick Trio from the Zamboanga City School of Marine Sciences and Technology shared his knowledge and expertise about ASEAN. He presented ASEAN as an organization and the opportunities available to the Filipino youth that brings in economic advantages.

The students actively participated in the discussions as their level of awareness and interest about ASEAN was seen when they raised various questions to speakers. Some of the questions asked by youth participants include among others, what is ASEAN?

Do the member-nations help each other in combating extremism and war? Are there programs offered to the youth about ASEAN integration? Further questions were centered mostly on education, especially on government scholarship programs if they really benefitted the poor.

Joseph Lou Sta. Teresa and Vicente Regalado both of CHED Region IX discussed the opportunities and benefits offered to the youths especially on the government scholarship programs.

Meanwhile, Miriam Suacito of Nagdilaab Foundation, Alex Molas of Mindanao Youth for Development under USAID Program and Emmanuel Quizo of the Isabela City Youth Development Office were some of the high-level speakers who discussed their programs that center on livelihood, skills training and development for the youth. A free trip to the United States of America is one of the opportunities for the youth in ASEAN who will qualify to be a member of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative as stressed by Mary Claire Geduquio, an alumna of YSEALI.

Following the open plenary discussions, the participants were divided into twenty parallel working groups and discussed different issues

and key topics identified as follows: human trafficking, drug addiction, gender equality, bullying and cyber abuse, climate change, technological innovation, poverty, terrorism and violent extremism, quality of education, governance, child protection, women's welfare; job opportunities, business and livelihood; food security and nutrition; teenage pregnancy; HIV-AIDS-STD; waste management; energy and water; eco-culture preservation & tourism; and peace and security. They visualized their ideas and opinions through drawing which some were asked to share in the plenary.

The presentation of the 10 ambassadors of ASEAN member countries highlighted the event as they showcase their national costume.



Fharida Anyaman, of Begang National High School representing the Philippines bagged the award for Best Dressed Ambassadors while Alhadi Japal of Isabela City National High School representing Malaysia took the award for Best Dressed Ambassador. Three other participants from different schools were awarded as Best in Tribal Wear.

The participants believe in the importance of the ASEAN especially in the

growth and development of our country in all aspects.

For them, it is also proper that the entire people of Isabela City particularly the youth must have knowledge on the existence of the ASEAN and its benefits.

However, some participants were saddened by the lack of concern from the local leaders who did not attend the event.

The absence of these leaders was felt by the

youth as a manifestation of their lack of care for the welfare of the youth of Isabela City.

The National Youth Commission was also absent due to earlier commitments.

In pursuing the vision of one community for ASEAN, the youth participants committed themselves to conduct massive information drive on the importance of ASEAN and support the

government for the successful conduct of ASEAN meetings particularly during the ASEAN Leaders meeting. A Pledge of Commitment in support to the conduct of the ASEAN 2017 was signed by the participants as they devoted themselves to pursue the dreams and visions of the ASEAN community.

[Philippine Information Agency]

✓ QATAR: CAREER FAIR FOR QATARI YOUTH

Doha, 8 July 2017 - QATAR Fertiliser Company (Qafco) organised one-day career fair in Al-Sharq Hotel last week to attract a number of Qatari youth to fill administrative and technical positions.

Qatarisation in the company is more than 14 percent now and focusing on technical aspects, the Qatarisation programme covers all field of administrative, finance and technical positions, said Maryam Mattar, Public Relations and Communications Manager of Qafco.

The company is committed to maximise the number of Qatari nationals in its workforce along with efforts on focusing the development of existing nationals at the workforce as well as recruiting fresh Qataris in various levels including engineering, technical, vocational and administrative disciplines.

During the career fair, the company has offered several vacancies for degree holders and high school graduates from both arts

and science streams. Job vacancies available for university degree holders included supply chain (contract, purchasing, stores), information technology, engineering and chemical labs.

Vacancies for high school students included security, firefighting, operators of ammonia, technicians (electricity, mechanical, and sophisticated equipment) and storekeepers.

Exhibitors received applicants from 9 am to 7 pm and explained and responded to their enquiries about available vacancies, training and capacity building programme.

Applicants were also able to apply online and send CVs and required documents, along filling hard copy of applications.

There are Qatari engineers in the company and those who are conducting the interviews with applicants now are all Qataris, Maryam told The Peninsula on the sidelines of the event.

The company has provided with scholarships in Qatar and abroad to employees, and many of them have finished their courses and joined the company.

"The company takes part in all career fairs organised in the country and this is our first fair and we have a plan to make it on annual basis in accordance to the company's needs," said Maryam.

"We have joint programmes with Qatar Petroleum, and many of the secondary schools graduates get training in QP, and sometimes they also send their staffs for training in our company," Maryam added.

"Our company believe that human resources development is essential in line with Qatar vision giving priority to Qatari cadres and attract them and we train them to take certain positions in the company," Mariam said.

Qafco is the country's first large-scale venture in the petrochemical sector, and

the company has evolved into a world-class fertiliser producer.

Qafco is now the world's largest single-site producer of ammonia and urea and thereby made Qatar the world's fourth largest urea producer.

[The Peninsula Qatar]



✓ BULGARIA: UNEMPLOYMENT IN BULGARIA DROPS, BUT YOUTH JOBLESSNESS IS UP

Sofia, 2 July 2017 - UNEMPLOYMENT in Bulgaria drops again, but youth joblessness is up.

In a year, unemployment in Bulgaria decreased to 6.6 per cent in March 2017, but at the same time joblessness among youth grew,

according to figures released by EU statistics agency Eurostat on May 2.

In March 2016, unemployment in Bulgaria was 8.1 per cent about 267 000 people. In the same month a year later, 211 000 people were jobless.

The March 2017 unemployment figure was a slight drop on the February 2017 figure, when it was 6.7 per cent. Continuing a trend, this was the latest month in which unemployment in Bulgaria was below the EU average.

But in a counterpoint to the

trend, youth unemployment in Bulgaria was up, from 16.7 per cent in March 2016 to 17.5 per cent in March 2017, a rise from 28 000 to 30 000 Bulgarians aged younger than 25.

[Independent Balkan News Agency]

✓ CYPRUS: STRATEGY FOR YOUTH' IS OUT OF PLACE AND OUT OF TIME

Nicosia, 19 July 2017 - A comprehensive strategy for the young that was designed by the young themselves, was approved by the Council of Ministers today," reported the Cyprus News Agency on Thursday.

After the cabinet meeting, education minister Costas Kadis said that this was an important day, because after many months of work Cyprus had for the first time a "coherent and comprehensive strategy for youth, which touches all issues relating to the young."

Two points were worth noting, said the minister that the strategy was devised by the young with the help of the Youth Board which consulted more than 3,000 youths.

The second point was that the state "made a commitment to implement

the strategy."

It is quite amusing that the minister felt obliged to point out that there was a commitment to implement the strategy, implying there were strategies that the government did not bother putting into practice.

The head of the organisation said the strategy provided a national vision for the youth of Cyprus, "setting targets and priorities in eight thematic fields that directly affect the life of youths."

Neither he nor the minister went into detail, as the strategy would be officially unveiled at the presidential palace on May 30 in the presence of the president. After that, "the action plan for the implementation of its provisions would begin," Kadis told CNA.

The concept of a 'strategy for youth' would not be out

of place in a totalitarian regime that wants its youth regimented, submissive and beholden to the state.

Something that was quite normal in the former Soviet Union or then-East Germany, but it is unheard of in the democracies of the free world, in which youth are more adventurous and rebellious.

Will the state offer more public jobs to youths, give them low-interest car loans, provide them with cheap air tickets or give them incentives to join political parties?

We suspect that this strategy will increase rather than restrict the dependency culture and sense of entitlement that already afflicts a large section of our youth, which labours under the illusion that the state owes them an easy and comfortable life.

The strategy, we fear, would reinforce this unhealthy attitude among the young, who would have been better served by the state if they were encouraged to be independent and to stand on their own two feet.

If we had a good education system, this is exactly what it would have done Produced free-thinking, independent, young citizens that did not expect any help from the state in the form of strategies for youth.

If Kadis really wanted to help youth he would be focusing on improving state education instead of coming up with a 'strategy for youth' that is probably intended to assist his president's re-election drive.

[Cyprus Mail]

✓ ITALY: MULTICULTURAL YOUTH FESTIVAL CELEBRATES DIVERSITY IN LITTLE ITALY

Rome, 21 July 2017 - HUNDREDS of young Edmontonians gathered at Giovanni Caboto Park on Friday for a colourful celebration of diversity, dance, art and song.

The one-day Global Fusion

Youth Cultural Arts Celebration was run by youth for youth, says organizer Ahmed Abdulkadir, adding that it was "unbelievable" how well the youths involved got along at the festival. "Getting to know one

another's culture is the most important part of this festival," Abdulkadir said.

'Getting to know one another's culture is the most important part of this festival,' says organizer Ahmed Abdulkadir.

"When people get know each other, all hate will go away. So the idea is that bringing people together, and promoting other people's culture, automatically will deviate hate."



Throughout the day, members from each cultural group in attendance had a chance to showcase their talents on stage and in the square. On Friday night, all perform together in a musical fusion.

For Lawrence Crier, the decision to travel from Mascwacis to take part in Indigenous drumming and singing performances at the festival was an easy one to make.

Lawrence Crier travelled

from Mascwacis to take part in the festival.

"To share our culture. To share what has been passed down to us as young Natives. We're now sharing our culture to the community of Edmonton."

Organizers hope that sharing will continue next year. Plans are already underway to bring the festival back in 2018.

[CBC.ca]

✓ KAZAKHSTAN: YOUTH COMPETITION ON GLOBAL GOVERNANCE KICKS OFF

Astana, 8 July 2017 - THE final of Youth Innovation Competition on Global Governance (YICGG) 2017 were kicked off on Saturday in Astana of Kazakhstan with 66 university students from 32 countries.

First launched in 2007 by Fudan University and sponsored by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in China, the annual event set "Future Energy and Sustainable Infrastructure" as its theme this year as the 2017 Astana Expo is running with the theme of future energy.

A total of 198 students from 42 countries had submitted proposals and 66 of them entered the final at Nazarbayev University in Astana, co-host of this year's competition.

Shigeo Katsu, president of Nazarbayev University, and Chen Zhimin, Associate Vice President of Fudan University, welcomed the participants and encouraged all of them to cooperate and contribute their wisdom in tackling most challenging world issues.

The participants will deliver speeches on the issues on site and will be regrouped

into 10 teams randomly to cooperate in developing solutions on global governance issues in accordance with the main theme in the following two days.

Most Innovative Team, Best Performance Player and Most Valuable Project will be selected by judges from Fudan, Nazarbayev and other international universities.

Organized by School of International Relations and Public Affairs of Fudan University in cooperation with its partners to inspire youth from across world to

dedicate themselves to global governance and make their voice heard all over the world, the event has attracted hundreds of participants in the past 10 years.

It is estimated that over 21% of previous YICGG participants devote themselves to global governance and over 50% have participated in global governance and public affairs by further studying at home and abroad, working in the government sectors or NGOs.

[Shanghai Daily]

✓ SLOVENIA: YOUTH POORLY INFORMED OF HIV, DEBATE HEARS

Ljubljana, 12 July 2017 - Young Slovenians are poorly informed of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, and there is no systematic sex education at schools, agreed participants of a round table debate on preventing HIV transmission in Ljubljana on Wednesday.

[Slovenska Tiskovna Agencija]



✓ FIJI: FIJI YOUTH GROUP HOPES TO TAKE FARMING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Suva, 16 July 2017 - THE Veivueti Youth Club in Fiji grew out of the damage wrought by Tropical Cyclone Winston.

The storm smashed through Fiji in February last year causing widespread

destruction.

One of the affected communities was Tokou village on Ovalau Island with once flourishing farms destroyed.

The Vuivueti Youth Club

was seen as part of the solution by the village youth and with the help of the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access or PHAMA this group has been at the forefront of improving farming techniques.

The club president, Joshua Kabulevu, spoke with Don Wiseman, and told him the group wants to take their farming to the next level.

[Radio New Zealand]

✓ NEW ZEALAND: MSD & THE WAREHOUSE EXPAND YOUTH INITIATIVE

Wellington, 16 July 2017 - SOCIAL Development Minister Anne Tolley welcomes today's expansion of the Red Shirts in Community programme where around 1,000 young jobseekers will gain work experience and earn NCEA credits.

"It's great to see MSD partner with The Warehouse to expand a programme which will enable around 1,000 young Kiwis to gain valuable work experience," says Mrs Tolley.

"I'd like to thank The Warehouse for taking on a leadership role to help young Kiwis get a foot on the job ladder.

This is one of the largest employer-led youth employment programmes in New Zealand, and we'd like to see other businesses take up similar initiatives."

The Red Shirts in Community programme was piloted with 20 young jobseekers aged 16 to 24, in Northland, Whanganui and Wellington. It is targeted at young jobseekers with an interest in customer service roles.

"The pilot was first expanded earlier this year, and since then almost 250 young jobseekers have gone through the work readiness programme," says Mrs Tolley.

"Seventy per cent went on to gain employment within 91 days of their 15 day in-store experience that's a fantastic outcome.

"Feedback from participants has been positive. Not only do they learn new skills such as working in a team and communicating with customers, they also have to develop self-confidence and step out of their comfort zone.

"Participants receive training in customer service, communication skills, personal presentation, stock management, as well as credits towards a National Certificate in Retail. Work and Income provides

support for jobseekers, and connects them with prospective employers.

"MSD and The Warehouse are now working together to develop a similar model for other large New Zealand employers so they can provide tailored programmes to help a range of jobseekers."

Minister Tolley attended today's launch of the expanded Red Shirts in Community programme at The Warehouse, Lyall Bay, Wellington.

[Scoop.co.nz]

✓ SAMOA: BLUESKY WANTS TO EMPOWER YOUTH

Apia, 9 July 2017 - FOR nearly 20 years the youth ministry mainly supported by the Blue-sky, have been persistently and consistently running this programme to empower the youth of Samoa to express themselves through dance; and to cultivate rich, raw local talent Samoa-wide through their gospel network.

The programme has grown each year and gone from strength to strength with an active following of over 5,000 participants and spectators.

Last Friday, during the conference week, the finale for youth dance competition was held at Tuanaimato GYM 1 with an overwhelming attendance of over 5,000 people.

As proud sponsors, Blue-sky was privileged to present a contribution of \$10,000 to the youth ministry in support of their efforts to help encourage youth and the younger generation through talent empowerment and skills development in dance.

"We recognize the endless efforts of youth ministry to connect with our young ones and empower them through dance.

There are some serious issues our youth are faced with like depression, low self-esteem and even suicide that youth ministry have a year-long programme to try and help our youth cope and overcome."

"We support their contribution to the community and we want to acknowledge this through

our sponsorship," said Blue-sky Samoa, Country Manager, Alex Abraham. "As a company we also want to better connect with our youth; after all they are the future of Samoa.

We want to understand how to empower and help them through our products and services.



We want to teach them about technology and give them the tools they need to succeed regardless of their ambitions.

Could we help connect them better online to learn dance routines?

Could we help connect them through a video call to talent overseas?

Could we help connect them to their local youth community for support when the going gets tough?

These are the kinds of

things we want to understand and be better at."

Youth ministry is held on a national level capturing talent from all segments of youth across both Upolu and Savaii.

The intention of this event is to help address real life issues in youth today such as drugs, alcohol addiction, suicide, crime, teen pregnancies, violence and abuse.

[Samoa Observer]

✓ SOLOMON ISLAND: CALL FOR PACIFIC YOUTH TO BE MORE EMPOWERED

Honiara, 18 July 2017 - A group of youth workers from the Pacific say it's vital young people in the region feel empowered and included as valued members of society.

The workers from various island countries travelled to Wellington last week to share their stories and help make change back home.

Those at the Ola Fou gathering included young people from Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Kiribati.

Ola Fou aims to empower young Pacific leaders to work for positive change in their communities.

Ola Fou's manager in Fiji Sereki Korocowiri, says that youth culture in the Pacific is in a state of change.

"So we have moved from a very communal, culturally-based structured society into a more globalised world.

And the leaders that people are living under at the moment are from the older generation where the shift to globalisation hasn't been that fast."

Sereki Korocowiri says while young people make up a large proportion of the Pacific population, they are often ignored in decision making.

Strangely what we've seen with young people is they want to contribute more. They have the energy, one, and now because they're some of them educated they're open to new things."

Mr Korocowiri says that it is important for the future of the Pacific that young people's voices are heard.

Young people are seen, but not heard. They're not being consulted on the decisions that will actually affect their future.

If we can create young people who are responsible, I think we are creating a very safe space for the Pacific Islands."

Ola Fou team leader in the Solomon Islands Elisha Paza Pitanoë says that youth issues in the Pacific are complex.

He says unemployment and substance abuse are pressing issues but the bigger issue is how to instil a sense of pride in young people.

Because settlements actually gather together or accommodate people from different islands, different backgrounds, different races, different cultures."

Mr Pitanoë says those who gathered in Wellington can take what they've learnt back home to motivate their

peers.

We believe they can change and we also believe that they have the potential that can be able to bring about development in their own lives, development in their families, in their community and it can also impact the nation as a whole."

Akosita Tuakineiaf, who teaches Ola Fou youth workers in Tonga, agrees that giving young people a sense of self-worth is crucial in the Pacific. She says that in Tonga most of the work is with unemployed young people, and getting those who've dropped out of school back into education.

"If we focus on them getting [them] back to school so that they have a quality and qualified knowledge and education, then we minimise the problems and unemployment."

Ara Taiohi chief executive Anya Satyanand, who helped organise the event, says youth workers from the Pacific can help New Zealand's young Pasifika who face significant challenges.

The wisdom that has been brought over by these youth development thought leaders from the Pacific has been amazingly useful and easy for people in New Zealand to understand and

bring to their practise when working with people who hold the Pacific in their hearts and minds, but they're growing up here."

Elisha Paza Pitanoë says the gathering was a chance for workers to share their stories and showcase their achievements back home.

He says that will help in their work with young people.

"We believed that they can change and we believe they have potential to bring about development in their own lives, development in their families, in their communities and even it can impact the nation."

The workers all say that they learned valuable lessons at the conference and aim to use what they learned to help young people in their home countries.

[Solomon Times Online]



✓ VANUATU: VANUATU YOUTH URGED TO GROW VEGETABLES, NOT MARIJUANA

Port Vila, 15 July 2017 -

YOUNG farmers in Vanuatu are being urged by police to grow more vegetables and less marijuana.

The message, along with sets of gardening tools, was delivered by police to the chiefs of six villages on the island of Tanna in the country's southern-most Tafea province.

It came after an earlier operation was carried out to destroy marijuana crops planted by youths from the villages.

It has been a challenge for police to stop marijuana cultivation and usage among young people on the island because the volcanic soil is rich and all tropical crops grow very well.

Police called on the youth to grow vegetables that would still be able to bring them an income while making a positive contribution to the health and well-being of their community.

The initiative, being piloted by police with assistance from their Australian counterparts, is the first of its kind in Vanuatu and if successful on Tanna will be replicated in other communities around the country.

Pending the outcome of the project, it is expected to be introduced on other islands also.

[The New Times]

NEWS

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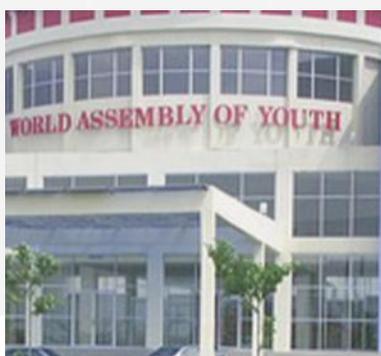
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