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**AFRICA**

**AMERICA**

**ASIA**

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**INFO**

### ✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL 2019

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1 June 2019	<b>Global Day of Parents</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
5 June 2019	<b>World Environment Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
17 June 2019	<b>World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
20 June 2019	<b>World Refugee Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
26 June 2019	<b>International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
23-27 June 2019	<b>19th Melaka International Youth Dialogue</b>	Melaka, Malaysia



### ✓ CAMEROON: ILO TRAINS YOUTH TO AGRO-PASTORAL BUSINESS CREATION

**Yaounde, 10 May 2019** - The Cameroonian division of the International Labor Office (ILO) has completed a youth-centered training on business creation in the agro-pastoral sector.

20 alumni of the Youth Agro-pastoral Entrepreneurship Promotion Program (Youth-AEP) received 10-day training on

how to find their agro-pastoral enterprise idea and how to develop it.

ILO sees in this program an opportunity to better support youth entrepreneurs in giving life to their ideas, setting their business models and creating their business in the sector.

“It is the third of such training in three years. This

brings to 60 the number of trainees,” said trainer Ibrahima D.

Implemented by the Cameroonian government, via the agriculture ministry, the Youth-AEP is backed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

ILO provides technical

support through strengthened skills for implementing partners. It also provides needed capacity building tools for beneficiaries.

[Business in Cameroon]

### ✓ ETHIOPIA: ETHIOPIA INCREASES SUBSIDIES TO ADDRESS YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Addis Ababa, 9 May 2019** - The Industry and Enterprise Development Council of the regional state of Oromia, Ethiopia, approved an additional budget to address unemployment among youngsters, the entity reported Thursday in a statement.

According to the statement, the 3.5 billion birr (about

123 million dollars) allocated will be used with the aim of creating jobs for more than 499,000 Ethiopians in the next three months.

The administration of that state had the intention of giving a job to at least one million young people during the current fiscal

year 2018/2019, but so far it has only created a little more than 600,000, according to the same statement.

The Oromia region is the largest ethnic division in Ethiopia due to its territorial extension and also the most populous with approximately 25 million

inhabitants, of which about 324,000 live in the capital, Adama, located at about 100 kilometers southwest of Addis Ababa.

[Prensa Latina]

### ✓ GAMBIA: GAMBIAN YOUTHS PROTEST LOW JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Banjul, 13 May 2019** - A number of Gambian youth have protested over insufficient job opportunities in the country, describing joblessness as roots cause of crimes in the society.

In 2019 Gambia Bureau of Statistic report indicated unemployment rate as 41.5%.

Speaking to The Voice, Alhagie Ceesay, a jobless youth, said the country lack enough job opportunities, adding that “this challenge has resulted in many youth spending time in the streets.”

“This nightmare is causing lots of crimes in the country such as stealing and selling of drugs because many are selling drugs due to the fact

that they want to live a decent life and they don’t want to steal properties.

Being a drug dealer is better than stealing,” he said.

According to him, if sufficient job opportunities are provided for the youth many criminal activities will not happen in the society, adding even youth sitting in the streets would stop.

He said: “If we have employment to earn our living we will go and work because we don’t want to sit in the street every time. If job opportunities are provided for the youth the salary should be attractive.”

We are not sitting here because we are aimless the

fact is we lack work, he said.

Mustapha Sanyang, resident of Ebo Town youth, said the country need huge investment that would employ many people across the country.

He recalled that before the coming of the new dispensation the coalition team vowed to create enormous job employment for the masses but yet the promise is not fulfill.

“Government needs to establish more factories and farms to employ many young people,” he recommended.

This young person also said lack of employment opportunities would cause many to involve in crimes such as theft cases, arm

rubbery, drug dealing among others while quickly added that despite the low employment rate in the nation the youth shouldn’t be involved in crimes.

Omar Jammeh, region youth chairperson for Central River Region (CRR) told this medium that there is no job opportunities in the rural of the country especially CRR, saying youth empowerment project is the project that promotes youth empowerment and employment in the rural area.

According to him, the lack of job opportunities in the rural area had affected the youth since, they find difficult to sustain themselves as well provide feedings for their families.



“This challenge encourages rural-urban migration,” he said.

However, he called on

government to provide employment opportunities for the rural youth while suggesting for government to use the river Gambia to

explore jobs for the young people as well to encourage investors to invest in the rural regions.

[Voice Gambia Newspaper]

### ✓ MOROCCO: SALE'S ONLY COMMUNITY RADIO STATION GIVES VOICE TO YOUTH

Rabat, 5 May 2019 -

Without government authorization, Sala Web Radio TV continues to try to get its shows that focus on topics from youth empowerment to women's health, heard by the people of Sale city.

Sala Her foot tapped anxiously moments before she heard a countdown that ended with the “action” cue and the pushing of the recording button.

It was the opening episode of a new radio show, and it was Hajar Ghandaan's first time hosting.

For the inaugural episode of her new series “Our Youth Are Capable,” Ghandaan was interviewing the Moroccan coordinator of an international organization that focuses on inspiring problem-solving within youth.

“I was so nervous, you can't even imagine,” Ghandaan told Morocco World News. “After the first episode my friends were nice but honest with me, they said the show was good but that I talked way too fast.”

The 21-year-old volunteers for Sala Web Radio TV, the only community radio in Sale, a neighboring city to Rabat.

The station, located on the outskirts of northern Sale, has a variety of programs that touch on popular subjects like youth

empowerment and more taboo topics like sexual health.

“The programs we produce deal with issues that are not always talked about by Moroccan society,” Hassan Benzalla, the station's program coordinator, told MWN.

“That's why our station has educational value.”

The luminous neon yellow and blue walls is what first caught Ghandaan's eye when she visited the station as a guest. But she stayed to become part of a movement she believes is changing her city's narrative.

“I want to give the spotlight to young people who deserve it, so that they can break the stereotypes of Sale,” Ghandaan said.

“Media is all about giving a vision or a view on something. So, why not use this media to introduce people to a more beautiful Sale.”

The city of approximately 900,000 people sits directly across the Bouregreg river from Morocco's capital, Rabat.

Sale rose to international notoriety after becoming a haven for Barbary pirates in the 17th century.

According to Ghandaan, Moroccans commonly associate the city with crime, drugs, and a lack of

infrastructure many apparently referring to it as “Lesser Rabat.”

She hopes her new show, which highlights inspiring youth who are making change in the city, motivates others to step up and begin addressing their community's problems.

“Unemployment here is so high and sometimes people just need a little bit of inspiration to get started,” Ghandaan said.

“Promoting youth empowerment is so important because people should know they can start making change no matter how old they are.”

Since its start in 2014, the station has struggled to receive government permission to join the publicly-available radio airwaves.

This has forced all of the station's programs to remain strictly online, limiting its potential audience.

In general, media in Morocco is supervised by several government institutions, such as the Ministry of Culture and Communication and the High Authority of Audiovisual Communication (HACA).

Both organizations have authorization processes for the two most common models of broadcasts,

commercial and public.

Privately-owned corporate media outlets produce commercial broadcasts, while state-run agencies produce or fund public broadcasts. Sala Web Radio TV is a third model, community broadcast.

“People in Sale want to feel represented, that's why it is so important to have radio stations like ours to talk about issues in our city that other media forgets to mention,” Benzalla said. “We are Sale reflected in radio.”

[Morocco World News]



### ✓ SOMALIA: THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH IN THE PEACE PROCESS OF SOMALIA

**Mogadishu, 12 May 2019** - THERE are more young people than there are adults in Somalia so the youth must have an active role in peace building.

It is ironic that while the number of young people is overwhelming, their contributions to a more peaceful society are mostly ignored.

Young people are labelled as troublemakers and rebellious and so the enormous task of creating a harmonious society is left at the hands of adults.

While it is true that there are many young people who are irresponsible, the task of making a more tolerant society requires the support of everyone.

Young people are mostly left out of important activities because “they are too young to understand”.

I find this belief quite disheartening because age is not an indication of maturity.

The role of the youth in peace process that Somalia seeks occupies the main control.

Observe that places which operate their youths in the right direction are more advanced.

The upbeat minds of the young people are used to act as the guide light in the peace process.

Whereas, places who fail to recognize the importance of their youth are left behind in every possible responsibilities of life like

the case in Somalia. Young people, as vibrant members should be utilized and be trained to play a crucial role in peace process.

This is the problem of most African countries, including Somalia.

Many of them believed that the power of the Adults are enough to achieve the ideal peace they want, but that is where they fail to understand.

The power of the Youth hasn't yet been explored. It is because; Adults haven't yet taken the action to unleash our potential to play our role as peace builders.

People! We are the relevant actors in accordance to peace process.

Now, let me clarify you the starting point: You must first stop condemning us as violent or trouble makers.

Inserting that false idea to minds would prevent you from giving us the freedom to function and to make use of our potential-peace-builder minds.

A popular belief indicated that young delinquents or soldiers are not born “evil” and human beings are not by nature violent or criminals.

If people keep on seeing us as violent persons then it would n't be that hard to play that role, too.

The reason why we cannot function efficiently is because you have already carved to your minds and have generally viewed that

we are always the violent actors in most conflict cases.

May be true, but don't let that idea be a generalized description of us. And if that belief continues, as seen today, young people will continue to use violence in dealing with conflicts.

It is because, that is the thing taught to them who they are. On the contrary, if young people are encouraged, because that's the main ingredient, encouragement, we could believe into ourselves and believe that we are what you expect or picture us to be, the ideal peacemakers, or scholars' maybe.

Therefore, the present adult generation should make an action to train the following generation to act responsibly. You have to have faith on us and start moulding us as peace builders, so that we can complete the by-generation-strategy.

It won't be that hard, because youth are open to new ideas and welcomes new challenges while adults have already formed their fixed dissertations.

It doesn't nearly take much sweat to take us where you want us to be in some cases. Now for the youth to participate in the peace building, two things must be developed within: Character and Good Citizenship.

These things usually are found within the kids who excel in leadership at their school. These kids only need a little bit more

motivations and training to even mold up their selves into the ideal peace builders.

However, this will not create an assured action of the young people for peace by themselves.

As they are trained to be soldiers, youth need to be supported as builders of peace and democracy. Their potential and power has to be developed in order to sustain a process of change.

Youth participation should be encouraged at all levels of social interaction, from the neighborhood, school, and local community to the national level in a large diplomacy approach.

They should be given responsibilities according to their capacities and be taken seriously. Young people should learn from other movements' histories and achievements.

In this respect, a similar resolution would help to raise awareness and develop processes towards the inclusion of young people in peace-building.

Young people should undergo training opportunities in conflict transformation, mediation, negotiation skills, and facilitation of group.

The youth must be provided with the necessary education they need.

[Modern Ghana]



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

**Hamilton, 19 May 2018** - THE Argus Group has donated \$15,000 to Family Centre in support of its Youth Development Zone counselling programme.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*[Royal Gazette]*

### ✓ CANADA: ADDS 106,500 JOBS IN APRIL; YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT LOWEST SINCE 1976

**Ottawa, 10 May 2019** - EMPLOYMENT in Canada rose by approximately 106,500 in April from March, with notable gains in part-time work for youth, according to seasonally adjusted numbers released today by Statistics Canada.

Canada added approximately 73,000 full-time jobs and 33,600 part-time jobs during April. Total employment exceeded 19.0 million, and the unemployment rate edged down to 5.7% from 5.8% in March.

Among youth aged 15 to 24, overall employment rose by 47,000 in April, driven by a 66,000 increase in part-time work. The youth unemployment rate was 10.3%, the lowest rate since comparable data became available in 1976.

Employment gains for all workers age 15 years and older were spread across several industries: wholesale and retail trade; construction; information, culture and recreation; "other services"; public administration; and

agriculture. At the same time, fewer people were employed in professional, scientific and technical services.

The services-producing sector saw employment increase by 66,900 in April, while jobs in the goods-producing increased by 39,700.

Employment in Ontario rose by 47,100 in April, primarily due to gains in part-time work among people aged 15 to 24.

Youth employment in the province has been trending upward since the beginning of 2019. The unemployment rate in the province edged up to 6.0% from 5.9%.

Employment also increased in Quebec, Alberta and Prince Edward Island; it declined in New Brunswick, and was little changed in the other provinces.

*[Staffing Industry Analysts]*

### ✓ GUYANA: YOUTH BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLIMATE AWARENESS

**Georgetown, 1 May 2019** - A group of youngsters in the Caribbean who promote environmental protection in the region is on a drive to empower other youth to address some of the big issues facing their generation.

National Coordinator of Caribbean Youth Environment Network

(CYEN), Kiefer Jackson, says the organisation has been working to gather the youth perspective, build capacity at a grassroots level and fill the gaps that would have been missed by government initiatives or plans.

"The Ministry of Presidency's Office of Climate Change has

recognised the work being done by this chapter of CYEN and has asked us to join with them this year in facilitating their climate change awareness in schools around Guyana," Jackson told IPS.

"We believe this partnership to be one step in the direction of ensuring that young people play an active role in climate action and

ensure non-governmental organisation and government partnership for the betterment of our people."



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Stabroek News]

### ✓ JAMAICA: PNPYO CALLS FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP MEETING TO ADDRESS CRIME

Kingston, 3 May 2019 - THE People's National Party Youth Organisation (PNPYO) is calling for an urgent meeting of youth in leadership to posit ideas towards safer schools and communities across the island.

Expressing grave concern about the nation's approach to creating and maintaining systems of peace and cohesion across the country, the PNPYO in a news release said the wanton murder of the nation's children in various communities must be condemned by all.

"What is the plan? When will stakeholders across the society start treating crime like the urgent priority it is?"

Why have political leaders, clergy, press, industry executives and advocates not met to create a long-term strategy to reverse the collapse of communities?

What we are seeing is not simply a policing problem but the evidence of a fast disintegrating social fabric that is strangling the life out of our children as it unravels.

Are those with the power to act asleep at the wheel?" asked president of the PNP youth arm, Krystal Tomlinson.

Tomlinson's remarks come in the wake of the abduction and murder of two of the nation's children within the last several weeks. They are 7-year-old Shante Skyers and Trisha Morris, 11.

Five men are now in custody in relation to Trisha's murder. Her decomposing body was found in bushes at Woodhall District in Hanover on Tuesday. It appeared she had been sexually molested.

Shante was killed late last

month at Blue Hole in rural St Andrew. Her body was also found in bushes. Two men have been taken into custody in relation to her murder.

Another man, Miguel Williams, was mobbed and killed by irate residents after Shante's schoolbag was found in his possession.

In the meantime, with the recently-announced states of emergency declared across the parishes of St James, Westmoreland and Hanover, the PNPYO argued that the security measure cannot stand on its own and does nothing to empower community-led organisations that it said statistically deliver better and more comprehensive mitigation and prevention results.

"If the prime minister was half as committed to

strengthening the intelligence gathering capabilities of law enforcement and identifying, empowering and integrating community peace building organisations as he is to declaring states of emergency we would be seeing sustained reductions in crime in St James after last year's failed SOE experiment," Tomlinson said.

She asked: "What is the central strategy? What are the local and provincial organisations that are being called upon to support the identification, investigation and prosecution of criminals?"

Tomlinson said the youth arm will be reaching out to various bodies with a view to convene an urgent meeting to chart a way forward.

[Loop News Jamaica]



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

**Lima, 27 May 2019** - UNESCO's MAB Programme started with a project that is the first of its kind to actively engage youth in the MAB Programme and its biosphere reserves.

This project, funded by the Flemish government of Belgium, aims to improve the socio-economic development of young people living in biosphere reserves in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

The main objective of this project is to establish an overall framework to improve the socio-economic development of young people living in UNESCO biosphere reserves.

The project will work closely with the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean region to identify the main challenges they face.

However, the project is fully cognizant of regional, national and local differences, as well as the fact that youth is not a homogeneous group and includes differences in age, religion, gender and education, among others.

The overall framework should, therefore, be viewed as a guideline for use afterwards in other regions to help them identify and address their main challenges.

A call for 5 projects from different countries was made for young people and youth organizations of the Latin America and the

Caribbean (LAC) region, active in biosphere reserves. Otis Jeffers from Saint Mary's Biosphere Reserve in Saint Kitts & Nevis is one of the selected participants to implement his own youth project.

With 'Bee the Buzz of the Reserve', Otis will promote pollinators for crop production and various products of honey bees.

This activity will teach young people in a practical manner how to produce honey, wax and other bi-products by creating a demonstration unit.

It will contribute to the green economy by giving young people the opportunity to be entrepreneurs in bee-keeping, and will provide employment opportunities.

The other selected projects are:

Strengthening capacities to provide ecotourism services for young people in the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta Biosphere Reserve (Colombia).

Integral management of plastic waste generated on the banks of the Napo River through the strengthening of youth groups in the Limoncocha area of Yasuni Biosphere Reserve (Ecuador).

Creation of a radio program to promote effective communication of ecological initiatives and environmental activities oriented towards young people in the Huayabamba river basin (Gran Pajaten

BR - Peru).

The developed local and regional projects by the participants are linked to the core topics of UNESCO's Natural Science Sector. It is important to note that the selected projects are not only on youth, they are also led by young people.

*[Devdiscourse]*

NEWS



### ✓ JAPAN: OUR YOUTH

**Tokyo, 21 May 2019** - No other overseas programme has been as controversial as the Learn and Earn programme in Japan. And perhaps, no other issue has provoked the authorities to pay as much attention.

Since the admission of a youth in Japan for tuberculosis and an alleged suicide of another, the issue continues to grab headlines.

The Japan saga got the parents of youth in Japan together to form a committee and all agencies the government, the national council, the opposition, the anti-corruption commission and the media are wary of issues plaguing the programme.

With the parents' representatives visiting Japan followed by a visit from the labour ministry, we should now have a

comprehensive picture of the whole story. And there is some good news! The labour ministry's delegation has returned home with assurance from their counterparts in Japan to support Bhutanese on visa issues and employment opportunities.

This would help allay the fears gnawing our youth in Japan and their families at home. It should help the youth in Japan, who wish to continue their stay in Japan, focus on their courses and work.

The learn and earn programme for Japan has been stopped along with Malaysia's. The loan repayment period has also been deferred for the youth in Japan.

While the government has taken these decisions, things have not kept pace on the other front. The ACC

completed its investigation into the overseas programme for India and Japan last December.

Since then, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has been reviewing the ACC report.

The civil service commission and the labour ministry's actions against corrupt practices in Japan and India overseas programmes hinge on OAG's outcome.

Whether we have learnt any lessons from this remains to be seen but the learn and earn programme in Japan is a chilling reminder of the growing unemployment problem the country is grappling with.

And because the Japan issue is inherently about our youth, it is worrying when the pursuit of justice gets held up and prolonged for

almost six months.

Youth unemployment is a reality for Bhutan and our biggest challenge. It is not a business opportunity.

Yet even as these programmes remain mired in controversies, job seekers continue to enquire about these overseas programmes.

The desperation of our job seekers and their families are pushing our youth to take up loans and jobs anywhere.

The least we could have in place are stringent rules and screening process for all parties involved.

We need to professionalise and humanise the journey our youth take up to live and work abroad.

*[Bhutan's National Newspaper]*

### ✓ JORDAN: LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF THE YOUTH

**Amman, 14 May 2019** - His Majesty King Abdullah's meeting with a group of young Jordanians at Al Husseinia Palace on Sunday aimed to encourage and promote the participation of the young in the decision making process at the political, economic and social levels.

The King wanted, and rightly so, that the voice of the younger generation be heard because they, indeed, have a lot to offer if they are given a chance.

The young constitute the bulk of society, and marginalising them for much longer would be a big

loss for the country.

The young have proven their ability to contribute wisely and constructively to the build-up of the country, not only as pioneering entrepreneurs, but also as sources of innovative ideas on the political level.

There is no ideal age level when the youth can be integrated in the decision making process on various levels of development.

Their contributions could be tantamount to a breath of fresh air that the country urgently needs.

The modernisation of the

country cannot be attained without the innovative ideas of the young in society.

Women, in particular, need to be encouraged and given opportunities to contribute to the development of Jordan.

Shunning the contributions of women would be like shunning the efforts of half of the population.

No country can ever develop fully without the input of women, especially when Jordanian women have reached a high level of excellence.

The King has, therefore,

sent a clear signal to the government and the private sector alike that it is high time to listen to the voice of the young. The government may want now to take a leadership role in this campaign, by putting the young in positions where they can make a difference. The private sector should not lag behind once this process of integrating the young in governmental positions takes a firmer shape.

*[Jordan Times]*



### ✓ OMAN AVIATION A PROMISING JOB AVENUE FOR OMANI YOUTH

**Muscat, 6 May 2019** - The German University of Technology in Oman (GUtech) hosted the Chief Executive Officer of Salam Air, Captain Mohamed Ahmed.

The Captain met with GUtech students from the Departments of Engineering, International Business and Service Management as well as Logistics and emphasised the growing myriad of opportunities for the Omani youth in the Sultanate's aviation sector in general and the budget travel in specific.

He shared his insights into the success of the fast-growing, value for money carrier during a wide-ranging discussion that highlighted the many options available to Omani talent.

Captain Mohamed Ahmed said: "Budget travel is a growing industry when it comes to interest and popularity, and it is important to meet with

students and explain the many career options available to them.

This type of occasion is the perfect platform to engage Omani youth and share with them the rewarding career options available in the aviation sector."

"There is a misconception that available opportunities are only for pilots or cabin crew members, the industry offers way more than that.

Key other areas include engineering, logistics and supply chain, customer service, sales among other support and related functions," he added.

"With further expansion of the aviation sector in Oman, the youth of today can build on this great potential and contribute to the Sultanate's economic diversification strategy in the years to come," he added.

Prof. Dr Armin Eberlein, Deputy-Rector for Academic Affairs at GUtech, said "Captain

Mohamed's knowledge and enthusiasm was inspiring, and the students were highly engaged as he provided them with a much better knowledge of the sector."

"The management of future talent is essential for the rapidly evolving aviation industry in Oman and will provide numerous career options for our science, logistics and engineering graduates.

Captain Mohamed has inspired students to take on leadership roles in which ever career they take on, explaining that success requires passion," Eberlein added.

The history of the German University of Technology (GUtech) can be traced back to 2006, when visionary Omanis contemplated and signed a contract of academic collaboration with RWTH Aachen University in Germany and the Ministry of Higher Education in Oman to establishment a

high-quality university of technology in Oman. GUtech opened in 2007. In September 2012, GUtech moved into its permanent campus in Halban, the first-ever Green technology Campus in Oman.

The campus also includes other educational facilities including the Finland Oman School and the History of Science Centre.

Salam Air is a responsible corporate citizen committed to growing a diverse talent pipeline within its growing organisation and the business community.

In line with its social responsibility and community engagement strategy, the airline also conducts an annual summer internship programme, aimed at introducing future-professionals to the vast number of opportunities available in the aviation sector and low-cost airlines in particular.

*[Times News Service]*

### ✓ SINGAPORE: YOUTH SHARE VISION OF INCLUSIVE AND COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY

**Singapore city, 18 May 2019** - MANY young people today hope that in six years, Singapore society will be inclusive, compassionate and respectful.

They also hope people will live sustainable lifestyles and enjoy better work-life balance.

These hopes were raised at a three-hour dialogue session yesterday called Youth Conversations. More than 100 people aged

between 16 and 40 participated in the event at The Red Box in Somerset.

Soaking up the views were members of a new panel that will lead efforts to articulate young people's vision for Singapore in 2025, and come up with an action plan to get there.

The formation of the SG Youth Action Plan panel was announced yesterday by Senior Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth Sim Ann, who is

co-chair of the panel together with Mr Edward Chia, Timbre Group's co-founder and chief executive. The other 14 members of the panel include entrepreneurs, musicians and civil society activists.

Addressing the youth at the event, Ms Sim said that the Government's goals were aligned with theirs in many areas, such as in building an inclusive society.

She encouraged them to

point out ways to improve relevant policies - such as those to help people who are not digitally savvy become more familiar with technology.

"The most significant developments and progress that Singapore has made really have been due to people who have contributed, who have given of their time and energy at the prime of their lives.



The energy, the passion, the ideas and the action of young people through every generation have shaped Singapore to the way it is today," she said.

The panel will come up with a vision by August, and then work on the SG Youth Action Plan until March next year. The five-year plan, which was first announced during the debate on the budget of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth in March, aims to give youth a greater say in Singapore's development and to explore ways for them to work together with the

Government.

One of the projects under the SG Youth Action Plan is to develop a master plan for the Somerset Belt, which has been designated as a hub for youth.

A working panel co-chaired by Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Culture, Community and Youth Baey Yam Keng and the chief commercial officer of home-grown women's fashion brand Love, Bonito, Ms Dione Song, will head the effort.

Some of the SG Youth Action Plan panel members

who attended yesterday's event said they were impressed by the depth of the discussion among the participants.

Ms Shahira Abdullah, 31, vice-president of Mendaki Club, said many participants wanted concrete steps to solving problems they see in the community.

"They had ideas, whether feasible or not, which we can take into account in our discussions," she said.

One of the participants, junior college student Chelsea Wong, 17, said she

hopes to see more measures put in place to ensure people of all income groups, races, religions and nationalities have access to the benefits of technology.

Fellow participant and first-year undergraduate Nur Hazeem Abdul Nasser, 20, said youth sometimes feel left out of the policymaking process because "a lot of the time it's adults making them". "Giving youth a space to be heard and involved in influencing policies that will eventually affect us is inspiring and productive," he said.

### ✓ QATAR: GEORGETOWN GRADUATE LEADS YOUTH IN TAKING ON GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Doha, 27 May 2019 -

Qatari youth representing several universities and local high schools recently converged on GU-Q to learn more about representing Qatar at the upcoming conference of the Youth Assembly, an organisation supported by the United Nations and dedicated to the mission of empowering the next generation of leaders.

The presentation about the 24th Session of The Youth Assembly, which will be held in Washington, DC, on August 8 to 10, 2019, was organised by Youth Assembly Ambassador and Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) graduate, Dana Khalid Al Anzy (GU-Q'17).

"It is my mission to ensure that the voices of Qatari youth are heard on global platforms. Qatar's youth have a role to play in helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The global community should be aware of our

potential and accomplishments in the field of sustainability," said Dana, who became the first Qatari Youth Ambassador in early 2019 after a hard-fought campaign to see Qatar represented in the organisation.

"It also gives us the chance to tell our own stories and truth, create our own future and define our own narrative."

Convening under the theme "New Horizons for Global Youth," this year's conference aims to equip hundreds of young people from around the world with the skills, knowledge, and networks needed to meet the complex challenges of the 21st Century.

A social media campaign was launched to urge all interested nationals, aged 16-26, to learn more about how they could serve as a Qatari delegate.

"The young people of Qatar have so much potential, and can play such an integral role in global efforts,

including peace and security, climate change, technology, and human development, the agenda items of the conference. But they need opportunities like this one, to be trained and supported locally in order to fulfil that promise, and live up to that potential."

While still an undergraduate majoring in Culture and Politics at GU-Q, Dana took on the roles of Youth Advocate with the Education Above All Foundation (EAA), and youth delegate with the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High Level Session on Children and Youth affected by Violent Extremism. "GU-Q equipped me to be critical and introspective about complex global issues. It taught me how to study and ideate with an open mind to global cultures and affairs."

The Youth Assembly is a platform of the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation (FAF), a nonprofit organization based in the United States and officially affiliated with United

Nations Department of Global Communications (UNDGC) and has consultative status with UNESCO and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

EAA, as part of its global efforts in promoting the SDG's and the right of access to education, serves as the supporting NGO for the Qatari youth delegation.

*[The Peninsula Qatar]*



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

**Baku, 13 May 2019** - A youth project that is implemented by the Public Association "Supporting Youth Solidarity".

"The fair took place on April 12-13 and it is obvious that it aroused great interest among young people.

Through such events, young people are given a real opportunity to get the necessary and interesting information related to employment," Babayeva said.

The youth project, as part of which the fair was held, is aimed at enhancing the role of the tourism sector in improving the business environment in Azerbaijan, she added.

The fair was held on April 12-13 in the Agro Mall shopping center with the participation of representatives of the Confederation of Entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan, Baku Textile Factory, as well as employees of many travel and consulting companies.

[AzerNews]

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

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

**City of Brussels, 23 May 2019** - THE movement at the root of the so-called pro-climate "school strikes", Youth for Climate, is launching an online platform, intended for compiling citizen ideas to limit global warming.

The solutions proposed will be submitted to the authorities, "the idleness" of which youngsters are denouncing every week in the streets.

Flowing from the demonstration this Thursday, the fourth organised in Brussels by Youth For Climate, the collective has unveiled its new platform. "We will continue our demonstrations until we are sure that we have been heard.

However, we also wish to give people who are not (yet) engaging in climate initiatives, the opportunity to make their voice heard," indicates the collective.

"It is not simply youngsters' ideas any longer, indeed everyone can post suggestions there," states the French-speaking coordinator, Adélaïde Charlier.

The deadline for the submission of ideas is fixed as 31 March 2019.

These will be analysed by a committee which will assess their given feasibility.

Internet surfers will then be able to vote for those which, in their view, must be the priorities for the next parliament.

The most successful ideas will be submitted to the authorities. "We hope that politicians will be inspired by some of these ideas," adds Dries Cornelissens, of Youth for Climate.

On Thursday, some 12,500 youngsters, once again, demonstrated in the streets of the capital demanding significant political measures to fight climate change.

Although less numerous than last week, youngsters nevertheless continued to demonstrate. "The movement is not crumbling as such but it is dispersing," states Adélaïde Charlier.

For example in Liège, more than 15,000 students also walked through the streets.

[The Brussels Times]

### ✓ BULGARIA: UNEMPLOYMENT IN BULGARIA WAS 4.7% IN FEBRUARY 2019 – EUROSTAT

**Sofia, 1 May 2019** - UNEMPLOYMENT in Bulgaria was 4.7 per cent in February 2019, down from 5.4 per cent in February 2018 and unchanged from January, according to seasonally-adjusted figures released by European Union statistics agency Eurostat on April 1.

Bulgaria's unemployment rate in February 2019 represented about 157 000 people, down from about 182 000 the same month a year earlier, Eurostat said.

February 2019 was the latest in a succession of months that Bulgaria's unemployment rate was below the EU average, which was 6.5 per cent the lowest across the 28 member states of the EU since the start of the monthly unemployment series in January 2000, the statistics agency said.

In Bulgaria, youth unemployment in February 2019 was 12.4 per cent, down from 12.7 per cent in February 2018. This represented about 18 000 Bulgarian under-25s, compared with 20 000 a year earlier.

[The Sofia Globe]



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

**Berlin, 10 May 2019 -** SKILFUL Pakistani youth can take the advantage of business opportunities available in the West, especially in Germany.

This was stated by Chief Operating Officer (CEO) of GoNetwork Germany Zeshan Pasha while addressing an even titled "Innovative Business Models for Youth and Business Opportunities in Germany for Pakistan."

Pasha said that he started his journey in Germany by distributing newspapers but with the passage of time, he started a small business by investing 25,000 euros and now within just 10 years his company is providing jobs to dozens of people in Germany and company is expanding operations to Pakistan.

"To have a successful business, one needs innovative thinking,

courage, determination and commitment. Anybody equipped with these tools with sound technological knowledge has vast opportunities in Germany," he said.

Pasha said that his company wants to expand business in Pakistan especially in real state sector, adding that authorities in Pakistan need to formulate business friendly policies and must encourage those who want to invest.

Many German companies can be convinced to invest in Pakistan if suitable business opportunities are provided as Pakistan is a huge market. Pakistanis in Germany will serve as a bridge in this regard, he said.

*[Business Recorder]*

### ✓ ROMANIA: BANCPOST SENDS YOUNG ROMANIAN IT SPECIALISTS

**Bucharest, 6 May 2019 -** BANCPOST sends the most talented IT specialists from Romania to the competition "Beyond Hackathon" dedicated to young IT specialists (software developer, designer, marketer, business developer), an event to be held between 17-19 March 2017 in Athens.

The Bank supports thus the IT industry, offering young talents real chances to national and international recognition.

The competition aims to promote innovative ideas and projects which can make a difference in the field of financial services and products and can thus influence the future of banking.

Beyond Hackathon is now at its second edition and is organised by Eurobank Group in a partnership with Foundation M.P. and The Cube Workspace M.I.K.E. and with Eurobank Group subsidiaries in the region Bancpost SA (Romania), Eurobank Bulgaria AD and

Eurobank Cyprus Ltd.

This year's novelty is that start-ups may also participate in the competition companies in this field with maximum 5 years' experience.

During three days IT specialists - programmers, software developers, designers and business developers - will participate in workshops held by international leaders in FinTech and will have the opportunity to interact with experts in various fields (business, design, technology and communications).

The final objective is to generate innovative ideas which can materialise in future banking products and services.

First 10 Romanian specialists registered in the competition will benefit from free participation (within the limit of 500 Euro/participant), according to terms and conditions of the campaign „Bancpost sends you to Beyond Hackathon”.

In the end participants will be able to present their ideas before a jury, and the first three projects will be granted money awards (€5,000, €3,000 and €2,000 respectively), as well as the opportunity to implement the projects with Eurobank support.

*[The Daily Star]*



### ✓ AUSTRALIA: YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IS A NATIONAL CRISIS

**Canberra, 16 May 2019** - IT is hard for many of us to comprehend, but trapped within the current political and social system, children as young as 12 are facing life without a permanent roof over their heads.

The 2016 census recorded over 37,000 people without a home in New South Wales. This figure is even more sobering when you realise 9,000 of those were children.

While the problem is not unique to NSW, there is no escaping the fact that the state is Australia's worst offender. The next closest is Victoria, with 6,373.

Reducing youth homelessness had been one of the NSW Premier's key 12 priorities, backed with actions including the Rent Choice Youth Subsidy and investing \$1 billion into social housing and homelessness services.

The team previously reached its goal of increasing the number of young people entering stable housing from 29% to 34%.

While the sentiment and the cash appeared to be heading in the right direction as one small part of solution, it is now unclear what the Premier and her new team are planning on committing to around youth homelessness specifically.

Homelessness is not just the young people seen sleeping rough on the streets; it's those couch-surfing or sleeping in their car, and the thousands taking refuge in overcrowded homeless

shelters. Nationally, things are even more worrying. Compared to other countries, Australia's youth homelessness efforts are ineffective and almost non-existent.

The unfathomable fact is, there is no single national plan for reducing youth homelessness. Governments come and go, but the issues faced by our young people remain.

It's important to realise that those affected by homelessness have ever-changing, complex needs.

Consider this: how could a young person hope to get Centerline, Medicare benefits or even a job if they don't have a fixed address?

These are the questions Australia must face up to, fast. For 30 years, we have been making the same findings, and offering similar solutions. So how do we dig our way out?

Youth homelessness comes from a mix of factors, including domestic violence, mental health, family breakdowns, and financial hardship.

The real solutions will come when we start facing up to the issue's painful root causes.

As it stands, our system has a one track mind, focussing on picking up the pieces after the damage has already been done.

The model focuses on repairing the damage after

a crisis but imagine what could be achieved if we channelled more funding into early intervention services.

Children faced with homelessness from a young age are far more likely to drop out of school and fail to find regular, consistent employment.

Instead of putting a band-aid over the wound, early intervention can stop the fall from happening in the first place.

Currently, there are many gaps in support for children and young people between the ages of 12 and 24.

In NSW, the Department of Family and Community Services has made some inroads with its Homeless Youth Assistance Program, but the money doesn't stretch far enough.

Places are few and far between, and there's often confusion around who actually holds responsibility for that child.

Foster and care homes are not available for everyone who might need care.

Children can have multiple placements 15 is not an uncommon number which fail to provide stability throughout those formative years.

While carers and foster agencies have seen investment, young people are still lacking adequate, stable homes to allow them time and opportunity to repair.

A difficult problem requires

a holistic solution.

Instead of simply throwing more money at standalone programs or services, we must ensure schools, real estate agents, social services; businesses and charities work together as a cohesive unit.

While NSW clearly has a lot of work to do (we have the highest number of young people experiencing homelessness in the nation), a national crisis also requires a national plan.

As it stands, Australia has no single path towards solving the problem.

It's not an impossible dream there are already federal mechanisms that could go a long way to fixing the problem, including a cohesive housing plan and raising youth allowance.

These young people are not faceless statistics.

They went to school with your children, lived in your neighbourhood, or sat next to you on the train. Their plight is your problem and it is mine.

Sure, there are policies in place. But as it stands, our efforts are too small. We must urgently recognise that youth homelessness is an issue for the entire community, and that Australia sits far behind its global equivalents.

*[Women's Agenda]*



## ✓ FIJI: ANZ SUPPORTS FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR FIJI YOUTHS

**Suva, 6 May 2019** - GOOD-NEWS for youth leaders across Fiji as they will be part of a program that will help instill in them a culture of saving.

This will be delivered to young people across the country through a new partnership between ANZ and Ola Fou where they will be given the opportunity to be part of Money Minded and Business Basics which is ANZ's financial literacy

program. Ola Fou, which means new life, empowers young Pacific leaders to work for positive change in their communities.

ANZ Fiji Country Head, Saud Minam says as part of their initial 3 year partnerships, ANZ will provide Ola Fou with training and accreditation to deliver both Money Minded and Business Basics. He adds that this program

have been successful in improving financial literacy and will add value to the great work Ola Fou is already doing in communities in Fiji.

Minam says that around 12,000 people in Fiji have already taken part in Money Minded program.

Ola Fou Fiji Chairman, Geoffrey Nainoca says that they are pleased to partner with ANZ to deliver Money

Minded in the villages and settlements that they support across Fiji. Nainoca stated that their footprint will extend to Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and PNG, so there is opportunity to grow their partners in the future.

*[Fiji Sun Online]*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said it was about tapping into what young people are passionate about and putting their skills into practical, career pathways.

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

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

He said anyone can get involved.

"If you see us out here, come through and get

involved ... participation is pretty much key," he said.

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

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

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

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

*[Stuff.co.nz]*



### ✓ PAPUA GUINEA: LITERACY VITAL FOR COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT

**Port Moresby, 10 May 2019** - LITERACY is a word that has multiple meanings behind it. Every individual will have their own definition of what literacy is and how it affects societies today.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Having the ability to be well

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

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

[Post-Courier]

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

**Apia, 20 May 2019** - IN May this year, Samoa's Youth in Climate Action Network (Y.C.A.N.) learned they had won a Ramsar Wetland Conservation award of US\$10,000 (T\$26,609).

President Samantha Kwan, still very much taken aback by the win, travelled to Dubai yesterday to accept the prize.

The group has been hard at work since 2015 replanting and restoring mangroves and rehabilitating coral reefs on Samoa's borders.

"Most of our members live

on the coastline," Ms. Kwan said.

With the Ramsar prize, the group will reach more youth to enable greater action against an unliveable planet. More funding means more training and capacity building, not only for youth to know how to restore mangroves or plant more trees, but understand why, and how to pass on that information on to their communities, Ms. Kwan said.

The Ramsar Conservation is an award for Young Wetlands Champions. Ms. Kwan said it's great to see youth in particular being honoured.

As a conservation officer at the Ministry of Resources and Natural Environment, Ms. Kwan said she used to see the voices of youth ignored in the conservation policy space or brought in as tokenistic gestures.

"But there has definitely been a huge shift since we started Y.C.A.N.," she said. "We're actually a partner to M.N.R.E. to implement the National Environment Sector Plan for 2017-2020 because they see the work we do on the ground."

Y.C.A.N. is a three-year old youth group working on defending Samoa's coastal

areas from pollution, reef degradation, species loss and more.

The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards were established in 1996 to recognise and work to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Ramsar is the oldest of the modern global intergovernmental environmental agreements and was negotiated through the 1960's. It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

[Samoa Observer]

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