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**AFRICA**  
**AMERICA**  
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**INFO**

✓ **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JULY 2014**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
11 July 2014	<b>World Population Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
18 June 2014	<b>Nelson Mandela International Day</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
30 July 2014	<b>International Day of Friendship</b>	Melaka, Malaysia



## ✓ GHANA: NCCE URGES YOUTH TO BE ADVOCATES OF CHANGE

Accra, 8 June 2014 - THE Accra Metropolitan Director of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Mr Ebenezer Tetteh Wayo, has appealed to the youth to be advocates of change, especially during these times of increasing rate of indiscipline corrupting the youth.

Mr Tetteh Wayo stated this at the NCCEs citizen week celebration which was on the theme: "Strengthening our pillars." and a sub-theme, "indiscipline: How it weakens the pillars of our democracy".

According to the metropolitan director,

public education is a sure way to remind the youth of their rights and responsibilities as citizens and the roles they have to play in building a strong and democratic Ghana.

"A disciplined person is the one who always puts the interest of the nation first, obeys the laws of the society and respects the rights of others," he added.

Mr Wayo said a person was also expected to protect public property, respect the elderly and those in authority, obey school rules, and protect and safeguard the environment.

He urged the youth to see themselves as instruments

of change as they go through the structural development of societal transformation.

The NCCE organised a quiz competition for students from some selected schools in the metropolis.

The quiz was based on the constitution of Ghana, specifically the three arms of government which are the legislature, the executive and the judiciary", which the NCCE referred to "as the pillars of our democracy".

The competing schools were St Thomas Aquinas Senior High, Kaneshie Secondary Technical an

Accra Academy.

After the keenly contested quiz competition, St Thomas Aquinas Senior High emerged winners of the competition and Kaneshie Senior High Technical and Accra Academy placed second and third respectively and were presented with several prizes.

Mr Tetteh Wayo thanked Promasidor, Rotary Clubs of Tema, Pens and Plastics Ghana Limited and Fairborn for supporting the competition.

[Ghana web]

## ✓ KENYA: SPORTS TALENT TO EMPOWER NYERI YOUTH

Nairobi, 4 June 2014 - NYERI Deputy Governor Samuel Wamathai has said the county government is committed to improving sports.

Wamathai said the county government will empower youth through tapping

sports talent.

"Nyeri will be the home of all sports including soccer and athletics," he said.

Wamathai was speaking at Ruring'u Stadium on Sunday during a Madaraka Day soccer tournament.

He was accompanied by Sports executive Elijah Nguyo. Tetu Stars beat Ragati Home Boyz 4-0.

Wamathai said plans are underway to rehabilitate the stadium by acquiring the title deed from the Agricultural Society of

Kenya in Nyeri.

"Once the plans are complete, we shall rehabilitate the stadium for sporting activities," said the deputy governor.

[The Star]

## ✓ NIGERIA: EMPOWERING YOUTHS THROUGH AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AGGEGENDA

Lagos, 6 June 2014 - THE financial Derivatives Company Limited (FDC) a Lagos based financial advisory firm in its 2014 outlook obtained recently revealed that the nation's unemployment rate is expected to increase by 2 per cent.

This is even as the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed that while the rate of unemployment in Nigeria stood at 23.9 per cent in 2011, urban unemployment was estimated at 29.5 per

cent in 2013.

Unfortunately, those most affected by this will be the youth who make up more than half the population in the drive towards achieving poverty alleviation and youth empowerment, a major agenda of the agricultural transformation, is the development of the

Nigerian youth through remodeling the nation's agricultural sector.

The minister of Agriculture, Dr. Akinwumi Adeshina, discloses the many programs being unfolded to empower the nation's youth.

The minister, who expressed concern over the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria, was optimistic that, unemployment would soon be an issue of the past as the President Goodluck Jonathan-led government has indicated its readiness to battle unemployment through agriculture.

In his words "We are concerned about the high rate of unemployment among the youth, the high rural to urban migration and the lack of industrial growth in our rural areas.

With the aging of the farming population, unless something is done to engage the youth in agriculture, there will be no farmers to feed Nigeria in another 10-15 years."



This is why President Jonathan launched the Youth Employment in Agriculture Program (YEAP), with the goal of engaging over 750,000 'nagropreneurs' young graduates and school leavers in commercial agriculture and agribusinesses, he said.

To attract the young to the land, Akinwumi said, "We are addressing the challenge of mechanization with the establishment of 80 Agricultural Equipment Hiring Centers (AEHC) across the country, with 90 per cent financing from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

The equipment centers, will be run by the private sector, and will have full sets of

agricultural equipment, with over 400 tractors and mechanized harvesters.

"We will support farmers with subsidized electronic coupons to allow them to lease these agricultural equipment.

This will go a long way to reduce the drudgery of farming and speed up the mechanization of agriculture".

In a recent interview with LEADERSHIP, the national financial secretary, All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Dr Tunde Aronsanye, said youth drudgery is a challenge to the Nigerian farmers.

He said, "The youths are shying away from farm work because of the way agriculture is still being

practiced.

When you look at tractorization, it is about one tractor to 500/1000 farmers and this is grossly inadequate.

There are situations where farmers pay for tractor services in April, but will not get their land prepared even by September.

So the way farming is practiced is still not attractive to get our youths from other professions to join in."

He assured that "in our own little way through sensitization and workshops we are trying to showcase the potential of agriculture to the youth but we are also appealing to the government through the ATA to make farming more attractive."

Meanwhile in a programme *Tuesday Live*, with the theme 'Agriculture and water resources, key to Nigeria's economic development', vice president, Planning, AFAN, Prince Ike Ubaka, said much can be achieved in agriculture with proper research using community-based economic approach, which will serve to attract the Nigerian youth.

He argued, "Failure to develop agriculture through research will amount to the same problem witnessed in ICT, where it was ignored and yet Nigeria has become a major employer of labour."

[Leadership]

### ✓ TANZANIA:SIDO URGES YOUTH TO SUBMIT BUSINESS IDEAS FOR FUNDING

**Dodoma, 5 June 2014 -** SMALL Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) is once again urging youth in the country to submit business ideas for funding and their eventual self employment instead of waiting to be employed by the government.

SIDO General Director, Eng Omary Bakari made the call earlier this week in Dar es Salaam during the opening of a two-day workshop organised by the International Youth Foundation (IYF) to discuss

the best practices approach for job creation and greater youth entrepreneurship.

"I call upon youth in the country to bring to us their innovative ideas so that we can help to improve them we are also keen to support them financially," he noted. He urged youths to plan strategically and become job creators instead of waiting to be employed. He said there are so many graduate youths with innovative idea but they chosen to stay them in mind.

Bakari said SIDO is there to help innovators and that at least 30bn have been given to youths who have submitted their innovative business ideas to date.

Commenting, Senior Social Development Specialist, Africa Development Bank (AfDB) Tanzania, Hamisi Simba advised the government to improve policies and legal framework in order to reduce unemployment in the country.

"Poor policies and weak

legal frameworks are the major challenges that hinder job creation to youth in the country," he said noting that AFDB will continue to support youth entrepreneurs by providing them with business skills especially writing of business proposals, marketing modules, stock control, record keeping, and cash management.

[IPPmedia]

### ✓ UGANDA: EMPOWER YOUTH TO INFLUENCE SOCIETY

**Kampala 2 June 2014 -** ACCORDING to the State of the World's Population Report (2012), Uganda has the World's youngest population, where 78% of the population is below 30 years, while 52% are below

15 years and 39.3% are between 19-59%, the ageing population (60 years and above) are only at about 4.6%.

Uganda continues further to experience a high growth in

the population of young people from 51.4% (1969) below 18 years to 53.8% (1991) and 56.1% (2012). With such an analysis, such a situation brings with it overwhelming needs and problems of young people

that affect their wellbeing. Notwithstanding their participation, the unequal gender relations, social and cultural barriers, low civic awareness and lack of political will and confidence decision making.



For example, youth in slum areas getting involved in substance abuse and crime.

Inadequate funding shadow influence in political structures to respond to the needs of youth on the ground, this is worsened by unequal regional distribution of resources and power leaving behind the disadvantaged impoverished, illiterate and politically marginalized.

Whereas there is an enabling environment for youth participation through the extensive system in political structures and the elaborate policy framework on youth participation and youth issues, actual participation remain low.

The existing youth structures exist for formalities and do almost nothing and the youth are not fully involved in policy making or implementation.

The National Youth Council presents with it a protected statutory status which challenges the youth in opposition to push for youth issues.

Much as there has been an institutionalization of youth participation like in civil society, there is need for a youth focused participation whose realm of attention in the political agenda is set to unlock the opportunities for influence on decision making, power and authority.

To bridge the gap, there is need to target youth organizations and build their capacities in areas such as project planning and management skills, democratic governance and decision making.

Women's participation can be revamped through addressing the negative socio cultural barriers such as the traditional authoritative, patriarchal and hierarchical values that hinder women in getting a voice in decision making.

Youth focused and friendly approach in service interventions should be up scaled from planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation to address symbolic youth participation.

To be there yet, youth empowerment maybe necessary for meaningful participation and competence.

*[New Vision]*

NEW



### ✓ BRAZIL: WORLD CUP TUNE COULD CUT YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Brasília, 10 June 2014 -**

THE organization uses football to engage with 16- to 25-year-olds and then works with them to improve employability skills.

It runs an eight-week academy programme, which includes work on teamwork and communication;

CV-writing and mock interviews; and job-search sessions as well as daily football.

Street League chief executive Matt Stevenson-Dodd told LGC: “The World Cup song is great fun and we hope it will raise awareness of what we do among young people but also among councils and other public sector bodies.

“Street League has expanded rapidly throughout the UK over the past few years to meet the growing need of young

people out of work.

“Now more than half our income comes from delivering public sector contracts.

We bring expertise and corporate funding to help local authorities tackle youth unemployment.

“Evidence shows that young people outside employment and training are more likely to experience physical and

mental health problems, and to turn to antisocial behavior and crime.

We work with our partners to help prevent this.”

England kick off their 2014 World Cup campaign against Italy in Manaus, Brazil, on Saturday 14 June.

*[Local Government Chronicle]*

### ✓ CANADA: Y.E.S.S. AND HOME DEPOT TEAM UP TO HELP HOMELESS YOUTH

**Ottawa, 7 June 2014 -**

HOMELESSNESS is a reality for 6,000 young people in Canada. Approximately one in five shelter users are classified as being youth.

The Home Depot Canada Foundation is partnering with Youth Empowerment and Support Systems

(Y.E.S.S.) this month in order to raise funds and awareness about youth homelessness through The Orange Door Project.

The Orange Door Project runs from June 2 to July 2, in all Home Depots in the Edmonton and surrounding areas, including St. Albert. A key component to the

in-store fundraising campaign is through \$2 donations to purchase a paper “Orange Door.”

One hundred per cent of the proceeds are to stay within the community in assisting with youth housing and support services.

The Home Depot Canada Foundation has signed on to

a three-year, \$10 million pledge with the not for profit organization, Y.E.S.S.

Together, the organizations aim to support construction and repair projects and support programs that provide homeless youth access to stable housing.

*[St. Albert Gazette]*

### ✓ CUBA: CUBAN YOUTH TARGETED BY NEW US LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

**Havana, 1 June 2014 -** THE state Department plans to spend \$1,212,000 to send 75 to 100 Cuban teenagers to the United States in the summers of 2015 and 2016, “to develop leadership skills and learn about civic participation and community engagement.”

The teenagers will remain in the U.S. for three to four weeks as part of the project, called “Summer Leadership Program for Cuban Youth.”

Participants must be 16 to 18 years old. English proficiency is not required. The program will be conducted in Spanish.

The Cuban students will

take part in “youth-appropriate leadership activities and workshops in a safe environment interact with American youth and gain first-hand experience with community engagement.”

Students will stay with American families for six to eight days during the program “to further introduce the students to American culture.”

The State Department’s Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs on May 29 announced that it is looking for a non-governmental organization or an educational institution to run the project. The

application deadline is June 30.

According to the bureau’s request for applications:

The program delivery should be primarily interactive activities, practical experiences, and other hands-on opportunities to learn about the fundamentals of a civil society, leadership skills, critical thinking, democratic principles and community service.

The activities could include participation in clubs, camps, seminars, workshops, simulations and role-playing, teambuilding exercises, case studies, a

volunteer service project, leadership training exercises, meetings, classroom visits, site visits, and social time among peers.

Other activities may include visits to historical sites, local, state and/or national government centers, community centers, non-governmental organizations, museums and landmarks that combine learning about the principles of government, history, and society with tourism.

Age-appropriate cultural enrichment activities that provide opportunities for participants to interact with each other .



Programming should include additional American participants wherever possible, accounting for a lack of English language proficiency from Cuban participants.

The program may also include a maximum three-day study tour to Washington, D.C.

The contractor hired to run

the program will “play a primary role” in selecting students for the program.

The U.S. Interests Section in Havana will help the contractor “in disseminating promotional materials and in student selection.”

Participants will be chosen using “clearly identified criteria for the selection consistent with local law.” I

wonder how the selection could be “consistent with local law” since such a program would likely be regarded as illegal in Cuba.

The contractor will be required to obtain the approval of students’ parent or guardian.

The State Department envisions 25 to 35 students taking part during the

summer of 2015 and 50 to 65 during the summer of 2016.

Qualities that will enable students to be successful participants include “maturity, strong social skills, flexibility and open-mindedness.”

[Havana Times]



### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: AN INSPIRING DAY FOR DOMINICAN YOUTH AND NEW BEGINNINGS

**Santo Domingo, 5 June 2014** - THE nonprofit organization the Education and Mentoring Project held its seventh graduation ceremony for the acclaimed A Ganar program, which focuses on youth workforce development.

These 32 proud graduates between 16 and 24 years of age completed a six months course as rewarding as it was challenging, through 3 stages consisting of theory, practice and internships.

This particular course focused on customer service and elderly and childcare.

These two markets are quickly growing in the region of North Coast and A Ganar offers a progressive and effective solution to these emerging employment

trends, along with the high levels of youth unemployment.

DREAM has graduated more than 200 youth since 2012 with an amazing rate of success; more than 70% of graduates are employed, reintroduced to a formal education or both.

The Dominican Republic has traditionally struggled with high rates of youth unemployment, early pregnancy and crime, so positive numbers like these are especially encouraging. The reason is simple: A Ganar teaches youth to be confident in their potential as well as teaching new work skills.

The solutions of the next generation of young Dominicans must take into

account that many old methods have failed and need to be replaced by new, more innovative ones. This is the vision of DREAM and hope for our shared future.

The first day of A Ganar starts with all participants standing, interacting and moving.

They learn teamwork through sports, English with international teachers, customer service with experts in the field of tourism, first aid and medical training with the Ministry of Health and finally their practical experience with visionary local businesses.

At the end of so many hours of learning and practice, there is still one intangible measure of success, the

confidence they learn to empower themselves.

The light in the eyes of every graduate, their inspiration to seek employment, and in turn, a better future is the most important part of the course.

DREAM provides the tools, but the key at the end of it all is their ability to believe in themselves.

This course is collaboration between Entrena, Partners of the Americas, The Ministry of Health, the Mayor of Sosua, Sosua Casa de Cultural and DREAM’s group of partners, local business leaders in the Shared Responsibility Program.

[Dominican Today]



### JAMAICA: YOUTH AUTO TRAINING PROGRAM A PATH TO A BETTER LIFE FOR GRADS

**Kingston, 5 June 2014** - DEERFIELD beach twenty-seven young men and women who have been coping with troubled lives are now trained to enter the automotive industry, thanks to a 35-year-old program.

They join more than 600

other youths aged 17-22 who have passed through the Deerfield Beach-based Youth Automotive Training Center.

The late Jim Moran, who founded JM Family Enterprises, started the nine-month program as a way to

help young people develop skills to help turn their lives around .

Besides getting their diplomas, five graduates received special awards.

Jarad Boykins, 21, received the Jump Start Award for

excellence in automotive knowledge and repairs.

“YATC is a place that I will always call home,” Boykins said. “I really needed this to help get back on track.”



Boykins was born in Pompano Beach and raised in Deerfield Beach. While at YATC, he learned to balance school and work as a newly hired technician at a Tire Kingdom store. He says he plans to continue his education after graduation.

Roel Edwards, 20, who was born in Jamaica and lives in Lauderdale, and Dondrea Grant, also 20, who was born and raised in the Bahamas and lives in Deerfield Beach, were presented with the Outstanding Attendance Award for demonstrating commitment to completing the program.

Timothy Butler, 22, who was born and raised in South Florida, got the Bruce Rossmeyer Memorial Kick Start Scholarship.

This award was established in 2009 by Moran's widow Jan Moran in memory of Bruce Rossmeyer, founder of Bruce Rossmeyer's Daytona Harley-Davidson and Daytona Toyota and described as a devoted friend and generous supporter of the program. It covers full tuition to attend a technical/vocational school.

Rossmeyer's widow Sandy Rossmeyer, along with Jan Moran, presented Butler with the award.

"I was searching for help and discovered a place with good people to help me get on the right road," Butler said.

"If I hadn't found YATC, I am not sure what my life would look like right now, but I definitely wouldn't have this much hope for my

future."

Brian Garvey, 18, who was born and raised in Deerfield Beach, was presented with the Turnabout Award for making significant changes in all areas of his life.

Sixteen scholarships for continuing education were awarded at the graduation ceremony and five students received special recognition for their exceptional dedication to the program. Additionally, six of this year's graduates earned their GED.

Presentation of the diplomas and awards took place May 22 at the JM Family Enterprises Aviation Hangar at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

Moran started YATC in 1984. The 16,000 square-foot modern facility features technical and academic classrooms, a computer learning center and library, a state-of-the-art automotive shop, a conference room, a lunch room and a fitness room.

The curriculum includes intensive, hands-on automotive training, academic instruction, life management skills and career preparation, with classes held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

As part of the program, additional educational and enrichment activities are offered.

These include guest speakers and instructors, team-building exercises, field trips, tutoring and mentoring, certification programs, college

scholarships and community volunteer projects.

"The center's goal is to prepare the students to become self-sufficient and productive citizens," according to a JM Family Enterprises statement.

"YATC is unique in that its support does not end at graduation but continues providing resources and opportunities for alumni and their families, including counseling and job placement assistance, to keep them on the right track," the statement said.

Some students go on to technical schools or college, while others pursue careers in mechanics or use their training to explore other fields.

Many of the students are hired during and after completion of the program with a range of companies, including several in the automotive field, as well as some in other areas, such as Citrix Systems and Victory Yacht Painting Service.

Former Miami Dolphins defensive end and YATC supporter Jeff Cross joined Executive Director Terry Routley to present certificates of completion to the graduates.

"YATC has a significant impact on young people and their families and this program has positively altered the course of so many of their lives," Routley said.

"These students know that when they graduate tonight they are not losing us as family. We will continue to

stand behind them and provide support when they need us."

The Jim Moran Award went to Advisory Board member Dr. William Penzer, a psychologist, therapist and life coach. It is presented each year to a community partner who has dedicated his or her time to supporting YATC.

Penzer provides YATC students with life management skills training, including counseling on careers, substance abuse and healthcare.

Three psychologists from his Plantation-based practice offer their services and work one-on-one with the students throughout the school year.

YATC is located at 399 SW Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Deerfield Beach. Students are referred to the program in a variety of ways, including through the state's Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Children and Families, as well as YATC graduates and clergy and by word of mouth.

*[The South Florida Times]*



### ✓ BANGLADESH: EDUCATION FOR ALL GOALS CANNOT BE MET BY 2015

**Dhaka, 9 June 2014** - DESPITE progress made over the last decade in achieving six goals, set by Bangladesh and 163 other countries, for ensuring education for all, none of the goals will be met globally by 2015, according to a UNESCO report.

In 2011, 57 million children and 69 million adolescents were still out of school, said the report, adding that insufficient financing for education is one of the main obstacles to achieving the Education for All (EFA) goals.

UNESCO in collaboration

with Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO and Save the Children launched the Bangla version of the report titled "Education For All Global Monitoring Report-2013/14" at BANBEIS Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

EFA is a global movement led by UNESCO, aiming to meet the learning needs of all children, youth and adults.

The countries had set the targets in 2000, aiming to meet them by 2015.

Mentioning Bangladesh's statistics, the report said young people from poorer households are less likely to

be able to read. One in three people from the poorest households are literate compared to the almost 9 out of 10 of the richest.

"Unequal distribution of teachers is one reason some children leave school before learning the basics," the report said.

Speaking as the chief guest, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said although the UNESCO declaration states the allocation for education should be at least six percent of the GDP, Bangladesh is far behind it.

Although the net enrolment rate at primary level is 99.47 percent, retaining the

children in schools is a major challenge, the minister said.

"The main challenge is to ensure quality education and for that we need quality teachers," he said.

The UNESCO report called on the governments to redouble efforts to provide learning to all who face disadvantages whether from poverty, gender, where they live or other factors. Education Secretary Muhammed Sadique and Primary and Mass Education Secretary Quazi Akter Hossain also spoke.

*[The Daily Star]*

### ✓ MALDIVES: SPENDING ON YOUTHS AN INVESTMENT, SAYS MINISTER

**Malé, 2 June 2014** - SPEAKING at the graduation ceremony of the first batch of Skill Training and Employ Programme (STEP) Apprenticeship Programme conducted for young people who are interested in tourism industry jobs the minister said that Maldives can move on to the next phase of its development by empowering the youth.

May it be for sports or training programmes, any fund spent on the youth is not an expenditure, rather an investment, he said.

The minister said that he has noticed how careless the youth still are at their jobs at a time when the youth needs to be well trained to facilitate development of the nation.

He described carelessness of the nature where some young folks give up on the

job after an interview or within weeks after beginning work.

"Our target is to lower the unemployment rate of the Maldives down to three or four percent.

We have to do much work to accomplish that; we have to create working opportunities.

We are working on that even now," Maleeh said, at the function held at Nasandhura Palace Hotel.

The minister stressed that developing Ibrahim Nasir International Airport (INIA) was one of the biggest projects the government will undertake and that a great number of trained, youthful staff will be required among the employment opportunities that are sure to open up then.

"We are all complaining about the lack of local staff at the resorts.

We need to grasp the fact that resorts are operated under 'city within a city' concept, so all kinds of workers with different types of skills will be needed to the industry," he said.

Thirty-two young people had taken part in the first batch of the STEP programme, which is run by the youth, tourism and education ministries.

Education ministry has confirmed occupation for 12 out of the 32 who had attended the nine-month training programme.

The second batch of the apprenticeship programme is set to commence and application has been opened for 60 slots until June 9.

Speaking at the graduation

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[Haveeru online]

### ✓ LEBANON: LEBANON LIBRARY ACCEPTING YOUTH VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS

**Beirut, 4 June 2014** - THE LEBANON Public Library is accepting applications for the 2014 Summer Youth Volunteer Program.

Youth volunteers will assist with setting up for the Thursday Performer's Series, helping children

during hands-on activities, and assisting librarians during the performances. Youth Volunteers are also needed to sign up participants and hand out prizes for the Summer Reading Program, and to help straighten shelves in the children's area of the

library on Thursday afternoons.

To qualify, students must be between the ages of 13 and 17, turn in completed Youth Volunteer Application, and attend a mandatory orientation session on Saturday, June 14.

Youth Volunteer Applications are available at the Lebanon Public Library and must be turned in by June 13.

[Democrat-Herald]

### ✓ PAKISTAN: BRIDGING CULTURES: PAKISTANI YOUTH VISUALISE PEACE THROUGH ART

**Islamabad, 7 June 2014** - TITLED "2014 Art for Peace The Young Pakistanis Vision", the initiative aims to provide a platform to the resident youth to share their messages of peace with the rest of the world through visual arts.

"This is a way of showing how art can be used as a tool for peace and help bridge the various cultures, religions and backgrounds

in this region," Lavinia Fillipi, art critic and chairperson of the jury said.

"It is important to stop and think how we can build a better world and arrive at peace," she remarked.

The idea is to exhibit about 20 shortlisted art pieces at the Serena's Satrang Gallery in Islamabad and the amount generated from

the sales will be used to fund art fellowships.

The art pieces on display will also be showcased in an art tour across the country, Lavinia said.

Other members of the jury are: art historian and curator Abdul Aziz Sohail, visual artist Sajjad Ahmed, Japanese artist Yukiko Tidten Yoshikawa, visual artist and teacher Xahra

Hafeez Khawaja, Brazilian Ambassador Alfredo Leoni, freelance art writer and teacher Maha Malik and Dutch Ambassador Marcel de Vink.

Quddus Mirza, head of Fine Art Department at the National College of Arts, Lahore, is the special adviser for the contest.

[The Express Tribune]

### ✓ SINGAPORE: SCEPTICISM AMONG THE YOUNG CAN BE GOOD FOR SOCIETY

**Singapore, 2 June 2014** - IT is hard to disagree with Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Lawrence Wong's clarion call for action.

For some time, the youth have been encouraged to be involved "in causes and projects that help build a better society (and help Singapore become a

democracy of deeds" ("National Youth Council to be revamped to better engage the young", May 31).

Despite its flaws, the school based community involvement programme appears to have contributed to rising volunteerism rates and has also encouraged some youth to adopt

meaningful causes.

The many individuals, who have done great work, as cited by Mr Wong in his speech, are evidence of these trends.

Mr Wong also cautioned against cynicism among the youth, while speaking of the need for the young "to become active and

discerning citizens".

He referenced a speech by Member of Parliament Hri Kumar Nair (Bishan Toa Payoh GRC), who had spoken of the deep-seated sense of cynicism and hopelessness that characterised political systems in "mature democracies".



Scepticism which is not necessarily a bad thing is often confused for cynicism.

If youths are to be part of an active citizenry, they must be keen to question and criticise fairly.

Community projects are in fact perfect platforms to develop such scepticism, where the young can ask themselves what their motivations are, question their awareness of stereotypes and biases, and whether they could be doing more harm than good.

Honesty with shortcomings sustains involvement in activities, and critical dispositions come in handy.

We need a dose of scepticism so the young speak up to influence and shape national policies.

Young people grow cynical, disillusioned and disengaged because they are pigeonholed into supposed “opportunities”.

Cynicism does not develop from scepticism, but from the lack of avenues to express that very scepticism. We must maintain spaces for dialogues and conversations.

Also, Mr Hri Kumar’s argument that good voter turnout in Singapore vis a vis Britain, Germany and the United States is an “expression of optimism” is not necessarily accurate.

Voting is compulsory in Singapore. Moreover, disillusionment could be just one of many reasons for low voter turnout.

The revamp of the National Youth Council also begs the question of whether it should play a central role in youth engagement. After all, even without the proposed change, youth projects have sprung up organically.

Also, how different would the new engagement efforts be from existing ones, without the additional resources? How would they be sustained? And what problems are there with the council that requires restructuring?

*[Today online]*

NEWS



### ✓ AZERBAIJAN: BAKU HOSTS SEVENTH AZERBAIJANI YOUTH FORUM

**Baku, 2 June 2014** - The forum involved 1,739 participants from regions of the country, as well as the capital, heads of NGOs, youth organizations, student youth organizations, officials, heads of central executive bodies, representatives of international organizations, university rectors, and deputies, among others.

After the opening ceremony, the forum will continue working in five sections.

The problems of educating youth in the spirit of patriotism, participation in public life, the place and the role of youth in the development of science and education, its social development, support for creative youth and innovative potential of the country will be discussed.

A report on the work carried

out within three years after the last forum will be submitted. Further challenges and the current problems of Azerbaijani youth will be discussed.

In conclusion, a resolution and a message from the forum participants to Azerbaijani youth will be adopted.

While speaking at the forum, Azerbaijani Minister of Youth and Sports Azad Rahimov stressed that the country is successfully implementing the "Azerbaijani youth" state program, covering 2011 - 2015.

"The first Azerbaijani Youth Forum was held in 1996 at the initiative and with the participation of national leader Heydar Aliyev," he said.

"Having listened carefully to the youth representatives

at the forum and paying attention to all the problems and proposals, the great leader reflected the place and role of youth policy in the country," he stressed. "His speech, marking the future of Azerbaijan, determined the goals and objectives of the youth policy."

The minister stressed that some 343 events covering various areas of youth policy, 254 of which were republican, 89 international were conducted during the period after the sixth forum.

"On average, more than 200,000 young people participated there," he said. "During this period, more than 6,000 young people took part in the international exchange programs.

The figures reflect only the activity of the Ministry of Youth and Sports."

The figures reflect only the activity of the Ministry of Youth and Sports."

"If we take into account the activities were carried out by NGO with the ministerial support, on average, more than 300 events were conducted per year," he said.

In conclusion, the minister recalled the words of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev saying that with creativity, good education and diligence, innovative consciousness inherent in youth can radically change the form of civilization.

"The president expressed confidence that many problems in the world today will be resolved through the inexhaustible energy and determination of young people," the minister said.

[Trend.az]

### ✓ DENMARK: COUNCILS SPENDING HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS ON UNEMPLOYMENT YOUTH

**Copenhagen, 2 June 2014** - CALCULATIONS based on studies carried out in 80 Swedish councils predict that some 10 percent of Danish youths will never get a job, spend their whole working life on disabilities and cost the country's councils a net loss of 105 billion kroner in benefits, lost revenue and the costs incurred in trying to get them back into work, reports Information.

Copenhagen Business School (CBS) and pension's provider Skandia, the organisations behind the calculations, were anxious to point out that the Swedish study took differences between Denmark and Sweden into consideration.

The organisations said they hoped the findings would inspire Danish councils to

recognise the economic potential of improving conditions via social investment plans.

"The councils needed an overview of what unemployed youth costs," Peter Holm, the head of communication at Skandia, told Information.

"They are often forced to plan for one year or one budget at a time, as opposed

to taking the advantages of long-term schemes into consideration."

CBS now intends to work with Skandia to develop a tool that can calculate the socio-economic losses sustained by unemployed youth to inform Danish councils about better using their finances.

[The Copenhagen Post]

### ✓ GREECE: GREECE STILL TOPS EUROZONE UNEMPLOYMENT CHARTS, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

**Athens, 10 June 2014** - GREECE remained at the top of the eurozone's latest unemployment charts

published by the EU's statistical agency on Tuesday. The Greek jobless rate for

February (latest available data) stood at 26.5 percent, making it the highest in the 18-nation euro area, above

Spain (25.1 percent in April).



The lowest rates for April were recorded in Austria (4.9 percent), Germany (5.2 percent) and Luxembourg (6.1 percent), Eurostat reported.

In the euro area as a whole, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 11.7 percent in April, down from 11.8 percent in March and from 12 percent in April 2013.

The EU28 unemployment rate was 10.4 percent in the same month this year, down

from 10.5 percent in March and from 10.9 percent in April 2013.

Youth unemployment also remained high in the 28-nation European Union, with 5.259 million young persons (under 25) being jobless, of whom 3.381 million were in the euro area.

Compared with April 2013, youth unemployment decreased by 415,000 in the EU28 and by 202,000 in the

euro area.

In April this year, the youth unemployment rate was 22.5 percent in the EU28 and 23.5 percent in the euro area, compared with 23.6 percent and 23.9 percent respectively in the same month the previous year.

In April this year, the lowest rates of joblessness among young people were observed in Germany (7.9 percent), Austria (9.5

percent) and the Netherlands (11 percent).

Greece again topped the charts with youth unemployment in February reaching (56.9 percent), compared to Spain's first quarter figure of 53.5 percent and Croatia's 49 percent.

[Kathimerini]

### ✓ ITALY: ITALIAN UNEMPLOYMENT STIFLES YOUTH ADVANTAGE

**Rome, 7 June 2014** - IN April, Italy's unemployment rate was registered as 12.6 percent of the workforce, the same as in March.

Earlier in the year, the figure had been as high as

12.7 percent.

The jobless trend has shown that young people are still over-represented in the jobless figures.

Youth joblessness in the 15-to 24 age group stands at

around 46 percent for the whole country.

In the south, the figures are much worse. Youth unemployment in that part of Italy is nearly 70 percent.

Firms that take on

temporary staff are currently being rewarded by the government in a plan to encourage more employers to take on youth.

[Big News Network.com]

### ✓ MACEDONIA: MACEDONIA ENCOURAGES YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH LOW-INTEREST START-UP LOAN

**Skopje, June 9 2014** - YOUNG Macedonian people under the age of 29 intended to start business are encouraged to apply for a new round of low-interest start-up loan, said Dime Spasov, Macedonian minister of Labor and Social Policy on Monday.

One applicant would acquire 7,000 Euros (9,520 U.S. dollars), accumulating 4,000 Euros for every newly set job, up to the maximum amount of 23,000 Euros for each loan, according to the minister.

That's to say; at least five jobs including the starter would be financed in the initial stage of small business.

This year, the starters are granted a 1.5 years' grace period and 5.5 years' payoff

period at an attempting annual interest rate of 1 percent.

Unemployment will be alleviated by stimulating young people to start small business, over 3,150 people have been employed and 2,084 firms and small businesses have been funded through the project, said Dime Spasov during a press conference in Skopje.

Macedonian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy has already launched this year's application process through the Employment Agency and the deadline is June 18, Spasov said.

Unemployed young people aged 29 and below are encouraged to grasp this opportunity to start their own business, added Spasov. (1 Euro = 1.36 U.S.

dollars)

[Shanghai Daily]



### AUSTRALIA: YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS NEED ATTENTION

**Canberra, 10 June 2014** - THREE key trends running through the Australian economy point to a critical need for a focus on youth entrepreneurship.

Youth unemployment is more than double that of the national unemployment rate and is projected to steadily increase.

The social and economic impacts of this issue may reverberate for years people who are unemployed during their younger years are likely to attain lower wages than the national average and experience recurring unemployment in later life

At the same time, the nature of the Australian workforce is shifting dramatically with some forecasters predicting that as much as 50 per cent of our workforce will be freelance or consultancy-based in six years time making them effectively self-employed.

The third factor is an Australia economy desperately in need of diversification our reliance on resources was underlined by last quarter's figures which showed that the main driver of the economy was mining, accounting for around 80 per cent of our growth.

Given this perfect storm for our next generation of workers, what are we doing about preparing our next generation for the workforce conditions and giving them skills to think more along entrepreneurial lines?

Before you discuss youth entrepreneurship it is

essential to introduce the significance of entrepreneurship from a general perspective.

A vibrant economy is heavily dependent on its small business sector, and the competitive advantage achieved by the entrepreneurial endeavours that create new ideas and business.

Entrepreneurship creates wealth, impacts on regional development, reduces poverty and contributes to employment.

Technology advancements within the past five to 10 years have made it easier and cheaper than ever to establish a business.

Today, it's possible for a young entrepreneur to source an existing product on Alibaba.com, create a website, rent some virtual server space, and market the product to thousands of potential customers for little to no cost via various forms of social media.

This could all be done for an investment of as little as \$5,000 or \$10,000. Ten years ago these costs would have been 10 to 20 times higher.

The rise of the digital economy has not just brought business creation into the realms of possibility for Australian entrepreneurs

It has made it possible for young Australian entrepreneurs to find a market both locally and globally they really have the opportunity to become

international entrepreneurs with clients throughout the globe.

As start-ups the world over have shown, younger entrepreneurs provide an alternative and 'fresh' perspective, which is fundamental to the development of an entrepreneurial base in any country.

And not every Australian entrepreneur has to aspire to global domination as the next Gates, Jobs or Zuckerberg there are a huge number of very successful small technology-enabled businesses in around the world creating massive value for their economies.

Yes, we need more large-scale players, but we also need more small to mid-sized online businesses that create employment opportunities for young Australians.

To ensure such youth entrepreneurship is fostered, the Australian government needs to incorporate entrepreneurial programs throughout all levels of the education system.

Entrepreneurship by its very nature is a discipline, so it is important that students are introduced to the necessary tools to establish and operate a successful business.

Such programs also help students identify entrepreneurs as role models, encourage more enterprising behavior, offer them an opportunity to take risks, manage the results and then learn from the outcomes.

Additional governmental support should also be provided for early school leavers to facilitate youth entrepreneurship.

But while governmental assistance can certainly help foster youth entrepreneurship the 'free market' will always play a primary role.

We're already seeing a move in tertiary institutions toward recognising and fostering greater initiative and entrepreneurial activity amongst students.

More collaboration with industry is required.

Entrepreneurs bring a unique dimension to a young person's education.

The entrepreneur has first-hand experience of what it takes to make an enterprise work.

Their experiences can help students appreciate the importance of hard work, determination and commitment in achieving a goal.

This is something we do at Macleay, not just in the delivery of our entrepreneurial unit in a classroom setting, but by hosting an annual Entrepreneurship Forum at Dockside Function Centre, Cockle Bay on 9th of July 2014.

*[Sydney Morning Herald]*



### FIJI: YOUTHS TO UPGRADE SKILLS IN AGRICULTURE

**Suva, 6 June 2014** - YOUTH's in Fiji are expected to upgrade their skills in agriculture activities as a form of employment.

This is after the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding which

took place between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma.

The MOU was signed following discussions between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma,

the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders. Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma General Secretary Reverend Tevita Nawadra thanked the government for the timely assistance and also the assurance of its support to the Navuso Agriculture

Vocational School's future. The Government assistance was given through a capital grant of \$315,000 and farming equipment worth of \$397,870.

*[Fiji village]*



### GUAM: MORE THAN 300 ATTEND 2014 YOUTH CONFERENCE

**Hagåtña, 1 June 2014** - Youth For Youth has a simple mission. "What it is basically about is a youth advocate going up to another youth, just being a peer to them showing them what it means to be drug-free and live life without having drugs or alcohol in their lives," says Earl Lorenzo, after the recent Youth For Youth conference.

Lorenzo is a junior at George Washington High School and the Youth For Youth secretary.

"Every year it keeps getting better and better. Meeting new people, getting to know their personalities and just knowing that you're not alone."

Whether it's dealing with bullying, alcohol, drugs or suicide, it doesn't matter, Lorenzo says. "Everyone comes together."

This year's "Limitless" conference, held May 16-18 at the Hyatt Regency Guam, aimed to show those in at-

tendance that, even in the face of problems and distractions, young people's opportunities to thrive and succeed are boundless. It was planned almost entirely by its youth members and drew more than 300 attendees.

"This event is about helping our youth," says Kristin Duenas, the group's treasurer.

"They don't know what choices they're making. Some of them have been pretty reckless, and this opens their eyes. It's to help our youths have a better future."

At the conference, youths met with their peers and had the chance to bond with each other through activities such as workshops and storytelling.

For many, the conference was a time to express their feelings to open up and break down some of the barriers of everyday youth life.

"Storytelling is the part

where everyone opens up," says Joey Cruz, a sophomore at George Washington High School and the group's vice president.

"They actually express what they're feeling problems in their life. It really touches me because they do trust me. They trust each other within the family groups."

Member Troy Saure says the conference pays off every year.

"I really like it, because at the end of the day, at the end of the conference, I always have a good, warm, soft spot in my heart, because I know that I changed someone's life."

Saure has been with the group for five years and was this year's conference facilitator.

Kai Murrell, a four-year member and facilitator, echoes Saure's feelings.

"I find that when I help other people, it not only makes

me feel better, but I like to be able to see other people at the end of the day come out of our program and say that their life is better because of it."

"The new staff did really great in planning.

They had a lot of training, a lot of retreats. They put in a lot of preparation into this, so they were prepared for what was to come," says Youth For Youth alumna Mikayla Legaspi.

"It has a big impact," Murrell says. "It has such a good program that I think it needs to be exposed to the public more."

The annual conference works to give participants the knowledge to make better life decisions and helps create youth leaders who can carry the message forward.

"I would definitely do it again," Saure says.

*[Pacific Daily News]*



### NEW ZEALAND: VOLUNTEER GLUT BOOSTS YOUNG WORKERS' SKILLS

**Wellington, 9 June 2014** - INCREASING numbers of young people are electing to volunteer in the workforce to improve their job

prospects, with volunteer agencies now struggling to find enough roles. Volunteer Nelson manager Katy Steele said more than

650 people registered with the service in the year to April, and it was now struggling to find enough roles for willing volunteers

who had a range of skills, education and abilities.



The increase had happened as the service for registering had moved online.

"We are now attracting more young people, more of whom are seeking new skills with the aim of getting into employment."

She said it was not uncommon for those who volunteered to go on and get employment, not necessarily for the organisation they had volunteered for, but elsewhere.

Science student Katy Woodward, 25, was taking a break from university to recover from illness, and had decided to volunteer as a way of gaining new skills before heading back to study.

The former Nelson College for Girls student plans to complete her science degree at Victoria University, but has opted for a gap year to recover at home in Nelson from chronic fatigue syndrome following a bout of glandular fever.

Woodward said she decided to volunteer and get some work experience before looking for a job to earn some money for study.

She was working in an administration role at Volunteer Nelson, and helping to organise its upcoming anniversary event.

The service, which operates with 1.8 fulltime staff and eight volunteers (plus more

for special events) will celebrate 20 years in operation on June 19.

Woodward said she was taken on after she "walked in the door" saying she was looking for volunteer work. She was aware there were several others her age offering to volunteer.

Steele said measures were in place to protect volunteers from being exploited. Volunteer Nelson only worked with community organisations. It had 160 organisations on its books.

Steele said it was "incredibly valuable" for any young person to volunteer, particularly as more employers seemed to be asking young people during job interviews what volunteering they had done.

"It's becoming an increasing requirement to be able to identify that people seeking employment are not just doing things for themselves, but aiming to help others.

"It's so hard for young people to get on the work ladder."

Steele said in some countries students could log their volunteer hours so they could use them on their CVs. Others could use them as credits to get into university.

"I would say that it's really valuable for a CV, to be able to prove or identify you have been doing voluntary

work," Steele said.

The latest six-monthly report from the Nelson Regional Economic Development Agency showed that youth employment in the region has been on a downward trend.

The number in fulltime employment had fallen in the past year and those in part-time work or apprenticeships had increased slightly.

According to figures from Statistics New Zealand: Household Labour Force Survey and Nelson-Tasman Connections, by the end of 2013, just over a quarter Nelson-Tasman youth (27 per cent) were in paid employment, compared to 36.5 per cent nationally.

Woodward said it was better to be out in the community doing something than sitting at home doing nothing.

"It's really good to be out meeting people, and helping the community is really nice. Just getting that work experience is really good."

Steele said volunteers signed up offering to do a range of work, from working in retail, IT, administration and sports fields. Working with animals was "very popular", she said.

Brett Hilton is volunteering 35-40 hours a week doing maintenance work at Nature

land.

The 24-year-old painter and decorator from England recently arrived in Nelson and hopes to gain residency in New Zealand.

The keen mountain biker was drawn to Nelson for its outdoors and lifestyle and has family here.

Hilton said he decided to volunteer before making a decision on what he wanted to do, and signed up with Volunteer Nelson after finding its website.

"I thought when I came here it would be good to volunteer. I like building and maintenance work.

"I'd rather do that than be on my backside whiling away the time. I wanted to help someone else out and I feel better if I've done a week's work."

Volunteer Nelson will mark its 20th birthday on June 19 with a "speed volunteer matching" event for anyone interested in a fun way to find out about volunteering and to meet some community organisations seeking volunteers.

It will be from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in central Nelson, at a venue to be announced.

*[The Nelson Mail]*



### SOLOMON ISLANDS: OVER 200 YOUTHS GRADUATE FROM INTERN PROGRAM

Honiara, 4 June 2014 - OVER 200 hundred youths have graduated from the SPC-led job internship program that sought to tack-

le youth unemployment in Honiara.

Youth at Work started in June 2012, and was reported

as successful in its work to engage youths in employment and give them practical work experience.



Speaking to SIBC News after the Graduation ceremony yesterday, Coordinator of the SPC in Country Office, Mia Rimon says 40 percent of the youths that pass through the program are still working.

“A thousand three hundred youths have passed through this programme and of that thousand three hundred, 40 percent are still in employment.

We have conducted a study to track down every youth who graduated, so I have very high hope for the graduating class today, about 250 of them that will become productive members of our Solomon Islands society.”

Meanwhile, the Solomon Islands SPC Coordinator said, communities from where the youths come from in Honiara and Guadalcanal have reported they have seen changes in the youth’s attitude and behavior since they joined the program.

A total of 2-hundred and thirty-seven youths graduated from the Youth at Work Program yesterday.

They included 109 young men and 128 young women from community groups in Honiara and in Guadalcanal.

Meanwhile, speaking at the Youth at Work Graduation ceremony, Undersecretary for Peace, Unity and Reconciliation Betty Fakari says, the Government places Youth Peace building and development programs as a high priority.

In that youths must be

recognized that they are vulnerable to our peaceful coexistence if they are not properly harnessed to participate, empower and build their capacity, to understand the important prerequisites to economic development, which will subsequently have positive spillover effects, particularly in providing employment and part of a productive labour force in Solomon Islands.”

Youth at Work has worked with over 1300 youths in the last two years since the program started in the country.

SIBC News understands, 197 of the youths who graduated are already in internships in various companies and Government Ministries in Honiara.

*[Solomon Islands  
Broadcasting  
Corporation]*

NEWS

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