

UN YOUTH FLASH

Service of the United Nations Programme on Youth

19 July 2004

WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a new service of the UN Programme on Youth, keeping you up to date on the youth agenda of the UN and partnering youth organizations around the world. We encourage you to forward Youth Flash to people in your network. Below you will read more on:

- News from UN Headquarters in New York
- News from UN Agencies around the world
- Feature: Youth at the XV International AIDS Conference, Bangkok 2004
- Upcoming events
- Website of the month: Youth Portal of AIF
- Our contact information

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News from UN Headquarters in New York  
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>> Making Commitments Matter Toolkit is available in French <<  
As part of our efforts to maximize youth input into the review of the World Programme of Action for Youth in 2005, the UN Programme for Youth is currently distributing the "Making Commitments Matter: A Toolkit for young people to evaluate national youth policy".  
We are pleased to announce that this resource is now available in French at:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/french/ftoolkit.html>  
More information on how to use the toolkit effectively is available at:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr/index.html#toolkit>  
We are working to have the toolkit made available in other languages.

>> Gearing up for International Youth Day Celebrations <<  
Young people around the world are gearing up to celebrate International Youth Day on August 12, 2004 on the theme of "Youth in an Intergenerational Society". We have been informed of celebrations in Australia, the Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka and the United States of America. Details of these events, along with more information and other ideas to commemorate the day, have been posted at:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday/index.html>.  
We urge you to send us information on how your organization will celebrate the day by sending us an email at: [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org)

>> Outcomes from the Urban Youth Employment Workshop in Nairobi <<  
The "Strategies for Creating Urban Youth Employment in Africa" workshop was held in Nairobi on June 21-25, 2004 and included both an expert group meeting and youth roundtable. The meeting was organized by UN-DESA and the Youth Employment Network (YEN) in collaboration with UN-HABITAT. It brought together experts from different regions of the world, as well as young people from eleven African countries, to address the challenges of creating decent youth employment in cities in Africa. The final objectives, work plan, and outcomes and recommendations of the youth roundtable are available at:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/Workshops/MainPage.htm>

>> Summer newcomers to the UN Programme on Youth <<

The UN Programme on Youth is pleased to welcome two new people to our team for the summer. We are joined by Linabel Segovia-Sarlat from Mexico and Birgit Matten from Germany. For more information, please visit "About Us" on our website at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/aboutus.htm>

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News from UN Agencies around the world

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>> UNDP: Outcomes of the Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit <<

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized, together with the Global Peace Initiative of Women, a Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit, as part of the Africa 2015 campaign to call attention to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The resulting youth declaration and appeal to the African Union are available at: <http://www.africa2015.org>  
Similar regional Summits will follow in other parts of the world. All Summits will eventually feed into a Global Youth gathering during the UN General Assembly session in 2005 in New York.

>> UNESCO: Three new publications <<

In order to highlight its work with and for young people, UNESCO has recently published three documents pertaining to youth.

1. Empowering youth through national policies: UNESCO's contribution is a direct response to several Member States' request for assistance in formulating and developing a national youth policy which adequately responds to young people's needs and concerns, while promoting substantial youth participation and integration in social development. The publication aims to serve national decision-makers and diverse actors of civil society to develop a viable national youth policy in active partnership with young people. To find out more visit: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001345/134502e.pdf>

2. UNESCO's commitment to youth: the Youth Forum, was prepared in the follow up to the 3rd UNESCO Youth Forum, held from 26 to 28 September 2003, in Paris. The publication gives an overview of the three UNESCO Youth Forums held to date and features the final reports containing the recommendations of the young delegates. It also seeks to initiate a discussion between Member States and young people on the major issues that will arise during the preparation of the 4th UNESCO Youth Forum, in 2005.  
For more info: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001345/134501e.pdf>

3. All Different, All Unique: Young People and the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, is the result of a joint project between UNESCO and the International Youth Parliament. It is a "youth-friendly" version of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which was adopted in October 2001. The publication aims to introduce the concept of cultural diversity to young people and to cultivate links between them, wherever they may live.

For more info: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001345/134556e.pdf>

For more information on any of these publications, please contact the Section for Youth, [ucj@unesco.org](mailto:ucj@unesco.org), or see: <http://www.unesco.org/youth>

>> ESCAP's Conflict Negotiation Skills for Youth Publication <<

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has produced a publication on Conflict Negotiation Skills for Youth. It aims to promote life skills training on conflict negotiation. It is directed at government and non-governmental organization personnel working with young people and presents participatory training methods. Users are encouraged to refine and adapt the training techniques and exercises as needed. For more info: <http://www.unescap.org/publications/detail.asp?id=789>

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Feature: Youth at the XV International AIDS Conference, Bangkok 2004  
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The XV International AIDS Conference was held last week in Bangkok to focus on how to advance access to information, prevention, treatment and resources for all people around the world. Young people are at the heart of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as more than half of the 14,000 people newly infected each day are under 25 years old; the majority are young women. In spite of the disproportionate risks and burdens they face, young people have also proven to be society's best hope in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"Whenever there is a war, governments summon their young people to fight. Now is the time they should call on us to fight the war against HIV/AIDS." This was the impassioned plea of 21-year-old Ricky Tonbing, head of the Delhi Network of Positive People in India, speaking to delegates during a plenary session called "Ensuring access for youth and women".

"As more than 50% of the 14,000 new infections everyday happen to those aged 15 to 24, surely 50% of total resources should be targeted to their needs?" questioned Ricky Tonbing. Mr. Tonbing's call was echoed by Raol Fransen, a young Dutch man living openly with HIV who has built schools and clinics in Zambia, currently working with Young Positives. Mr. Fransen said that although young people resented being "boxed" into one homogenous category, they did share many attitudes to lifestyle and career ambitions, and all keenly felt the generation gap. "We are not only part of the HIV/AIDS problem; we are also part of its solution. We are not only targets, but viable and absolutely necessary partners," he said.

Bangkok 2004 is the first International AIDS Conference in which young people have been extensively involved in organizing a youth programme and a lively debate has occurred in the Youth Lounge of the Global Village. Nevertheless, said Mr. Fransen, young people should not be sidelined to "youth venues" - young delegates should be far more numerous in sessions and on speaker podiums, and be treated as equal partners. He did not offer figures on youth representation at this conference, but mentioned that at Barcelona 2002, only 200 of about 15,000 delegates were aged under 30.

He further suggested including young people on National AIDS Committees and other policy bodies. Youth groups represent a resource that should be harnessed in development programme planning, he said. Mr. Fransen

acknowledged the limited experience of young people, and that they "tended to grow up and out of leadership roles". Maintaining institutional memory was therefore vital, he argued, as were partnerships with others who could bring a greater range of skills and experience.

More information on youth involvement at the Bangkok Conference is available at: <http://www.YOUTHandHIV.org/Bangkok>

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Calendar of Youth Events  
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NB: Some events are open for participation by invitation only

>> 2-4 August 04: "Workshop on Youth in Poverty in Southeast Asia"  
Yogyakarta, Indonesia. UNDESA will organize, in cooperation with the office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Jakarta, a workshop on youth and poverty in Southeast Asia, to be hosted by the Government of Indonesia. This Workshop aims to gain a better understanding of the special characteristics of young people moving in and out of poverty and will also contribute to the development of policies and programmes specifically focusing on young people in poverty. Visit:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/Workshops/MainPage.htm>

>> 8-14 August 04: "World Youth Festival"  
Barcelona, Spain. After Lisbon in 1998 and Panama City in 2001, Barcelona will host this third World Youth Festival, which aims to take a step forward in cooperation among youth organizations from around the world and bring together thousands of young people from all the continents. The festival's motto is 'Let's build the world'. For more info:  
<http://www.barcelona2004.org/festivaljoventut>

>> 12 August 04: "International Youth Day"  
This year's theme will be: 'Youth and Intergenerational Relations - Young People and the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family'. Events are scheduled to be held at the World Youth Festival (see above), and many other places around the world. For more info:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday/index.html>

>> 17-21 August 04: "18th World Volunteer Conference"  
Barcelona, Spain. The conference is promoted by IAVE (International Association for Volunteer Effort) and directed by FCVS (Federació Catalana de Voluntariat Social). To highlight the presence of international youth volunteers and IAVE members at the Conference, a Youth Forum will be held on August 17. More information is available at the site:  
<http://www.iave2004barcelona.org> and through the Iave Youth Forum coordinator Carlos Roca Parada: [youthiaveforum@federacio.net](mailto:youthiaveforum@federacio.net).

5-7 September 04: "The World Bank's Youth, Development and Peace Conference"  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is a follow-up to the first youth meeting of the World Bank that took place in 2003, during which President Wolfensohn met with more than 110 young people from around the world on the theme of "Youth, Development and Peace (YDP)." This second meeting will serve as an opportunity to measure progress and plan the next steps for the

continued collaboration between youth and the World Bank in addressing poverty and promoting development and peace. For more info:  
<http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/EURVP/web.nsf/Pages/YDP2004-Home>

>> 8-10 September 04: "57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference United Nations Headquarters"  
New York, USA. The theme of this year's DPI/NGO Conference is entitled "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action". Several plenary sessions are planned and are described on the above website. There is a Youth Committee to the Conference that is working to nominate young people to speak as plenary panelists, inviting young reporters to take part and organizing youth activities such as a concert in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. Information will be posted at [www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth) when available. Visit also:  
<http://www.ngodpiexecom.org/conference04/>

>> 18-21 September 04: "Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit"  
Hiroshima, Japan. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organizes, together with the Global Peace Initiative of Women, a Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit, sponsored by the Japanese Government. This Summit is the second in a series of regional Summits aiming to identify, train and mobilize the next generation of Asia-Pacific leaders for effective involvement in the advancement of the Millennium Development Goals agenda. The first was held in June in Dakar, Senegal (for the results, visit: [www.africa2015.com](http://www.africa2015.com)) and more will follow in other parts of the world. All Summits will eventually feed into a Global Youth gathering during the UN General Assembly session in 2005 in New York. For more info: <http://www.asiapacific2015.org> - coming soon.

>> 17-24 October 04: "International Day for the Eradication of Poverty"  
The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2004 will be observed around the globe between 17 and 24 October under the theme "Youth - A New Voice for the Millennium Development Goals". More information will be posted on <http://www.un.org/youth> as it becomes available.

>> 18 October 04: "Youth Dialogue on Employment and Participation"  
Lübeck, Germany. The Youth Dialogue is organized by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, the Organization of the Scout Movement and the Youth Employment Network. The dialogue precedes the XV. Malente Symposium (see below) and is designed to give young people the opportunity to review and evaluate current international youth employment efforts and present methodologies for successful youth participation in employment policy at the country level. More info:  
<http://www.gtz.de/youth/youthdialogue2004/index.html>

>> 19-20 October 04: "XV Malente Symposium on Youth Employment, Empowerment and Participation: Securing the Future"  
Lübeck, Germany. The XV Malente Symposium on youth employment, jointly organized by the Dräger Foundation, the GTZ and the Youth Employment Network (YEN) - a collaborative effort of the World Bank, the ILO and the UN - and supported by the World Organization of the Scout Movement, will bring together stakeholders from all fields of society and of course from youth itself to examine youth employment. Discussions will focus on barriers, solutions and best practices with regard to fostering youth employment across the globe, and to developing and implementing strategies that give young

people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work. Visit for more info: [http://www.draegerstiftung.de/htm/e\\_conf\\_malente\\_2004.htm](http://www.draegerstiftung.de/htm/e_conf_malente_2004.htm)

>> Autumn 2005: "Evaluation of the World Programme of Action for Youth" UN Headquarters, New York. The UN World Programme of Action for Youth will be evaluated by the General Assembly (see also 'News from UN Headquarters'). More information can be found at: <http://www.un.org/youth>.

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Website of the month: Youth Portal of AIF  
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>> July's site of the month: The Youth Portal of l'Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (AIF) <<  
The Youth Portal of l'Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (AIF) aims to gather information related to the various programmes and projects involving francophone youth. This virtual space offers a number of resources and communication tools that promote and support cooperative partnerships and youth networks. Please visit: <http://www.jeunesse.francophonie.org> (available in French only).

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Our contact information  
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UN Youth Flash is a free service of the UN Programme on Youth, of the Division for Social Policy and Development, within the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

Currently working with the programme are Joop Theunissen (Focal Point on Youth), Julie Larsen (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Charlotte van Hees (Associate Expert on Youth Policies and Programmes), Linabel Segovia-Sarlat (Associate Social Affairs Officer) and Birgit Matten (intern).

If you have news that you want to share via the UN Youth Flash, please send an email to: [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org).

To subscribe and unsubscribe to the information service, please send an email to: [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org), with 'subscribe' or 'unsubscribe' as the subject line.

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