



Youth at the United Nations

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April 2006

WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a 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 this Youth Flash to people in your network.

News from UN Headquarters

Commission for Social Development passes resolution on youth employment

The UN Commission on Social Development met at UN Headquarters from 8 - 17 February to review the progress made during the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006). During the meeting, the Commission agreed on a resolution to promote youth employment. The resolution urged Governments to give renewed attention to their commitment concerning decent and productive work for young people. It also encouraged Governments to support the integration of young people into the labour market. To find out more about the resolution, please visit our official documents library on our web site: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/library.htm#resolutions>. More information on the Commission for Social Development can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd>.

Tackling Poverty Together: An Update

The Tackling Poverty Together project aims to strengthen the role of young people in poverty reduction strategies. The project has included two workshops that gathered youth organizations from Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. At the first workshop participants created action plans containing concrete steps towards the inclusion of youth in the p o v e r t y



reduction efforts of their countries. These action plans were reviewed at a second workshop held in Kampala, Uganda in March 2006, when participants discussed problems encountered, lessons learned, and future directions for their work. The UN Programme on Youth, LSU and the youth organizations involved in the first phase of the project are working towards the continuation and expansion of this work. For more info, visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/TPT.htm>

In this issue

- ◆ News from UN Headquarters
- ◆ News from UN Agencies
- ◆ Feature: Indigenous youth - A voice from the margins
- ◆ Calendar of Youth Events
- ◆ On the Internet

Speak UP - Children, Youth and the UNPFII



The Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has just released an information brochure on Indigenous Children, and Youth, which highlights issues of concern to them. It also encourages active participation of indigenous young people in the Sessions of the Forum.

Email the Forum for a copy at :

indigenouspermanentforum@un.org or visit:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/publications.html>.

Experts meet to discuss regional youth issues in Asia

The UN Programme on Youth and the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific organized an expert group meeting from 28-30 March in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting brought together experts and representatives of universities, United Nations Member States, United Nations Agencies and Programmes, and intergovernmental organizations. The participants discussed major youth development challenges in Asia, such as education, urbanization, globalization, and information and communications technology in preparation for the World Youth Report 2007. For more information, please visit: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/regm_asia.htm.

News from UN Agencies around the world

UNESCAP: Tsunami relief

UNESCAP - UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is starting a technical project aimed at promoting community support and networks and enhancing income generation activities for the benefits of children and youth in the Aceh province of Indonesia that have been affected by the 2004 Tsunami disaster. The project will also include advocacy activities for the development of effective policies to promote the wellbeing of these vulnerable population groups.

UNESCAP: Technical cooperation project to protect children and youth

In an effort to follow up to Stockholm Agenda for Action and the Yokohama Commitments to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth, UNESCAP is implementing a technical assistance project aimed at building the capacity of Pacific island countries for the effective implementation of the commitments. As a collaborative effort between UNESCAP and UNEPOC, ECPAT International and UNICEF, the project will focus on data collection and situational analysis, awareness raising, information sharing, sensitization, and developing the capacity to adopt legislation and policies, enact legal reforms to implement the Yokohama Commitments through the implementation of National Plans of Action.

UNESCAP: Workshop to train peer educators in drug counseling for youth

From 13 to 16 March 2006, under their project Reducing drug abuse and delinquency among youth in the Greater Mekong Subregion, UNESCAP organized a national workshop to train peer educators in the counseling of young drug users for China (Yunnan Province) in Kunming. Similar workshops will be held in Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam in the following months. For more information, please contact nguyen.unescap@un.org.

UNESCO sponsored WAYS - World Academy of Young Scientists

UNESCO supports the work of the World Academy of Young Scientists (WAYS) to promote the involvement of younger generation of scientists in the dialogue between Governments and educational institutions which would lead to better national science policies, WAYS provides an opportunity for different generations of scientists to interact and collaborate, as well as provide a platform where young scientists present their concerns. More information is available at: <http://www.waysnet.org/>

UNESCO Youth PATH - Poverty alleviation through tourism and heritage

An initiative of the UNESCO Office in Kingston (Jamaica), the project Youth PATH is designed to enable young people in the Caribbean between the ages of 15 and 25 to utilize innovative skills for sustainable employment in the area of community Heritage Tourism and preservation of Heritage sites. Young people in poor communities of the Caribbean are trained in the development and documentation of natural and cultural heritage sites so that these sites can become centers of tourism, which in turn, helps develop their entrepreneurial skills.

More information is available at: http://www.unescocaribbean.org/culture/culture_youthpath.htm

UNFPA: Youth Rights and Public Policies

In October of 2005, 18 Iberoamerican countries signed the first-ever Convention on the Rights of Youth. UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), the OIJ (Ibero-American Youth Organization) and the UN Programme on Youth are working on a new project in support of the Convention, entitled: Youth Rights and Public Policies: Social Inclusion of Young People in Latin America. The project aims to build the capacity of Latin American Governments and relevant stakeholders to develop and implement effective social programmes and policies for youth. For more information on the Convention, please visit http://www.oij.org/convencion_2005.htm.

UNFPA Youth Advisory Group in English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean

UNFPA launched its Youth Advisory Group (YAG) for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean in Kingston, Jamaica, to serve as a sounding board and a forum for consultation with young people. The group of 12 young people between the ages of 15-25 drawn from across the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean will discuss issues related to sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and gender issues. The YAG aims to ensure the views of young people guide the UNFPA in providing and supporting high quality and youth friendly policies and services. The establishment of the advisory body

also comes in response to a recommendation by UNFPA's Global Youth Advisory Panel that called for the establishment of similar regional, sub-regional and country-level structures, and UNFPA anticipates that more countries will follow in the course of 2006. The advisory groups at the various levels will be interlinked and in this way a mechanism of continuous exchange from local to global will be ensured. More info on the adolescent programmes of UNFPA: <http://www.unfpa.org/adolescents/>.

Feature: Indigenous Youth A voice from the margins

While young people are the most flexible and perhaps best able to adapt to and make use of new opportunities offered by globalization, many have been left out of any benefits of the globalization process, and lack the economic power to benefit from the opportunities it offers. Many indigenous youth are not empowered to partake in the benefits of globalization and have not benefited from the rewards of globalization.

As we draw closer to the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 15-26 May, young people will come to the United Nations in New York to make their voices heard. Jennifer Awingan is the coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Indigenous Youth Network, an active member of the international indigenous youth movement.

What are the key indigenous youth concerns addressed at recent international conferences?

We organize international conferences to discuss issues relating to globalization, youth participation and governance, activism, education, health, networking and future collaboration. Both local and international action is necessary for the continued success of the human rights movement of indigenous peoples. Effectiveness in each strengthens the other. We must be strategic in coordinating our efforts at all levels of the struggle. We need to reiterate our right to self-

determination as indigenous peoples, with a fundamental right to a free, prior and informed consent on activities that directly affect our lives.



I am quite excited by the growth of the Indigenous youth

movement, which makes us more visible, and enabled us to put together this big conference. No matter how meager our resources were, we managed to come together and assess the situation and work together to shape our future. After all, as youth, it is our inherent nature to be full of idealism and initiative. Of course, we know that along with these positive assets, if we have the support of others, including Governments and the UN itself, our ideals will be achieved sooner and our work will not be in vain.

What kind of efforts do you undertake to facilitate the dialogue between generations?

Last year, for the first-time ever, we had a Youth Jam cum Youth-Elders Dialogue in the Philippines, a five-day event, in which young indigenous youth met with each other and their elders to discuss common issues affecting them. This exchange enabled young people to accept ownership alongside their elders to preserve and protect their cultural heritage.

What is your vision for indigenous youth?

Central to any development policy for indigenous peoples is the recognition and protection of their collective rights as people, and indigenous youth have a crucial role in this process. If properly harnessed, the various initiatives of indigenous youth will contribute to their own peoples' empowerment for autonomy and self-governance. It is therefore urgent to mobilize and empower them through increased participation and more active involvement in the development process. Initiatives that would allow this to happen include capacity-building for governance, awareness-raising on indigenous issues and the MDGs, support for indigenous youth-initiated and youth-led activities; indigenous youth-friendly institutions and services, opportunities for an intergenerational dialogue; opportunities for meaningful participation in society, and the creation and support for international youth networks.

What do you hope the United Nations and the UNPFII can do next for indigenous youth?

I think that the formation of an indigenous educational center for youth or a body within the UN that could be a repository for Indigenous peoples laws, philosophies/beliefs and culture. It could also provide training and information on issues related to indigenous peoples' rights. Also, the UN could help create new processes and support systems that would enable the meaningful participation of Indigenous youth in all aspects of their development processes.

What issues should be addressed by the indigenous youth caucus attending the forthcoming Session of the Permanent Forum?

I think it is important for the indigenous youth caucus to discuss the current status of the implementation of the MDGs by their Governments, as well as consolidate recommendations and action plans. There are ongoing initiatives by indigenous youth in their communities toward achieving the MDGs that the indigenous youth attending the session could share with all, including the wider network of indigenous youth. It is also important to discuss the level of indigenous youth participation in governance and make necessary recommendations on these. And, the caucus should also discuss various efforts and initiatives of indigenous youth wherever they are and shape the future of the international indigenous youth movement alongside the global indigenous peoples' movement. We are resolute in our determination to continue the historical struggle of our ancestors.

For more information, please contact: jenawingan@yahoo.com and visit the web site of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/>.

Calendar of Youth Events

NB: Some events are open for participation by invitation only

1-12 May 2006: Commission on Sustainable Development

In the first year of its second implementation cycle, the fourteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) will meet at UN Headquarters in New York to review progress in the following areas: Energy for Sustainable Development; Industrial Development; Air pollution/ Atmosphere; and Climate Change. Visit the CSD web site at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/>. Also see what the CSD Youth Caucus is doing at: <http://groups.takingitglobal.org/WSSD-YouthCaucus> or <http://www.youthcaucus.net>.

15-26 May 2006: 5th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The fifth session of the Forum will discuss the Millennium Development Goals and its impact on indigenous peoples. Young people are encouraged to participate and make their voices heard. For more information on participating, please visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/>. If you wish to participate as a young person through your youth NGO, the indigenous youth caucus coordinator can be contacted at: catherine@terarawa.co.nz.

21 May 2006: Help end child hunger by Walking the World

Only two months to go before the global Walk the World event organized by the UN World Food Programme. You can register NOW on the Fight Hunger website to join one of hundreds of events that are happening all over the world. If there's no Walk in your area, get together with a group of friends and bring Walk the World to your community. It's very easy, a lot of fun and there is personal online assistance every step of the way! This is a chance for us all to make a difference and join a growing global group of activists working to end child hunger. Visit www.FightHunger.org and for any questions email team@FightHunger.org.

31 May - 2 June 2006: UNGASS+5 - Review of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

The 2006 follow-up meeting on the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS will take place at UN Headquarters (<http://www.unaids.org/>). The meeting will involve all sectors of the international community, governments, civil society and the private sector. The opportunities provided for civil society organizations to take part in the meeting is unprecedented. On May 29 and 30, youth will participate in a capacity-building Summit to prepare delegates for the Review proceedings. For more information, visit: <http://www.youthaidscoalition.org>.

19-23 June 2006: World Urban Forum

Vancouver, Canada. The theme of the Third Session of UN-HABITAT's World Urban Forum is "Our Future: Sustainable Cities - Turning Ideas into Action". The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to respond to rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. It gives the various stakeholders a common platform to discuss urban issues in formal and informal ways and come up with action-oriented proposals to create sustainable cities. More information is available at: <http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006>.

In the days preceding the Forum, youth organizations will meet from 16-18 June for the **World Urban Youth Forum** to showcase best practices and projects on youth-led development. For more info, contact: The World Urban Forum & Youth: worldurbanforum2006@canada.com and <http://www.eya.ca/wuf> or contact UN-HABITAT: ngounit@unhabitat.org. Also at the Forum, look for the Mathare Youth Sport Association (MYSAs) photo-exhibit from one of the largest slums in Africa (in Kenya) that highlight youth-driven solutions to achieve the MDGs. For more information, please contact: mutinta.munyati@unhabitat.org.

4 -13 August 2006: Intergenerational Conference: Human Rights as a Tool for Social Change

Organized by the UNESCO Chair & Institute of Comparative Human Rights, the Intergenerational Conference seeks to promote the empowerment of youth leaders to enable them to

play a crucial and constructive role in ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights in their communities. The conference will provide tools and a platform for open debates about policies, programmes, activities and processes necessary for human rights leadership. Participants at the conference are individuals (ages 18-30) from all over the world who have been involved in some capacity in human rights work in their communities. For more information visit: <http://www.unescochair.uconn.edu> or email: unescochair@uconn.edu.

12 August 2006: International Youth Day

This year's theme will be: "Tackling Poverty Together - involving young people in the fight against poverty". Youth around the world are encouraged to organize activities highlighting the impact of poverty on their lives and their role in poverty eradication efforts. For more information how you can commemorate the day, please visit our web site at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday.htm>.

13-18 August 2006: XVI Toronto International AIDS Conference 2006

The AIDS Conference will focus on the promises and progress made to scale-up treatment, care and prevention. Conference sessions and activities will be designed to engage all delegates in dialogue about strategies to meet these shared goals. Participants will share the latest evidence, ideas and lessons learned in HIV/AIDS research, policies and programmes. Organized around the key challenges facing those engaged in the response to the epidemic, AIDS 2006 will focus on shared obligations to deliver the promise of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care to communities throughout the world. More information is available at: <http://www.aids2006.org>.

26-30 August 2006: Tunza International Children's Conference

The 2006 International Children's Conference on the Environment will be held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 26-30 August 2006. Approximately 250 delegates (10-14 years old) from around the world are expected to participate. The Conference will enable the children learn about the environment through plenary sessions and hands-on workshops and fieldtrips. The children will share their views and concerns about the environment and will prepare individual commitments and a petition to world leaders expressing their concerns and vision. For more information, please visit: <http://www.unep.org/tunza/children/Events/Events.asp> or write to children.youth@unep.org to get a copy of the application via email.

13-16 September 2006: Youth Employment Summit, Kenya 2006

Hosted by the Government of Kenya, YES 2006 was launched on 15th March 2006, by the President of Kenya and marks a major milestone in the development of youth in Kenya. YES2006 will focus on capacity-building to prepare youth for emerging markets. Innovative policies, best practices and ideas, will be shared and used for initiating committed and collaborative action. For registration and more information, visit <http://www.yesweb.org>.

31 October - 1 November 2006: UN Global Youth Leadership Summit, UNHQ

Organized by the UN Office for Sport for Development and Peace, the UN Global Youth Leadership Summit aims to link youth with the MDGs, using sport, peacebuilding, and culture as entry points. The event will include two youth delegates - one male, one female - from each of the 191 Member States of the UN. For more information, please contact Karima.Zerrou@undp.org

On the Internet

Voices of Youth Newsletter: What young people are saying about livelihoods

Every second month, Voices of Youth (VOY), UNICEF's interactive website for young people, distributes a newsletter to draw attention to the thoughts, reflections and suggestions on a priority developmental issue posted by young people on VOY's discussion boards. This issue is dedicated to livelihoods and the profound social, physical, and mental health benefits livelihoods can offer children and adolescents, including how livelihoods may help adolescents realize their inherent capacities - capacities to be economically successful, active and valuable members of society, independent and freethinking individuals, as well as role models for future adolescents. <http://www.unicef.org/voy/news/>

UNFPA-Brazil Youth Portal

This is a virtual gateway for news on youth-related events and projects, queries, forums, publications and useful information, besides links to social movements and organizations targeting youngsters and their rights. This Portal has been developed by UNFPA Brazil team, working in partnership with representatives from different youth organizations, youth rights experts, IT and communication professionals, under the guidance of UNFPA program officers. Visit <http://www.unfpa.org.br/jovem.htm>.

International Youth Day - 12 August

IYD2006

Tackling Poverty Together

Contact information

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), Fred Doulton (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Julie Larsen (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Charlotte van Hees (Associate Expert on Youth Policies and Programmes), Anna di Mattia (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Mike Thiedke (Consultant), Sylvie Pailler (Administrative Assistant) and Frank Cohn (Intern).

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