

UN YOUTH FLASH
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WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a service of the UN Programme on Youth, keeping you informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. We encourage you to forward the Youth Flash to people in your network. Below you will read more on:

- News from UN Headquarters- Celebrate International Youth Day 2006!
- Highlights from UN Agencies and Programmes around the world
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The UN Youth Flash is available online at:

English: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/flash.htm>

French: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/french/flash.htm>

Spanish: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/spanish/flash.htm>

News from UN Headquarters in New York

>>Celebrate International Youth Day - 12 August 2006

This year's theme for International Youth Day is: "Tackling Poverty Together: The Role of Young People in Poverty Eradication". The occasion presents an opportunity to invite all stakeholders to work with young people on global, national and local efforts to eliminate poverty. Visit the link below to learn more about how young people are affected by poverty and to find out what you can do to mark the Day. You can also read about the events taking place to observe International Youth Day 2006, both at UN Headquarters in New York and around the world. For more information, please visit at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyd2006.htm>

>> New publication on UN youth delegates available online

A new publication called "A Brief Guide to Youth Delegates to the United Nations General Assembly" is now available online in English, French and Spanish. The purpose of the guide is to provide information regarding the role of national youth delegates to the General Assembly and to other relevant meetings of the United Nations. To view the new publication, please visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm>

Highlights from UN Agencies and Programmes around the world

>> 3rd Session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada, 19-23 June 06

With some 10,000 participants from over 100 countries, the Third Session of the World Urban Forum examined the ways forward for the international urban agenda in a world of rapidly growing cities. Recognizing that young people are a key force in renewing urban environments, youth participation in the Forum was noted by UN-HABITAT as infusing a welcomed energy into the deliberations. Youth representatives encouraged participants of the Forum to

adopt strategies bearing in mind the specific needs of youth and to engage youth in decisions affecting their lives. For more information please see: www.unhabitat.org/wuf

>>UN European Youth Leadership Summit held in Austria 19-21 June 2006

During its Presidency of the European Union, Austria hosted the United Nations European Youth Leadership Summit, convened by the UN New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace. The event promoted the exchange of perspectives on how youth can use the convening power of sport and culture to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 and encourage peace building. For more information, please visit: <http://www.un.org/youthsummit/regions.asp>

>>UNESCO at the Pacific Youth Festival: Young People Take Action for Sustainable Development!

The 1st Pacific Youth Festival took place from 17 to 22 July 2006 in Tahiti (French Polynesia) on the theme of Education for Sustainable Development. Around 1,000 young people from all countries and territories of the Pacific took part in creating a space for young people to reflect upon, exchange and promote their concerns and visions on the multiple dimensions of sustainable development. UNESCO - through its 'Youth Visioning for Island Living' Project Fund - will promote active follow up to the Festival by providing start-up support for young people to realize concrete follow-up projects in their communities, and to stay connected after the Festival and build on the relationships they made through joint project. For more information, please contact the Section for Youth at ucj@unesco.org or visit: http://www.spc.int/Pacific_Youth_Festival_7.htm

>> UNESCO to celebrate International Youth Day, Week of 14 to 18 August 2006

The Section for Youth at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris has organized a week's worth of activities, including a photo exhibition relating to Youth and World Heritage; a special presentation on UNESCO's strategy **Acting for and with Youth**; a roundtable on **Youth Involvement in Fighting Poverty** to discuss best practices for working with youth in poverty eradication projects; and a round table on **Youth and World Heritage** to discuss youth involvement in conserving material, immaterial, cultural and natural world heritage.

UNESCO field offices around the world are also commemorating International Youth Day. The UNESCO Ramallah office is organizing an artistic recreational programme involving nearly 600 young people from the West Bank and Gaza Strip through drawing, choreography, singing, and theatre. For information please contact m.qarashouli@unesco.org. In Jordan, UNESCO's field office is working with the Ministry of Education to implement various seminars related to youth during the school year 2006-2007. UNESCO Amman's contact information is: h.ayyash@unesco.org. For more information on UNESCO's International Youth Day events, please visit: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=5058&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

>>Stand Up Against Poverty, 15-16 October 2006

The United Nations Millennium Campaign, working in partnership with the largest civil society coalition, the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, will be holding a world-wide mobilization in support of the Millennium Development Goals on 15-16 October called Stand Up Against Poverty. In the 24-hour period between 15 to 16 October, the Campaign will be asking people

to physically stand up against poverty to remind governments of their promise to achieve the MDGs. People around the world, from villages in Pakistan to offices in Auckland will be part of the global movement. The Campaign has partnered with Guinness to make the stand up challenge an official World Record for the greatest number of people to stand up for a given cause. To find out more please visit: www.millenniumcampaign.org/standup or contact Amil Husain - Global Youth Coordinator for the UN Millennium Campaign at amil.husain@undp.org

>> Economic Commission for Africa to mark International Youth Day 2006

The UN Economic Commission for Africa is planning to commemorate International Youth Day 2006 at its headquarters in Addis Ababa with a number of local youth organizations. The event will include an exhibition, a cultural display, and presentations on youth activities in poverty reduction in Ethiopia. The opportunity will also be used to present preparations for the Fifth African Development Forum under the theme "Youth and Leadership in the 21st Century", from 26-28 October 2006. For more information, please visit: www.uneca.org

Feature: Young designers interpret the MDGs

The International Council of Graphic Design Associations (Icograda) is the world body for professional graphic design and visual communication. Icograda recently held a Design Week in Seattle on the theme "Defining Design on a Changing Planet". The event aimed to provoke ideas on how designers can contribute to a healthy world economy while being mindful of the cultural, environmental and political impact of design.

Part of the Icograda Design Week in Seattle included an International Student Workshop, during which young designers interpreted the UN Millennium Development Goals and created posters to spark new thinking and action on this topic. The outcomes of this work can be viewed at: <http://art.washington.edu/icograda/>. This feature shares the perspectives of some of the people involved in the Seattle Design Week.

Heather Anderson, a student of the University of Wisconsin - Stout in the United States, created a winning poster that asked the question "Can a poster offer a solution?" She was asked to share the idea behind her design and her thoughts on how design students can contribute to achieving the goals.

It is fun to make a poster that is glossy, clever or beautiful, but that wasn't why I attended the Icograda Conference. Many of the statistics we read regarding developing nations are devastating, so naturally many of us want to help solve these problems. The problem is, however, that an upsetting statistic without a next step can leave an audience feeling helpless. Instead of more statistics, I wanted my poster to be an honest springboard for conversations with other designers about our role during times of such humanitarian need. My poster wasn't merely conceptual; I was targeting the designers present at the event.

I struggled a great deal with how our posters would move us toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Although I was frustrated my poster couldn't offer a solution, I did become more aware of organizations in my

area and internationally who are working to create significant change. I feel it is our responsibility to research and promote the international, national and local organizations that are making a difference. It is important that we identify local organizations and assist them in their design needs by informing the community of how to play a role in their successes. This will require forging new relationships between designers and local organizations. Students can use their memberships in design associations, such as their student AIGA group on campus, to collaborate with local organizations working toward the MDGs.

Students need to stay informed of world events and vote for leaders who are supportive of financing the MDGs. Due to the lack of strong support from some of our leaders, it seems many people are unaware that the United Nations is working to achieve these goals. As designers, we can begin to raise awareness by bringing discussions about the MDGs into our classes, within our student memberships in professional design associations, and with diverse student-run organizations on campus. By doing so, we would begin to open ourselves to new perspectives and a more informed body of people to work towards solving these issues.

Christopher Ozubko is the Director of the School of Art at the University of Washington and was the chair of the student workshop. He was asked to comment on the overall outcomes of the student workshop.

I was extremely pleased with the results of the student workshop in a number of ways. Most evident were the outstanding posters the students rendered in a very condensed time frame. They were produced under pressure but did not suffer in idea or composition. I must also compliment the terrific job that the workshop leaders did in challenging and guiding the students to come up with such compelling solutions. But the most positive outcome was the 'culture of awareness' that was created by the MDG theme and the exposure it generated to an audience of students and professionals.

Christopher Liechty is co-founder and current president of the AIGA Center for Cross-Cultural Design. He was asked to comment on how the student workshop fits with the AIGA Center for Cross Cultural Design goals.

The Student Workshop turned out to be a very powerful event. With the focus on the MDGs and the combination of leaders and students from all over the world, I think the smalls groups that were created are examples of the ideal cross-cultural design scenario. There were communication objectives like any client might provide, but the participants were also highly aware of the cultural and social implications of their work and these factors were a high priority in the forefront of the students' minds. These students were designing with the idea of using design to make a contribution to the well-being of society.

This workshop helped to achieve the goals of the AIGA Center for Cross-Cultural Design because it provides a model of how we can all work on a day-to-day basis. If we can all bring a little more global, cultural, and social awareness to every project we work on, we can make a difference in the world in small and big ways. For more information on the goals of the AIGA Center for Cross-Cultural Design (AIGA XCD), visit: <http://xcd.aiga.org>

Calendar of UN Youth Events

12 August 2006: International Youth Day

This year's theme for International Youth Day is: "Tackling Poverty Together: The Role of Young People in Poverty Eradication". For more information on how you can commemorate the day, please visit our web site at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyd2006.htm>

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

The 2006 XIV International AIDS Conference will offer over 400 sessions, meetings and workshops featuring important scientific advances and discussion of current policy issues among political, scientific and community leaders on the frontlines of the epidemic. An estimated 20,000 participants are expected to attend the biennial conference. More information is available at:

<http://www.aids2006.org>. The AIDS 2006 Toronto Youth Activities Program is working in collaboration with the Toronto Youth Force to coordinate all youth-related activities for the Conference. Information is available on the Conference's youth site at: <http://youth.aids2006.org/en/home.html>

13-16 September 2006: YES KENYA 2006: Youth Employment Summit "Creating Markets...Unleashing Entrepreneurship"

The Government of Kenya, through its Ministry of Youth Affairs, in partnership with Youth Employment Summit Campaign, will host the next Global Youth Employment Summit, YES Kenya 2006 at Kenyatta Conference Center in Nairobi, Kenya. The event, supported by a variety of development partners including the YES Kenya Network, UN HABITAT,GTZ, ILO and UNDP, will pivot around the main themes "Creating Markets...Unleashing Entrepreneurs, building trade capacity, attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and building an entrepreneurial culture. For more information please visit:

<http://www.yesweb.org/2006/index.htm>

26 - 28 October 2006: ADF V: "Youth and Leadership in the 21st Century"

The fifth African Development Forum will be organized under the above theme by the Economic Commission for Africa jointly with its strategic regional partner, the African Union and in collaboration with other stakeholders in African development. The objective of Forum is to give meaningful expression to the recognition of youth as a development asset and to deepen strategies at the regional and national levels for translating the potential of youth as a development asset into practical benefits for Africa's democratic, gender-equal, peaceful and rights-based development, in line with the objectives of the African Union Youth Charter, NEPAD and internationally agreed development goals including MDGs.

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, peace building, 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 visit <http://www.unyouthsummit.org>.

On the Internet

Global Prize for IT Benefiting Youth in Developing Countries - Call for Nominations for US\$100,000 Development Gateway Award

The Development Gateway Foundation is calling for nominations for outstanding achievement in the use of information and communication technologies to improve lives in developing countries. Sponsored in part by Intel Corporation, this year's Development Gateway Award is focusing on initiatives that empower or improve the conditions of youth. The award was launched at the United Nations' World Urban Forum III, at a special reception for youth participants following the close of World Youth Forum. For more information go to www.developmentgateway.org

Report on National Youth Councils: Their creation, evolution, purpose, and governance

From community groups to sports clubs, political youth organizations to environmental networks, youth activities in many countries are coordinated by effective National Youth Councils. Over the past months, TakingITGlobal, with support of the McConnell Family Foundation, has undertaken international research on existing National Youth Councils, looking at their creation, evolution, purpose and structures. The report is available online at: <http://research.takingitglobal.org/nationalyouthcouncils>

Raising Their Voices: A global compilation of reports from youth campaigning for the Millennium Development Goals

This report is a compilation of activities carried out by young people around the world, many of which were motivated by the MDG Youth Campaign Kit. The Kit was developed through a partnership between the UN Millennium Campaign, TakingITGlobal, and the Global Youth Action Network, and aims to provide young people with the necessary information and tools they need to start their own MDG campaign. The report also hopes to inspire even more young people to take action in their own communities by telling them about the activities that have already been carried out by others. The report is available online at: <http://research.takingitglobal.org/TIGMDG.pdf>

Contact Information

UN Youth Flash is a service of the UN Program 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.

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