

**UN YOUTH FLASH**  
**Vol. 4, No. 6, September 2007**

WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a service of the UN Programme on Youth to keep you informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. We encourage you to forward the UN Youth Flash to people in your network.

**In this issue:**

- Feature: Youth and ICT as Agents of Change
- Highlights from UN Headquarters
- Highlights from UN agencies around the world
- Calendar of Youth Events
- On the Internet

UN Youth Flash can be read on-line at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/flash.htm>.

---

**FEATURE: Youth and ICT as Agents of Change**

*"Information and communications technologies have a central role to play in the quest for development, dignity and peace."* – Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

The outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) have charted a clear path to a people-centered and a development-oriented information society. The Summit placed particular emphasis on youth and ICT as agents of positive change in society. It recognized that young people will form the bulk of the future work force and are leading creators and quick adopters of ICT. They must, therefore, be empowered as learners, developers, contributors, entrepreneurs and decision-makers.

In this context, the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (UNDESA-GAID) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) are organizing a Global Forum on *Youth and ICT for Development: Youth and ICT as Agents of Change*, that will help harness the creativity and dynamism that youth have in exploring and using ICT for their own benefit and for the benefit of their communities, especially in achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). From 24 – 26 September, young people from around the world, Governments, policy makers and civil society organizations will meet at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland to engage in an open discussion on technology's role in advancing people's lives. The Forum aims at actively engaging youth in a dialogue with other stakeholders in exploring ways to empower the community and to participate more fully in society through the appropriate and responsible use of ICT.

The UN Programme on Youth in conjunction with ATHGO International (<http://www.athgo.org/>) will facilitate a preparatory session for youth participants on the first day of the Forum.

At the Forum, participants will have an opportunity to showcase their innovations and projects or initiatives that utilize ICT. For more information on GAID and to follow developments at the Forum, please visit <http://www.un-gaid.org/en/node/587> or contact Enrica Murmura at the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, tel.: 1-212-963-5913, e-mail: [murmura@un.org](mailto:murmura@un.org).

---

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS

### >> **Sixty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly opens**

The 62nd session of the General Assembly opened on 18 September. The priorities for this session include climate change, financing for development, implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, management reform and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Also on the agenda is a five-year review of the implementation of the Children's Summit's, as well as intercultural and interfaith dialogue. At the opening ceremony, the Secretary-General underlined the importance of Member States' initiatives to address key issues, saying "I truly believe that the world leaders that will gather here in a few days bring with them a renewed interest in multilateral resolution to challenges facing the world.". For information on this session of the General Assembly, please see <http://www.un.org/ga>.

### >> **Youth delegates gearing up to address the Third Committee**

Youth issues will be addressed from 8-10 October at the Third Committee of the General Assembly, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues. Youth representatives, included in the official delegations of over 20 countries, will present youth perspectives on a range of issues. They will also participate in deliberations related to UN resolutions on youth, as well as discuss youth documents, which include the Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth and the Report of the Secretary-General on Goals and Targets for Monitoring the Progress of Youth in the Global Economy. To review youth-related documents before the Third Committee and to find out more about youth delegates to the 62nd session of the General Assembly, please visit <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/ga62.htm>.

### >> **International Youth Day commemorated at UN Headquarters**

The audience at the event held at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium at UN Headquarters on 10 August included young people from New York City schools, participants attending UNESCO's Intergenerational Forum and delegates from Children International. Presentations on youth participation for development were made through Friends of the UN - Young Leaders Initiative that also featured the Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC), TakingITGlobal, and the World Peace Prayer Society. Performances were organized by a local NGO, Directions for our Youth that included a dynamic and outstanding demonstration by Life Sport Performance and a step

dance by P.L.A.Y.E.R.S. (Participating in the Lives Amongst Youth to Educate and Restore Society). A highlight of the event was the Shoot Nations Photo-competition presentation organized by Plan International and Shoot Experience. For more information on commemoration activities from around the world or to view photographs of the event at UNHQ, please visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyd2007.htm>.

---

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM UN AGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD

### >> UNESCAP: Youth Policy Seminar

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) along with the National Council of Youth Organizations, Republic of Korea, held the youth policy seminar from 1-4 August 2007. Seminar participants included Government delegates from 14 countries in the region, resource persons from various UN agencies and more than 200 young people from over 20 countries. The Seminar reviewed progress achieved and lessons learned in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and developed a series of youth-related recommendations. For information on the outcome and recommendations made, please contact [roncarati@un.org](mailto:roncarati@un.org).

### >> UNESCO: A regional ROADSIGN on HIV/AIDS in Africa

UNESCO's Youth Initiative on HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination, launched in collaboration with UNAIDS, aims to raise awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS and related discrimination. Earlier this year, UNESCO's Bujumbura Office organized a regional workshop for African Great Lake Countries on HIV/AIDS and human rights with a special focus on gender. The workshop has resulted in the launching of a regional network of young people from Burundi, Rwanda, and Democratic Republic of Congo. The youth network is called ROADSIGN and will develop its youth-initiated action plan and work with UNESCO, UNICEF and UNFPA to implement activities at the country level. For further information, and to receive the final report of the regional workshop (also available in French), please contact UNESCO Bujumbura Office: [y.matuturu@unesco.org](mailto:y.matuturu@unesco.org).

### >> UNESCO: First Regional Youth Forums in Africa and the Americas

Earlier this month, from 9-15 September, young people from 37 countries and territories from North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean met in Acapulco, Mexico to share experiences, consolidate their enthusiasm and proposed new initiatives to tackle regional youth issues. Through workshops, plenary sessions and meetings, the young leaders discussed new strategies to strengthen youth participation and promote cooperation amongst youth networks in the Americas. The first UNESCO African Youth Forum will take place in Burkina Faso, from 24-28 September and will address the theme "Young people and the Dialogue among civilisations, cultures and peoples". The Forum contributes to the wide range of initiatives aimed at promoting African regional cooperation and the implementation of the African Charter for Youth. Both regional forums will work toward preparing for the upcoming 2007 UNESCO Youth Forum. For more information, please contact: [ucj@unesco.org](mailto:ucj@unesco.org).

**>> UNESCO: Strengthening youth organizations in Cameroon**

The World Bank and l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) will join forces to strengthen the capacity of youth organizations in youth policy and development in Cameroon. This initiative is a part of current efforts by the Government of Cameroon, supported by a range of development partners, to develop and implement an integrated national youth policy and to enhance the participation of young people in decision-making at all levels. As an integral part of this partnership, UNESCO proposes to take the lead in developing an integrated workshop programme enhancing communication and cooperation between young people and different stakeholders of the youth sector in Cameroon. For more information please contact: [ucj@unesco.org](mailto:ucj@unesco.org).

**>> UNEP: Education Toolkit on Sustainability Communications**

The CD-ROM "Sustainability Communications – A Toolkit for Marketing and Advertising Courses" proposes resources for educators training tomorrow's marketing and communication professionals, including those in corporate field. It offers campaign analyses, exercises, web links, bibliographies and more than 300 downloadable documents - to encourage students and communication experts to think about and involve themselves in the major issues facing society today. It is not a "turnkey" teaching syllabus but a flexible, interactive tool which provides a synthesis of theoretical and methodological knowledge illustrated by numerous specific case studies. This CD-ROM contains both English and French versions and it is fully downloadable from UNEP's website at [www.unep.fr/sustain](http://www.unep.fr/sustain).

**>> UNFPA: Poster contest to promote the role of men in society**

UNFPA is sponsoring its 15th annual poster contest for young people. This year's theme is "Men at Work for Maternal Health". Men have decision-making power in their many roles as fathers, husbands, community leaders, religious leaders and political leaders. Decisions that make motherhood safer can save lives. The contest challenges young artists to consider the role of men in society, especially as fathers, husbands and community leaders. UNFPA's specific country offices will organize the national contest. For details, please see

[http://www.youthpeer.net/site/posts.php?page\\_id=3&section\\_id=3&post\\_id=210](http://www.youthpeer.net/site/posts.php?page_id=3&section_id=3&post_id=210)

**>> UNODC: Guide to preventing ATS use among young people**

Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) is the group of synthetic stimulants which includes substances like amphetamines, methamphetamines, methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA or ecstasy), methylphenidate etc. The illicit use of ATS is a serious problem in many countries and rising in many others. In fact, world wide, more people use ATS than opiates and cocaine combined. Moreover, after cannabis, ATS are the most common illicit drugs used by young people in all the regions of the world. This guide is aimed at policymakers in the field of drug abuse prevention. It concentrates on providing essential information on the reasons why it is crucial to work to prevent ATS abuse and the most important principles to do so effectively. The guide and other resources are available at <http://www.unodc.org/youthnet/ats.html>.

**>> UNICEF: Voices of Youth join Scouts in the spirit of "One World, One Promise"**

Voices of Youth and Scouts from around the world got together in the spirit of the "One world, One promise" pledge at the 21st Scout Jamboree 2007 held from 27 July to 8 August. They showed how people can make a difference when they work together as one. UNICEF works with Scouts in several countries to deliver rights-based education and provide opportunities for young people to engage with their community to make a real difference. To find out more, please visit

[http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction\\_3886.html](http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_3886.html).

**>> UNICEF: Global Education for Development Conference**

The Education for Development Workshop (formerly called Global Consultation) was held in Istanbul from 10-12 September, with field trips on 13-14 September. The workshop aimed to develop a framework for a new global policy paper on Education for Development. The workshop's agenda for the three days was built around the core objectives of the National Committee Outreach to young people and included child rights education, the promotion of civic engagement and global solidarity, and awareness-raising of the work of UNICEF among young people. For more information about the workshop, please contact Frederick Seidel (Geneva-GRO) [fseidel@unicef.org](mailto:fseidel@unicef.org)

**>> WHO: Review and field test of a new Adolescent Job Aid**

The World Health Organization (WHO) Child and Adolescent Health and Development Department (CAH) has been working to develop a handy desk-reference tool, the Adolescent Job Aid, to provide health workers with step-by-step guidance in dealing with adolescent patients (and any accompanying adults). This tool is now ready for desk review and field testing before it is finalized. The first of a set of three planned desk reviews and field test exercises is under way in Chandigarh, India. Participants in the exercise are health workers who are currently providing preventive and curative health services to adolescents, as well as to children and adults. For more information, or to contact CAH, please see the contact information below.

**>> WHO New publications on the role of parents in improving adolescents' health**

The World Health Organization (WHO) Child and Adolescent Health and Development Department (CAH) has also developed two new publications in collaboration with the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University. CAH conducted a review and convened a technical consultation to examine the evidence for specific parenting roles that programmes could promote and improve. This led to consensus that parents' roles could be organized into five dimensions, each of which has specific influences on adolescent health outcomes: connection (love), behaviour control (limit), respect for individuality (respect), modelling of appropriate behaviour (model), and provision and protection (provide). Each of the five roles is described in the publication "Helping parents in developing countries improve adolescents' health". Also outlined, where available knowledge exists, are its implications for programmes, including activities and examples of projects that address this role. "Summaries of projects in developing countries assisting the parents of adolescents" presents descriptions of 34 projects that were prepared based on interviews with project staff and available literature. For more

information, please contact [lavedavieso@who.int](mailto:lavedavieso@who.int) or visit <http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health>.

---

## CALENDAR OF YOUTH EVENTS

### >> **21 September: International Day of Peace**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will welcome the United Nations Messengers of Peace to New York Headquarters on the International Day of Peace. The Messengers will participate in the annual Peace Bell Ceremony, Student Conference and Press Conference. After the Peace Bell Ceremony, the dignitaries, accompanied by the 193 flag-bearers, will walk in procession to attend the 10th annual Student Observance. The 800 middle and high school students at UNHQ in New York will be connected via satellite to young people at the UN missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon and Sudan. For more information, please see <http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/>.

### >> **24 - 26 September: Global Forum on Youth and ICT for Development**

The Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) is organizing a Global Forum on Youth and ICT for Development: Youth and ICT as Agents of Change, that will help harness the creativity and dynamism of youth in exploring and using ICT for the benefit of their communities and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Forum aims at actively engaging youth in debates and discussions with their peers, policy makers, the private sector and technology experts in exploring ways to empower their communities through the appropriate and responsible use of ICT. For more information, please visit <http://www.un-gaid.org/gfyouth>.

### >> **12 - 13 October: UNESCO Youth Forum**

Young people from all over the world will come together at UNESCO in Paris for the fifth UNESCO Youth Forum. Since 1999, this Forum has been an integral part of UNESCO's General Conference. Every two years the Forum gives young people the opportunity to share their experiences, identify common concerns and contribute to the work of UNESCO. The 2007 Youth Forum will examine the results and recommendations from a series of Regional UNESCO Youth Forums held in 2006 and 2007 on the theme of 'Young People and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples'. For more information on the UNESCO Youth Forum, please contact [ucj@unesco.org](mailto:ucj@unesco.org).

### >> **16 - 17 October: Stand Up, Speak Out!**

The Millennium Campaign will join forces with the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) and a wide range of global partners, including faith based groups, local governments, youth groups, media and other key actors, to mobilize millions more people to "STAND UP and SPEAK OUT" to break the 2006 World Record. Last year, with the support of over 23.5 million people, a new Guinness World Record was set for the greatest number of people to physically and symbolically "Stand Up Against Poverty and for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)" within 24 hours. This massive

mobilization sent a clear message to decision-makers that there is a growing global movement of people no longer prepared to stay seated or silent in the face of poverty and broken promises. Monitored by Guinness World Records the challenge will take place over 24 hours between 9.00pm (GMT) on October 16 and 9.00pm (GMT) October 17. Find out more at [www.standagainstpoverity.org](http://www.standagainstpoverity.org)

**>> 24 - 28 October: 2nd Conference for Young Political Leaders**

The Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposium is a platform to provide opportunities for closer and more regular contacts and dialogue on a wide range of issues among leaders of the next generation of Asia and Europe. This year, the 2nd Conference for Young Political Leaders will be organised in Copenhagen by the Danish Youth Council (DUF) in co-operation with the Asia-Europe Foundation. The conference will culminate in the drafting and dissemination of a report and declaration which will be submitted to the ASEM Heads of State and Government when they meet in October 2008. ASEM is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing together the 27 EU Member States and the European Commission with 16 Asian countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. For more information, or to register for the Conference, please see [http://www.asef.org/index.php?option=com\\_project&task=view&id=1042](http://www.asef.org/index.php?option=com_project&task=view&id=1042).

**>> 4 - 7 December: Africa-Europe Youth Summit**

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe is facilitating a youth-led process to hold an Africa-Europe Youth Summit that will be held in Lisbon. The aim of the Summit is to reinforce youth work and increase youth participation in Africa and Europe influencing the youth policy in Euro-African Cooperation. An expected outcome of the Summit will be the submission of a declaration by a youth delegation at the EU-Africa Heads of State Summit. The Youth Summit will address key areas of concern that had been identified by young people from Europe and Africa. For more information, please see <http://europaffrica.org/2007/05/23/africa-europe-youth-summit>.

**>> 5 - 8 November: Peace in the Oceans Conference**

A global interactive conference on ocean sustainability, climate change, women and youth will be hosted by the International Ocean Institute (IOI), IOC-UNESCO, and the Government of Malta. The thirty-second *Pacem in Maribus* (Peace in the Oceans) conference will bring together key stakeholders, including influential representatives from the private sector, Governments, NGOs and educational institutions to assess ocean-related challenges and design actionable solutions to overcome threats to our oceans and promote sustainable ocean governance. The conference highlights include Young Entrepreneurs of the Ocean Summit, Youth Parliament and an Underwater Film Festival. For more information about the conference or to register, please visit [www.thewavesofchange.org](http://www.thewavesofchange.org)

**>> 5 December: International Volunteer Day**

International Volunteer Day (IVD) offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individuals to make visible their contributions - at local, national and international levels - to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Over the years, rallies, parades, community volunteering projects, environmental awareness, free medical care

and advocacy campaigns have all featured prominently on IVD. For more information, please visit <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/int-l-volunteer-day.html>.

**>> 11 - 14 December: Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Affairs Conference 2007**

An NGO driven initiative, the Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Affairs Conference will be held at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok. It aims to educate and create greater awareness and understanding among the young people on a range of socio-economic issues in the Asia-Pacific region. The Conference will highlight the plight of the street children, slum dwellers and the problem of child trafficking, issues deeply rooted in poverty. At the Conference, young people from around the world will have the opportunity to dialogue, propose and develop projects to help people in poverty-stricken countries. For more information, please visit <http://www.humanitarianaffairs.org/conference.html>.

**>> 10 - 21 August 2008: 4th World Youth Congress on Youth and Development**

Regeneration 2008 - Quebec City, the 4th World Youth Congress, designed to promote and celebrate youth-led development, will bring together 600 young people from over 100 countries to Québec City in August 2008. It will shine a spotlight on the most effective projects done by young people in the effort to achieve the MDGs. A series of events have been planned as part of the build up to the 4th World Youth Congress. The Youth Action Festival will serve as a basis for the selection of delegates to the Congress. Find out more and be part of this worldwide Youth Action Event! If you are an active young person (15 – 30), also passionate about making poverty history in a sustainable way, register to participate at <http://www.wyc2008.qc.ca> by 31 October.

---

## ON THE INTERNET

**>> UNICEF 18 @ 18 Online Art Exhibit**

This fall, the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) is celebrating its 18th Anniversary, and as part of the activities to commemorate this historic event Voices of Youth (VOY) will create an online art exhibit. Entries should be received by 20 November 2007. For more information, please visit [http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction\\_3866.html](http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_3866.html) or email [voy@unicef.org](mailto:voy@unicef.org).

**>> Youth Tax Justice Network**

The aim of this network is to help teach young people about tax related issues, but also importantly, give them access to information and solidarity to enrich their social justice advocacy and research. YTJN has just released their first newsletter, "Our Voices" that is available for download at <http://ytjn-ourvoices.blogspot.com/>.

**>> MDG Data updated on the web**

Visit the official data website that presents definitions, methodologies and sources for the 48 indicators to measure progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Also available are the official progress reports and documents. The site was recently updated with more than 70 series of the Millennium Development Goals. Please see <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/default.aspx>.

**>> Poster Competition to build AIDS awareness among young people**

The 2007 ARCHIVE Institute Poster Competition encourages artists under the age of 18 from around the world to design and submit a poster that responds to the widespread AIDS epidemic and its influence on people's lives. The competition launched this year will result in an online presentation as well as a travelling exhibition of selected entries. Six 6 regional finalists will be chosen by the selection committee, of which there will be three winners. To sign up, please visit <http://www.archiveinstitute.org/POSTERCOMPETITION2007/>.

---

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

UN Youth Flash is a service of the UN Programme on Youth, of the Division for Social Policy and Development, within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. The UN Youth Flash can be read on-line at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/flash.htm>.

To subscribe and unsubscribe to the UN Youth Flash, please send an Email to: [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org), with "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

For more information about Youth at the United Nations, please visit: <http://www.un.org/youth>.