

**UN YOUTH FLASH**  
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WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a service of the United Nations Programme on Youth to keep you informed about the work of the UN on youth issues. UN Youth Flash can also be read on-line at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/flash.htm>.

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**FEATURE: Fourth World Youth Congress**

From 10 to 21 August 2008, 500 young people from 110 countries gathered in Québec City, to celebrate not only the city's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but above all the contribution that youth from around the world are making to the development of their communities and societies. The Fourth World Youth Congress "Regénération 2008" aimed to honour the achievements of those who make youth-led development a reality and to supply participants with the skills and support needed to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals more effectively.

The Congress was divided into three main parts. The "Celebration" segment encompassed the opening ceremony, the celebration of International Youth Day and the presentation of the 'Champion of Youth' award to a number of distinguished adults in recognition of their support to youth issues. One of these was Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of UNIDO who received the award for pioneering the Mano River Union Youth Employment Programme. This multi-agency programme aims to create employment opportunities for youth in the MRU countries, and to contribute to social and political stability, and economic growth in the region.

On International Youth Day, the Congress participants joined together with other youth from Québec for the World Youth Walk. Armed with musical instruments, flags of their countries and posters calling for an end to war, HIV/AIDS and environmental destruction, the colourful procession marched the 7 kilometres from the Congress venue (the Université Laval) to the Old Port of Québec where they heard Ban Ki-moon's message for International Youth Day.

The second part of the Congress was a capacity-building segment, in which participants participated in a wide variety of workshops to further their knowledge and skills to assist them in contributing to the achievement of the MDGs. During the final segment of the Congress, delegates participated in action projects around the Province of Québec to put their newly acquired skills into practice.

The United Nations system actively participated in the Congress through a joint UN exhibit and by facilitating various workshops on topics ranging from youth employment, to the MDGs, sustainable development, sport and values, youth participation, and sexual and reproductive health. Several UN agencies also sponsored young people with whom they had worked in the past to attend the Congress.

In addition to the UN Programme on Youth, the following offices and agencies were present and/or contributed to the joint UN exhibit: the Division for Sustainable Development (UN-DESA), ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOSDP and WHO. The joint UN participation demonstrated that the UN system delivers as one, especially as it relates to core issues highlighted in the World Programme of Action for Youth which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1995. This is also illustrated in the new publication “Growing Together: Youth and the Work of the United Nations”, which Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang launched during the opening plenary of the Congress (see below).

More information on the Congress can be found at <http://www.wyc2008.qc.ca>

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS**

### **New publication available on youth and the work of the United Nations**

The new publication “Growing Together: Youth and the Work of the United Nations” was launched on International Youth Day. The UN Programme on Youth coordinated this inter-agency effort which shows how the United Nations system as a whole, supports youth development through a diverse range of programmes and activities. The publication demonstrates that the work of the various parts of the United Nations system is complementary and covers all 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth that was adopted by the General Assembly. By taking stock of UN system activities related to youth, the publication also provides a chance to assess how effectively the United Nations system is responding to the youth development challenge. It is intended as a source of information to assist stakeholders and to ensure that the United Nations truly delivers as one in the area of youth. For more information or to download a copy of the publication, please visit <http://www.un.org/youth>.

### **New children's corner for visitors to the UN Headquarters building**

United Nations Headquarters is undergoing major renovations and modernization, and so is its Guided Tours operation. The new 45-minute tour will inaugurate a special section for younger audiences, called “Children’s Corner”, as well as a multimedia virtual tour of the United Nations’ six main organs, with pictorial highlights of the Organization’s history, structure, composition and offices around the world. Showcased along the new tour route are updated exhibits of 60 years of peacekeeping, the work of the United Nations in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, a sampling of the gifts donated by United Nations Member States, and individual exhibits on disarmament, landmines, the Holocaust, human rights, indigenous peoples, decolonization and the question of Palestine, to name a few. (More information:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27531&Cr=Capital&Cr1=Master>).

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM UN AGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD**

### **UNESCAP - New publication to enhance community resilience to natural disasters**

The United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) has published a discussion paper entitled “Enhancing Community Resilience to Natural Disasters: Lives of Children and Youth in Aceh”, as part of its project “Building community resilience to natural disasters through partnership: Sharing experience and expertise in the region”. The paper considers issues in the context of building community capacity to care for orphans and separated children and youth in Aceh, so as to provide them with optimal opportunities for their

development. It also highlights lessons learned and presents policy recommendations. (More information: <http://www.unescap.org/esid/hds/resources/publications.asp>)

### **UNHABITAT - New publication on youth in conflict with the law**

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) released a new publication entitled “Environment and Urbanization: Developing citizenship among urban youth in conflict with the law”. This paper summarizes the outcome of an international conference on addressing the issue of urban youth in conflict with the law in Africa. It discusses the most effective responses to youth crime and violence, which centre on prevention and inclusion rather than exclusion, punishment and incarceration. It also highlights the key role for local governments in developing effective local responses that draw in and support all key local actors, such as parents, schools, police and businesses. (More information:

<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/getPage.asp?page=bookView&book=2474>)

### **UNICEF – New publication aims to stop violence against children and young people**

“Our Right to Be Protected from Violence: Activities for Learning and Taking Action for Children and Young People” is a new publication by UNICEF for youth leaders, peer educators, teachers and others who work with groups of young people aged 12–18 in community centres, youth groups, schools and in other settings. The Violence Study is a collection of information from Governments about violence against children in their countries. It presents information on the United Nations Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Children, as well as guidelines for talking with young people about violence. It also provides ideas for working with groups, planning workshops, and taking action. The purpose of the Violence Study is to help Governments, communities, and organizations working with children find solutions to stop violence, prevent it from continuing, and help children who have been harmed by violence. (More information:

[http://www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/Our\\_Right\\_to\\_be\\_Protected\\_from\\_Violence-2.pdf](http://www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/Our_Right_to_be_Protected_from_Violence-2.pdf)).

### **UNICEF – Review of public policy on AIDS and children**

“AIDS, Public Policy and Child Well-Being” reviews community and public policy interventions introduced to moderate the impact of the AIDS epidemic on children and families. Published by UNICEF’s Innocenti Research Centre, this book discusses the advantages and limitations of such interventions. The main constraint to the measures introduced so far is their nearly exclusive focus on prevention and the health sector. While this approach is understandable in the early phase of an epidemic, its ability to protect child well-being now appears limited. Indeed, even the countries that successfully reduced adult prevalence are now confronted with a rise in the number of pediatric AIDS cases and AIDS deaths among parents and orphans. In the absence of more decisive policy action, the prospects for child well-being will remain problematic. (More information: [http://www.unicef-](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/aids_book/aids_public_policy_2007.pdf)

[irc.org/publications/pdf/aids\\_book/aids\\_public\\_policy\\_2007.pdf](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/aids_book/aids_public_policy_2007.pdf)).

### **WHO – Promoting country reviews of child maltreatment**

Earlier this year, representatives from UNICEF, WHO, the ministries of health, social development and welfare, national research councils and NGOs from Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa participated in a workshop on preventing child maltreatment to promote lifelong health. Opening presentations stressed the importance of child maltreatment as a problem in itself and a major risk factor for unhealthy behaviours and chronic disease across the lifespan. Participants discussed global trends in understanding and preventing child maltreatment, and initiated thinking around how to design and conduct country situation reviews on prevention

resources and prevention readiness (i.e. the deep-seated beliefs and attitudes of key policy makers and opinion leaders regarding the prevention of child maltreatment). It is hoped these country situation reviews will serve as platforms for the establishment of national child maltreatment prevention policies and programmes. (More information: Dr Olive Kobusingye [KobusingyeO@zw.afro.who.int](mailto:KobusingyeO@zw.afro.who.int)).

### **WHO/CAH - Technical consultation on adolescent maternal morbidity and mortality**

The Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (CAH) of the World Health Organization (WHO) organized a technical consultation on the systematic review of evidence to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in adolescents from developing countries in Geneva from 8-10 July. The aim of this technical consultation was to address a significant public health problem at the global level: adolescent maternal morbidity and mortality. Meeting participants included representatives from Reproductive Health and Research (RHR), Making Pregnancy Safer (MPS) and Gender and Women's Health (GWH), as well as diverse INGOs, academic and policy institutions from developing countries. Two and a half days of lively, productive discussions resulted in agreement on key issues. The systematic review will evaluate effective interventions to reduce too-early pregnancy, unsafe abortion and maternal mortality and morbidity in adolescents, as well as to reduce mortality in newborns and infants born to adolescent mothers. Interventions that target these outcomes will be identified in four settings: the political environment, schools, communities and families, and health services and systems. An additional chapter will be written on the epidemiology of maternal morbidity and mortality among adolescents, as well as access to care. Main findings will be disseminated to policy makers, programme managers and other key audiences. (More information: <http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health>).

### **WHO/CAH - Promoting quality standards for health service provision to adolescents**

WHO/CAH assisted in the facilitation of a national workshop from 1-6 July to develop standards for health service delivery for adolescents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These standards will assist the implementation of one of the ten areas of the National Strategy for Adolescent Health. During the workshop, a minimum package of services to be delivered at various levels of the health system was defined, as well as consensus on key standards. These six standards related to (1) information provision, (2) health worker competence, (3) health service management, (4) community involvement, (5) policy and (6) service provision. WHO will maintain involvement in the subsequent development and implementation of the standards and monitoring of health service use by adolescents. (More information: <http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health>).

### **World Bank - Experts to share research on child labour at seminar**

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), UNICEF and the World Bank initiated the inter-agency research project "Understanding Children's Work" (UCW) in December 2000. The UCW Project is guided by the Oslo Agenda for Action, unanimously adopted at the 1997 International Conference on Child Labour, which laid out global priorities in the fight against child labour. The Project and the Instituto Figuerola of Universidad Carlos III de Madrid are organizing a two-day seminar entitled "Seminar on Child Labour, Education & Youth Employment: Challenge for Economic Growth & Social Progress" in Madrid from 11-12 September to present recent research on child labour and its linkages with educational and youth employment outcomes. The seminar will also aim at identifying key information gaps relating to these themes, thereby helping to guide future research efforts. The organizers are calling for papers to be presented at the seminar (More information: <http://go.worldbank.org/5TBK3TMCT0>).

## CALENDAR OF YOUTH EVENTS

### **1-3 September: Social Forum of the Human Rights Council**

The Social Forum is a unique space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights machinery and various stakeholders, including grass-roots organizations. It underlines the importance of coordinated efforts at national, regional and international levels for the promotion of social cohesion based on the principles of social justice, equity and solidarity. (More information: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/poverty/sforum.htm>).

### **3-5 September: 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference**

For the past 60 years, the DPI/NGO Conference has been held at the UN Headquarters in New York, welcoming over 2000 participants. The 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference will be held in Paris, France, and will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (More information: <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/index.asp>).

### **4-5 September: UN Forum on Minority Issues**

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/15 of 28 September 2007, a forum on minority issues has been established that will provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. The forum will provide thematic contributions and expertise to the work of the independent expert on minority issues. It works to identify and analyze best practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives for the further implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. (More information: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/minority/forum.htm>).

### **14-21 September: European-Latin American Youth Forum**

The Forum Eurolatinoamericano de Juventud (FEULAT 2008) will be held in Mollina, Spain. The FEULAT is an event organized by the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ), in cooperation with the Youth Council of Spain (CJE), and with the support of the Youth Institute of Spain (INJUVE) and the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ). (More information, please email [info@flaj.org](mailto:info@flaj.org)).

### **15-16 September: Global Youth Enterprise Conference 2008**

Designed as a participatory learning event, this conference aims to support youth enterprise and entrepreneurship programmes and policies to achieve greater effectiveness around the world. Participants include practitioners, funding organizations, the private sector, academics and youth leaders from around the world who will share best practices, unique approaches, and groundbreaking ideas that help youth develop the necessary skills and opportunities to start their own businesses or seek quality employment. (More information: <http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org>).

### **24-27 September: YES Azerbaijan 2008**

The 4th global Youth Employment Summit will be hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan through the Ministry of Youth and Sport in partnership with the Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign Inc. (More information: <http://www.yesweb.org/yes2008/index.htm>).

### **21 - 22 October: III IJJO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) along with the County Council of Justice and Public Administrations of the Generalitat Valenciana (Spain) will organize the Third

International IJJO Conference, "Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe: Current situation, trends in applicable models and good practices". The III International IJJO Conference (Valencia 2008) will enable an analysis of juvenile justice systems, action models and intervention programmes in Member States of the European Union. (More information: <http://www.oijj.org/plantilla.php?pag=091301&idioma=en>)

### **21- 24 October: Global Innovation Forum for Education and Development**

The Forum provides a platform for young people across the globe to advance their causes toward achieving the MDGs through ICT. Organized by UNDESA-GAID's e-Leaders Committee, Athgo International and the Armenian Ministry of Economy, the forum is set to encourage young people to get engaged in, develop and propose new and innovative ICT initiatives that advance local communities in various emerging regions. (More information: <http://www.athgo.org/programs/forums/2008/yerevan/default.html>).

### **3-7 November: World Urban Youth Forum**

The Fourth session of the World Urban Forum will be held in Nanjing, China from 3-7 November 2008. The World Urban Youth Forum (WUYF) will be held prior to the main World Urban Forum to be held from 31 October to 2 November 2008. More information, as well as supporting documentation and programme of events, contact the WUYF Coordinator, Ms. Mutinta Munyai at [mutinta.munyai@unhabitat.org](mailto:mutinta.munyai@unhabitat.org) and visit <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=535&cid=5581>.

### **19-22 November: 8th IANYS Global Conference on National Youth Service**

The conference will be held at the Fondation des Etats-Unis in Paris, France. Conference registration is now available online at <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=160766> and is open to practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and young people working in the field of national youth service and youth development. (More information: <http://www.icicp.org/ianys>).

### **4 – 9 January 2009: 17th International Youth Leadership Conference**

The theme of this year's conference is centred on a cross-cultural exchange of ideas concerning the future of world leadership. Activities will include debates and panel discussions on international security, environmental sustainability, rule of law, responsible leadership and mass media, as well as a Model UN simulation of a UN Security Council meeting, an International Criminal Court mock pre-trial and Model European Parliament proceedings. (More information: <http://www.CzechLeadership.com>).

### **20 February - 1 March 2009: ISFiT 2009**

ISFiT, the 10th International Student Festival in Trondheim, Norway, will be a festival filled with meetings, debates, concerts, ceremonies and a wide cultural programme. About 450 students from all around the world will get together to discuss issues around the theme of Peacebuilding. To support students in the struggle for peace, democracy and human rights, send in nominations for The Student Peace Prize! (More information: <http://www.isfit.org>).

### **9-14 June 2009: Global Youth Forum in Mongolia**

The Forum aims to encourage dialogue among young people to develop mutual understanding and cooperation in addressing global problems. The event is being organized by OYUNLAL-UILS, a non-governmental and non-profit organization working to promote youth development in Mongolia. The issues covered will include environmental protection & climate change,

poverty, decent work and unemployment, public health policy and HIV/AIDS, and gender equality. (More information: <http://www.oyunlaguils.mn/index.php?ID=7>).

## **ON THE INTERNET**

### **UNESCO Anti-doping comic strip in weekly instalments at [www.unesco.org/shs](http://www.unesco.org/shs)**

Each week, visitors to the UNESCO Social and Human Sciences website will see the latest instalment of an adventure featuring Rattus Holmes and Felis Watson, detective heroes of a comic strip against doping in sport. Entitled “The Case of the Spoilsports”, the comic strip (in English, Spanish and French) dramatizes UNESCO’s anti-doping role and explores the importance of the International Convention against Doping in Sport, adopted by UNESCO’s Member States in 2005. In five chapters published weekly, the story – inspired by the famous detective stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – will trace how twin athletes react differently to the pressures of competitive sport. One gives in immediately to the pressure put on him by his trainer and team-mates while the other athlete suffers as a result of the use of performance enhancing drugs by his competitors. (More information:

[http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=43207&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=43207&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html))

### **Today’s youth, tomorrow’s reporters**

Providing opportunities for skill building and leadership development enables young people to reach their potential, which is why “Youth Today” is giving young media makers access to cameras and training. “Youth Today” is a weekly television programme produced by and aimed at young people in Cambodia. Broadcast on Cambodian Television Network (CTV), it has provided young Cambodians with opportunities to have their voices heard by a national audience since July 2004. The programme is operated by a local non-governmental organization, Support Children and Young People (SCY). (More information:

<http://www.unicef.org/voy/explore/media/4249.htm>).

### **Appeal to promote the Olympic Games for all**

Join in the appeal by committed youth ambassadors to unite the Olympic Family – the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games – connected by a unique, educational philosophy realizing that the Olympic Games are for everyone, men, women and disabled, and under the same conditions of unity and respect. (More information: <http://www.olympicgames4all.org>).

### **Giving a voice to young people living in conflict zones**

Forgotten Diaries, a highly acclaimed new project aims to shed light on and raise global awareness of the lives of children and young people growing up in forgotten conflict zones: wars that have lasted for years but that have long lost the interest of the world's media. The project uses a website, blogging facilities and training programmes that allows the global community to engage in discussions with youth from 10 conflict zones in 3 continents and follow their stories over time as they report on the challenges, issues and opportunities in their lives. Forgotten Diaries will also provide training and mentoring on reporting and project management to the participants who include students, activists, and youth workers, empowering them to develop community building projects and make a sustainable difference. (More information:

[www.forgottendiaries.org](http://www.forgottendiaries.org)).

### **Grants to engage children and youth in community projects**

Youth Service America and Disney are pleased to launch a second round of Disney Minnie Grants to engage children and youth, ages 5-14 as community volunteers. The selected applications will receive \$500 to support their youth-led service projects. The deadline is August 30 and projects must take place between 15 October and 15 November 2008. Grantees from the first round of Disney awards of 2008 are eligible to apply. Visit [www.YSA.org/awards](http://www.YSA.org/awards) for more information and application materials. You can review past award recipients from all over the world at:

<http://ysa.org/AwardsGrants/DisneyMinnieGrants/DisneyMinnieGrantees2008/tabid/292/Default.aspx>.

### **Promoting Livelihoods as a Way to Protect Displaced Women and Youth**

The Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children has recently launched a report that documents vocational training (VT) opportunities for young people in northern Uganda, presenting an analysis of VT programming and the actors involved. The report entitled "Youth and Sustainable Livelihoods: Linking Vocational Training Programs to Market Opportunities" offers VT providers concrete recommendations for programming at each stage in the VT cycle, including best practices, case studies and lessons learned. The report identifies how VT programs can best meet youths' needs for education and sustainable livelihoods while also supporting a broader strategy of economic reconstruction and social restoration in northern Uganda. The report will be accompanied by a Market Assessment Toolkit for Vocational Training Programs and Youth that is a combination of resources, questionnaires and activities. The toolkit will assist VT programmes and youth to gather information on market demand and translate it into programming that responds to dynamic business environments and youth needs. The toolkit also aims to help youth in VT programs find employment/self-employment. (More information: [http://womenscommission.org/pdf/ug\\_ysl\\_rep.pdf](http://womenscommission.org/pdf/ug_ysl_rep.pdf))

### **Advocacy toolkit on youth SRH needs**

"Mobilising Communities on Young People's Health and Rights" is an advocacy toolkit that guides the user through the stages of planning and launching an advocacy campaign to ensure that Government commitments are translated into programmes that meet young people's sexual and reproductive health needs. Adaptable to any number of other social and development priorities, such as maternal health, gender-based violence, and child marriage, the toolkit also provides prototype worksheets and other tools at the end of each chapter.

([http://www.familycareintl.org/UserFiles/File/Anglo\\_Toolkit\\_June2008.pdf](http://www.familycareintl.org/UserFiles/File/Anglo_Toolkit_June2008.pdf)). An Advocacy Training Guide is a companion piece to the toolkit. The five-day training aims to strengthen the skills of grassroots community-level groups, networks, and organizations to design and plan an advocacy campaign.

([http://www.familycareintl.org/UserFiles/File/Anglo\\_TrainingGuide\\_June2008.pdf](http://www.familycareintl.org/UserFiles/File/Anglo_TrainingGuide_June2008.pdf)).

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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