

UN YOUTH FLASH

Service of the United Nations Programme on Youth

21 January 2004

WELCOME to the UN Youth Flash, a new service of the UN Programme on Youth, keeping you up to date on the youth agenda of the UN and partnering youth organizations around the world. We encourage you to forward Youth Flash to people in your network. You can subscribe and unsubscribe by sending an email to youth@un.org with 'subscribe/unsubscribe' as the subject line. Below you will read more on:

- News from UN headquarters
- What happened to General Assembly youth delegate Adam after returning to Australia?
- New publications
- Calendar of youth events
- Interesting websites - including our site of the month: The World Volunteer Web!

News from UN headquarters

>> General Assembly passes youth resolution! <<
The General Assembly (GA) has just passed resolution A/RES/58/133 concerning policies and programmes involving youth. The General Assembly, in this resolution, recognized in addition to the ten priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), the importance of five new issues of concern to youth: globalization, information and communication technology, HIV/AIDS, the involvement of youth in armed conflict and intergenerational issues. It was further decided, in the resolution, to devote two plenary meetings during the 60th session of the General Assembly to review the situation of youth and the achievements made in the implementation of the WPAY. These special plenary meetings will take place in the fall of 2005, ten years after the adoption of WPAY. To prepare for the special plenary meetings, the Programme on Youth will be working to evaluate the progress made in achieving actions on the priority areas identified in WPAY. Following the suggestion of a youth delegate to the GA, a toolkit that assists young people to monitor the progress their government has made towards the WPAY is being developed.

More information can be found at: <http://www.un.org/youth>.

>> World Summit on the Information Society includes chapter on youth <<
Young people had a major input at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which was held in Geneva in December 2003. The Youth Caucus was successful in getting a paragraph on youth inserted into the draft declaration of principles (paragraph A11). The WSIS is an international gathering of governments and non-governmental organizations organized by the

UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The Summit is being held in two phases, with the second phase taking place in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005.

More information, as well as the text of the declaration can be found at:
<http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html>.

>> Launch of Africa Environment Outlook for Youth <<

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is launching a new publication called 'Africa Environment Outlook for Youth'. The existing Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) provides a comprehensive analysis of environmental trends and status in Africa. It is considered an important tool for information dissemination on environmental issues in the region and is targeted primarily at governments and policy makers. The AEO-for-Youth will be developed by youth, for youth, across Africa. The publication will target young people between 16 and 30 years old, as well as environmental educators, environment and youth groups, NGOs, and community-based organizations.

More information can be found at:
<http://www.unep.org/roa/aeo/youth/about.htm>.

Feature

>> What happened to GA youth delegate Adam? <<

Every year several youth representatives join their country's delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. As delegates, their job is not only to encourage participation of youth in General Assembly affairs, but also, once they return home, to raise young people's awareness about the United Nations and youth participation issues. We visited Adam Smith, the 2003 youth representative from Australia, and looked at some of the work he has done since he returned to Melbourne.

Adam's position at the GA included a commitment to partner with local youth organizations when he returned to Australia. Since he values youth participation at the local level, he has been working with groups of young people who are in the formative stages of becoming advocates and catalysts for community change. During this work, he noticed that the communities are welcoming of change, but that the youth themselves often lack the perspectives or mechanisms that will allow them to take initiating steps toward the community development they envision.

Adam states that coming into contact with the other youth at the General Assembly embedded in him a sense of potential, and he believes that this kind of cooperation and partnership is exactly what may help young Australians to engage with a sense of competence and confidence. With this in mind, Adam approached his friends and colleagues in the international community and is now in the process of starting up the Australian Mentoring Initiative. The idea is to connect individuals and small groups of young Australians with voluntary mentors around the world for a period of 6 to 12 months.

More info about Adam and the other youth delegates to the General Assembly can be found at the UN Programme on Youth Website:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/news/interview2003.htm> ; or email Adam at:
smith.adam.m@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Publications

>> UN Programme on Youth: World Youth Report 2003 <<
The Programme on Youth will launch the printed version of its "World Youth Report 2003" in April of this year. The report offers a review of the global situation of youth in all fifteen priority areas adopted by the General Assembly (see also 'News from UN Headquarters'). An advance version of the report can be downloaded from:
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr/index.html>.

>> UNICEF: The state of the world's children 2004 <<
"The State of the World's Children 2004" focuses on girls' education and its relationship to all other development goals, and to the promise of Education For All. It presents a multi-layered case for investing in girls' education as a strategic way to ensure the rights of both boys and girls and to advance a country's development agenda. The complete report including supporting data and statistics can be accessed in PDF format at:
http://www.unicef.org/sowc04/sowc04_contents.html ; or purchased from UNICEF via: <http://www.unicef.org/publications/index.html>.

>> Youth in action: profiles of youth leading change around the world <<
Kinkade, S. Youth in Action: "Profiles of Youth Leading Change Around the World". Vol. 2, Oct. 2003. Baltimore, USA: International Youth Foundation. Highlighted in this publication are 20 outstanding youth leaders who have taken a stand on issues they care about. Each is the recipient of 2003 YouthActionNet Awards (see www.youthactionnet.org). This vibrant community of young social entrepreneurs is tackling many of the most urgent challenges of our time, including violence, HIV/AIDS, environmental degradation, and homelessness.
The publication can be accessed in PDF format at:
<http://www.iyfnet.org/uploads/YouthInAction2003.pdf>.

Calendar of Youth Events

NB: Some events are open for participation by invitation only

>> 25-30 January 04: "THIMUN Youth Assembly"
The Hague, Netherlands. Young people from all over the world will come together to discuss and analyze global problems and explore innovative solutions that will then be presented to international organizations. For more info, visit: <http://www.youthassembly.org>.

>> 28-30 January 04: "Regional Workshop on Youth and Employment in Post-Conflict Arab Countries"
Beirut, Lebanon, organized by the UN Division for Social Policy and Development. This Workshop aims to examine and address issues related to youth unemployment in the context of political instability, due to both civil and military conflict. It will take a closer look at current policies and programmes on the issue, as well as devise strategies that can be used to

improve the lives of young people looking for decent work in the Arab region. For more information please contact Julie Larsen: larsenj@un.org.

>> 28-30 January 04: "Workshop on HIV/AIDS and Family Well-being" Windhoek, Namibia, organized by the UN Division for Social Policy and Development. The overall objective of the Workshop is to contribute to the development of policies and programmes which strengthen the capacity of families and family networks to cope with HIV/AIDS. For more information please contact Laura Skolnik: skolnik@un.org.

>> 4-13 February 04: "42nd session of the Commission for Social Development" UN Headquarters, New York. The Commission for Social Development is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. The Commission is charged with preparing social policy for the Council, including on youth development issues. More information on the Commission and the agenda for February can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/index.html>.

>> 16-18 April 04: "Global Youth Service Day (GYSD)" GYSD is an annual global event led by Youth Service America and the Global Youth Action Network. The goals of GYSD are to mobilize youth and adults; to identify and address the needs of their communities through service; to recruit the next generation of volunteers; and to educate the public about the role of young people as community leaders. More information can be found at: <http://www.gysd.net>.

>> 14-30 April 04: "Commission on Sustainable Development" UN Headquarters, New York. A Youth Caucus at the twelfth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) will be held at UN Headquarters. For more information, contact Catherine Kamping, Youth Caucus coordinator at catherine@youthlink.org; or more information about CSD-12 can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm>.

>> 22 April 04: "Headquarters briefing youth NGO's" UN Headquarters, New York. The Secretariat's Programme on Youth will launch the World Youth Report 2003 and brief youth NGOs on the two special meetings of the General Assembly on youth in 2005 (see also 'News from UN Headquarters'). For more info contact Joop Theunissen: theunissen@un.org.

>> 27-29 April 04 (tentative): "Workshop on a global youth media culture" Ottawa, Canada, organized by the UN Programme on Youth. Even though young people are at the forefront of the information revolution, at the same time they are confronted with the challenge of reconciling the reality of their daily existence with the popular images presented by that revolution. This Workshop will explore the impact of this powerful global media culture on young people. For more info contact Laura Skolnik: skolnik@un.org.

>> 23 June - 8 July 04: "International Leadership Workshop for Rural Youth" Herrsching, Germany. Organized by FAO and the German Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture. This is a biennial event that has been held since 1962, with over 1400 participants from 139 countries. More information can be found at: <http://www.international-herrsching-seminar.de> ; or email: agr@ble.de for more information.

>> 5-12 July 04: "2nd sitting of the International Youth Parliament"
Sydney, Australia. The International Youth Parliament is a network of young
leaders in 150 countries with a vision of 'youth building an equitable,
sustainable and peaceful world'. More information can be found at:
<http://www.iyp.oxfam.org>.

>> 8-14 August 04: "World Youth Festival"
Barcelona, Spain. After Portugal in 1998 and Panama in 2001, Spain will host
this third World Youth Festival, which aims to take a step forward in
cooperation among youth organizations from around the world and bring
together 10,000 young people from all the continents. The festival's motto is
'Let's build the world'. More information can be found at:
<http://www.barcelona2004.org/festivaljoventut>.

>> 12 August 04: "International Youth Day"
This year's theme will be: 'Youth and Intergenerational Relations - Young
People and the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family'.
More information will follow on the website of the Programme on Youth:
<http://www.un.org/youth>.

>> October 05: "Evaluation of the World Programme of Action for Youth"
UN Headquarters, New York. The UN World Programme of Action for Youth will be
evaluated by the General Assembly (see also 'News from UN Headquarters').
More information can be found at: <http://www.un.org/youth>.

Interesting websites

>> Site of the month: The World Volunteer Web <<
Start your year as a volunteer! The World Volunteer Web supports the
volunteer community by providing a global one-stop-shop for information,
resources, and organizations linked to volunteerism. It encourages
volunteerism in all of its cultural forms and recognizes young people as key
actors in bringing global ideals to local actions. More information can be
found at: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/>

>> Information toolkit for young people <<
The British National Youth Agency launched this website in 1997 for young
people, which includes over 1000 information topics and has contact details
for more than 1200 national organizations, including hundreds of built-in web
links. More information can be found at: <http://www.youthinformation.com>.

>> Everything on youth employment <<
The Secretary General's Youth Employment Network, a joint initiative of the
International Labour Organization, the World Bank and the UN Secretariat, has
put together all key UN documents on youth and employment on this Website.
More information can be found at:
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/yen/resource>.

Contact

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), Girma Mulugetta (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Julie Larsen (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Charlotte van Hees (Associate Expert on Youth Policies and Programmes), Laura Skolnik (consultant), and Eveline Ledebor (graduate intern, Columbia University School of Social Work).

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