

UN YOUTH FLASH

Service of the United Nations Programme on Youth

27 May 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. Below you will read more on:

- News from UN headquarters
- News from UN Agencies around the world
- Feature: development of national youth policies in 10 steps
- Calendar of events
- Interesting websites - including our site of the month: Drumbeat, the Communication Initiative

News from UN Headquarters

>> Get ready to celebrate International Youth Day <<

Team up and get ready to celebrate International Youth Day on 12 August. This year's theme is Youth in an Intergenerational Society. To read more about the topic and to find tips on how to celebrate, please visit our website:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday/index.html>

Highlighting UN Agencies work for youth

>> UNESCO Brazil: Youth Development Index <<

The UNESCO office in Brazil released a report in March 2004 on the situation of Brazilian youth nationwide, using for the first time the Youth Development Index (YDI). The YDI is a measurement tool similar to the UN Human Development Index and is calculated according to education, health and income indicators in each of the country's states. The Brazilian Government intends to use UNESCO's study to design new policies for young people in the country. Source and more info: http://www.unwire.org/UNWire/20040317/449_14098.asp

>> UNESCO: Pan-African Youth Forum <<

From 22 to 26 March 2004, a Pan-African youth forum was held in Dakar, Senegal, with the theme "AIDS: a Matter of Education". The forum was organized by an alliance of the "Big 7" youth NGOs (see: www.ifrc.org/youth/big7/), which together represent a membership of over 20 million members in Africa alone. Some 240 young people from 43 African countries participated in the forum, which was also attended by several Youth Ministers, UN agencies, the Francophonie, National Councils against AIDS, National Youth Committees and local NGOs. The participants developed their own national plans to fight HIV/AIDS, based on national plan information and technical advice offered by the UN agencies and the Big 7. UNESCO is

currently seeking funding to work with the young participants in the implementation of these plans.

For more info: <http://portal.unesco.org/es/ev.php->

[URL_ID=19824&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/es/ev.php-URL_ID=19824&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html) or contact: ucj@unesco.org

>> UNESCO Dhaka: Out-of-school adolescents learning needs <<

In March 2004, the UNESCO Office in Dhaka, Bangladesh, organized a sub-regional workshop on policy issues concerning the learning needs of out-of-school adolescents. The seminar was based on a situational analysis of out-of-school adolescents in South Asia and on the lessons learnt from the implementation of an interdisciplinary UNESCO Pilot Project pertaining to the organization's cross-cutting theme 'Eradication of poverty'. Partnerships have been made with local youth NGOs, who are in charge of the Monitoring and Evaluation component of the project.

For more info and copies of the workshop report, contact: ucj@unesco.org

>> UNFPA: Youth Advisory Committee <<

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has created a Youth Advisory Committee to recommend ways of integrating young people into national development plans. This group of young people from around the world will also ensure that UNFPA's global initiatives are youth-friendly and adequately address young people's concerns, particularly regarding their sexual and reproductive lives, HIV/AIDS and gender issues and their link with issues of livelihood.

See for more info: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=445>

>> United Nations Volunteers in joint projects <<

The UN Volunteers (UNV) programme and the Southern African Student Volunteers (SASVO) recently joined forces to mobilize students and local communities to serve as volunteers in rural South Africa.

UNV runs a similar project in Bolivia, where 1200 UN Volunteers - all recently graduated university students, contribute to the capacity building of each and every community in the country.

For more info, see for South Africa:

http://www.unvolunteers.org/infobase/news_releases/2004/04_04_03ZAF_SAVSO.htm
and for Bolivia:

http://www.unvolunteers.org/infobase/news_releases/2004/04_02_18BOL_pres.htm

>> World Bank: My Vision, My Voice Photo Contest <<

The World Bank has launched a global photo contest titled, My Vision, My Voice photo. Young people between the ages of 14 and 20 are invited to zoom in on their surroundings and capture their world through images. What do young people think the world needs more of, or less of - schools, jobs, training, health services, something nobody else has thought of?

Visit: <http://youthink.worldbank.org/photocontest/> for the contest rules and prize information.

Feature

>> National Youth Policy Formulation Process <<

Many countries have established national youth policies, using the World Programme of Action for Youth as a guide. Other countries are considering such a step. In the formulation of a national youth policy plan, governments and other stakeholders could consider taking the following ten steps:

1. Participation: involve all stakeholders right from the beginning, i.e. in the design, implementation and evaluation of the youth policy. Participation from youth, NGOs, all related government departments and levels, as well as UN Agencies is imperative to the success of the policy. It enhances the probability of creating a youth policy that best fits the needs of youth, and it creates support and understanding of the policy objectives, which is necessary for the implementation of the policy.

2. Definition: define youth according to an age limitation appropriate for your country. Youth refers to the transition period from childhood to adulthood, the United Nations defines youth as all people between the ages of 15 to 24 years.

3. Situational analysis: make profiles of the development situation of the young people in your country. The ten priority areas for youth development, adopted by the General Assembly in the World Programme of Action for Youth (A/RES/50/81), could serve as a reference. Make distinctions in categories according to age, sex, rural/urban, ethnicity, education level and family income. Set priorities according to your findings.

4. Resources: make a profile of the available resources in the country. Resources are policies, programmes and financial means of the government, NGOs, youth organizations and private initiatives, as well as existing networks, expertise and legal frameworks. Compare the needs of young people to the available resources. Set long term goals and measurable short term objectives. Design your framework for action accordingly.

5. Experience: learn from experience. Many Governments have developed a youth policy and run a great variety of youth development projects. Make use of the available research and expertise within both national and international agencies.

6. Information: make sure that the national youth policy is well known and understood to create the necessary political and societal commitment from national to local level. Establishing and maintaining communication channels improves relationships. Experiences from 'the field' can enrich the government's understanding of the youth situation and policy implementation.

7. Institutional structure: establish a lead agency in the Government. Youth development implies a cross-sectoral approach. This agency can be a ministry or a department within a ministry. Its aim is to coordinate the activities of different ministries on youth matters to secure the effective integration of youth policy into national development planning. It also creates coherence between implemented policies and programmes.

8. Political commitment: the adoption of the national youth policy by the Government and its formal enactment by the national legislative body indicates the political will to initiate and pursue such a policy.

9. Adaptation to local circumstances: translate national youth policy to regional and/or local level, directed to the specific needs of the youth in that area.

10. Monitoring and evaluation: redefine goals and objectives according to new trends, or changing needs in young people's lives. When conducting population and theme specific censuses or national sample surveys include specific questions related to youth development. In addition, qualitative indicators concerning perceptions, attitudes and aspirations could be developed through special surveys and studies.

For more information on National Youth Policies, please visit our website:
<http://www.un.org/youth/nationalyouthpolicy>

Calendar of Youth Events

NB: Some events are open for participation by invitation only

>> 21-25 June 04: "Expert Group Meeting on Strategies for Creating Urban Youth Employment"

Nairobi, Kenya. This expert group meeting and youth roundtable will be organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with UN-HABITAT and the YEN Secretariat. It will bring together experts in youth employment from different regions of the world, as well as young people from African countries to address the challenges of urban youth employment and young people's hopes for decent employment and reduced social exclusion.

>> 27-30 June 04: " Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit"

Dakar, Senegal. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organizes, together with the Global Peace Initiative of Women, a Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit, as part of the Africa 2015 campaign to call attention to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The summit aims to identify, train, nurture and mobilize the next generation of African leaders. The participants will develop a plan of action for their region that they will present at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2004. Similar regional Summits will follow in other parts of the world. All Summits will eventually feed into a Global Youth gathering during the UN General Assembly session in 2005 in New York.

For more info: <http://www.africa2015.org/youthsummit.html>

>> 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>.

>> 11-16 July 04: "XV International Aids Conference Bangkok"

Bangkok, Thailand. This International AIDS Conference with the theme 'Access for all' will have several youth initiatives. A Youth Forum, run by youth for youth, will be held on Sunday 11 July before the Conference's Opening

Ceremony. For more info, visit the website:
<http://www.ias.se/bangkok/subpage.aspx?pageId=236> , or email:
youth@aids2004.org.

>> Late July 04 (tentative): "Workshop on Youth in Poverty in Southeast Asia"
Jakarta, Indonesia. UNDESA will organize, in cooperation with the office of
the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Jakarta, a workshop on youth and
poverty in Southeast Asia, to be hosted by the Government of Indonesia. This
Workshop will aim to gain a better understanding of the special
characteristics of young people moving in and out of poverty and will also
contribute to the development of policies and programmes specifically
focusing on young people in poverty.

>> 8-14 August 04: "World Youth Festival"
Barcelona, Spain. After Lisbon in 1998 and Panama City in 2001, Barcelona
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'.
Events are scheduled to be held at the World Youth Festival (see above). For
more information: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday/index.html>

>> 17-21 August 04: "18th World Volunteer Conference"
Barcelona, Spain. The conference is promoted by IAVE (International
Association for Volunteer Effort) and directed by FCVS (Federació Catalana de
Voluntariat Social). To highlight the presence of international youth
volunteers and IAVE members at the Conference, a Youth Forum will be held on
August 17. More info via the website: <http://www.iave2004barcelona.org> and
the Iave Youth Forum coordinator Carlos Roca Parada:
youthiaveforum@federacio.net.

>> 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

>> June site of the month: YouthActionNet <<
YouthActionNet spotlights the vital role that youth play in leading positive
change around the world. Recently re-launched by the International Youth
Foundation (IYF) and Nokia, the site is a virtual gathering place for young
people looking to connect with each other about how to make a difference in
their communities. Please visit: www.youthactionnet.org

>> The International Education and Resource Network (iEARN) <<
iEARN is one of the largest global networks that enables young people to use the Internet and other new technologies to engage in collaborative educational projects that both enhance learning and make a difference in the world. Please, visit: <http://www.iearn.org/home.html>

>> World Bank's new site: Youthink! <<
The World Bank has created a website on the development and social issues that matter to young people today. Youthink! invites young people to explore the research, knowledge and experience gathered by World Bank staff over the past 60 years. Youthink! also invites young people to share their stories and experience with others around the world. Visit Youthink!:
<http://youthink.worldbank.org>

>> UNICEF's renewed site: Voices of Youth <<
Voices of Youth recently launched its new site in English, French and Spanish. In addition to complete interactive modules on a range of child rights issues, there are also new, state-of-the-art discussion forums, and a Take action area with ideas for making a difference. For more info:
<http://www.unicef.org/voy>

>> Development Gateway: Youth for Development pages <<
Development Gateway is an interactive site for information on development and poverty reduction of the Development Gateway Foundation. The 'Youth for Development' section on this site aims to bring young people age 13-21 together around such development topics as the Environment, Youth in Conflict or HIV/AIDS. Please, visit this page:
<http://www.developmentgateway.org/node/182233/?>

>> United Network Of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) <<
The UNOY Peacebuilders is a global network of young people and youth organizations active in the field of peace building, mostly working in conflict and post-conflict regions. Please, visit their site:
<http://www.unoy.org>

>> YSDA-Philipinas <<
The Youth for Sustainable Development Assembly, also known as YSDA-Pilipinas Inc., is a national alliance to support youth involvement in sustainable development at the community-levels. For more info: <http://www.ysda.tk>

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), Julie Larsen (Associate Social Affairs Officer), Charlotte van Hees (Associate Expert on Youth Policies and Programmes) and Sylvie Paillet (Administrative Assistant).

If you have news that you want to share via the UN Youth Flash, please send an email to: youth@un.org.

To subscribe and unsubscribe to the information service, please send an email to: youth@un.org, with 'subscribe' or 'unsubscribe' as the subject line.

>>>>>>>>> VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://www.un.org/youth> <<<<<<<<<<<