



*Worldview Mission*

*Nigeria office: T45 Rukuba road Jos, Nigeria*

PROGRAM TYPE	SEMINAR – TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY
SEMINAR TITLE	<b>Good governance and Youth employment a panacea to achieving the MDG</b>
PROGRAM DATE /VENUE	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2012 /Auditorium of the International Center for Accelerated Development Jos, Plateau state Nigeria
REPORTING DATE	21 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
BACKGROUND OF THE SEMINAR	The MDGs was initiated and targeted at placing the people of Africa at a vantage position wherein poverty would be reduced if not eradicated. It is about five years or more to the expected date set as bench mark for the achievement of the MDG’s. The entire goals are dovetailed into good governance. To mark the International Youth Day (IYD), a seminar was organized to access governance in Nigeria alongside youth employment in relation to MDG of poverty eradication.
KEY ACTIVITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATION 2012	The International Youth Day (IYD) was celebrated with fun and pageantry in Jos the plateau state capital, Nigeria. The International Youth Day was celebrated by Worldview Mission (WM) in conjunction with the International Center for Accelerated Development (ICAD) and Catholic Youths Organization of Nigeria (CYON) at the conference room of the International Center for Accelerated Development in Jos Nigeria.  The event began by 12 noon with about 50 (30 Male and 20 Female) youths registered for the event.  Soon after the introduction and ice breaker, the welcome

address was done by Nnadi Kevin who represented the organizers (International Center and the Worldview Mission).

He read the address of the UN secretary General on this auspicious occasion of International Youth Day 2012.

Key note address was presented by the representative of the commissioner for youths and social development. His address touched on the state of the youth and nationhood, stating that the state of the Nigerian youths in terms of employment has remained a worrisome development, as youth unemployment and job losses have become a national issue which the government of the day has not come to terms with. More worrisome is the poor working condition and the paltry remuneration of employed youths, and the increase in the number of those withdrawn from the workforce. That this will significantly be a draw back to the realization of the MDGs.

Youths are fountains of ideas for innovation which would stimulate economic, political and social growth. It is expected that youths be gainfully engaged. However, unemployment has remained a perennial problem that Nigerian youths have lived to battle with everyday.

### **Thematic sessions**

Experience sharing on youth involvement in policy making took the center stage with the youths gathered in four groups to brain storm on how to achieve the targets of the Millennium development Goals (MGDs).

The groups looked at different sectors of the Nigerian Economy – including agriculture, education, health youth development, small scale enterprises, engineering and youth participation in governance – accountability and transparency.

They agreed that we are doing well in some of the sectors but that more is needed to be done in several sectors and in the area of carrying the youth along in the scheme of things.

They noted that decisions involving the youth are always

taken by the elders who exercise “all knowing idea, authority and power” on behalf of the youths.

Our leaders do not involve the youths in decisions concerning key sectors of the economy but brings the youth in only when it turns sour and their cooperation is required to avoid a total breakdown of law and order

Participants stated that youths are remembered only during general election or indeed any election where their services are needed as thugs.

#### OUTCOME OF THE SEMINAR

1. The participants demand that youths be included or their opinion be sort on the state of the nation at the policy formulation stage including implementation stage.
2. That the youths be given opportunity to make input on the selection of who sits in the ministry of youth and social development as a minister of youth.
3. That governance should be given human face – with practical show of accountability and budget discipline.
4. That government should provide conducive atmosphere for private sector to thrive so as to increase employment generation and reduce the rate of unemployment in Nigeria

#### OTHER SIDE ATTRACTIONS

The participants were engaged in debates on the state of the nation while others drew the “face of good governance” and pictures of accountability to mark the day.

Earlier on, the youths of the Catholic Youth organization of Nigeria staged songs and renditions to mark the day.

The youths also prayed for peace on the Plateau – a state troubled by sectarian violence and insurgency.



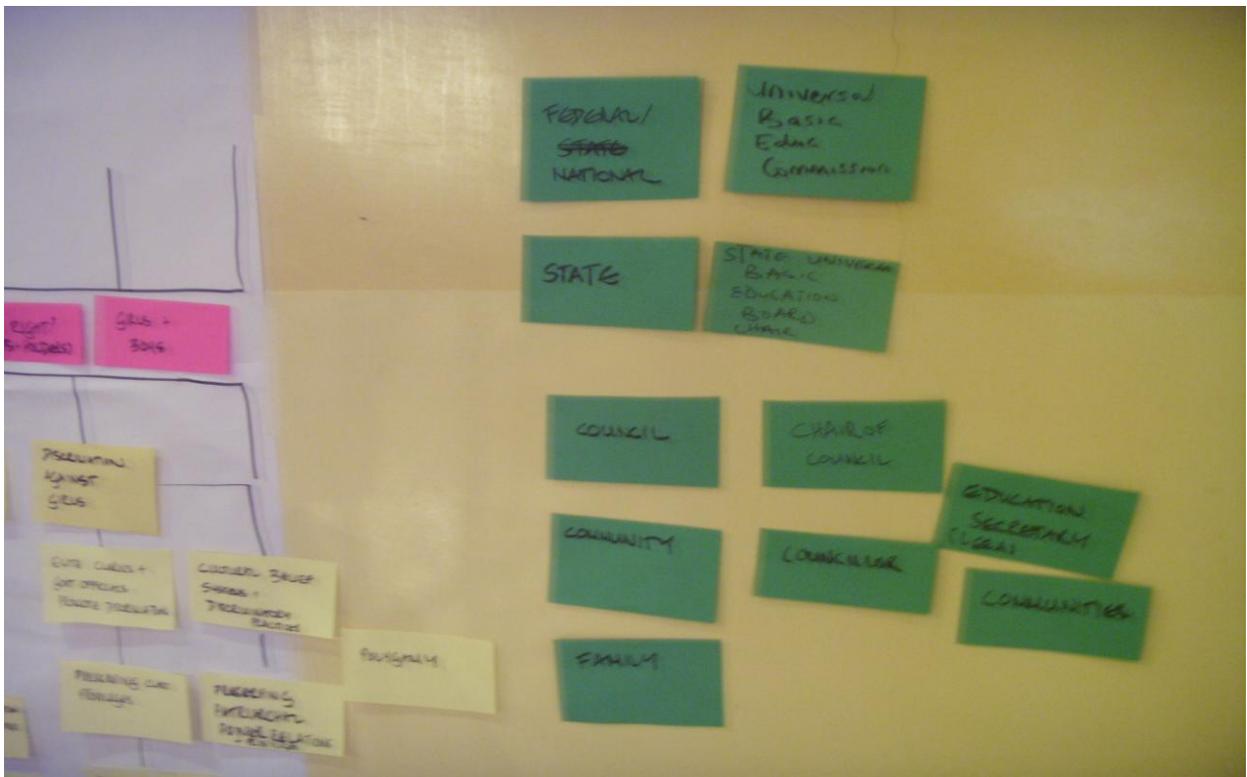
Singing songs of hope and better future ahead for the youths of Nigeria (Catholic Youth Organisation of Nigeria CYON)



The ugly side of approach to governance and the renewed hope for good governance



Different pictorial ideas of Good Governance drawn by the youth participant at the 2012 International Youth Day



Looking at the responsibilities of the state and how the youth can make in route in decision making