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✓ UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL 2014

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
6 April 2014	International Day of sport for Development and Peace	Melaka, Malaysia
7 April 2014	World Health Day	Melaka, Malaysia
22 April 2014	International Mother Earth Day	Melaka, Malaysia
23 April 2014	World Book and Copyright Day	Melaka, Malaysia



✓ NIGERIA: BAYELSA INAUGURATES YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Yenagoa, 6 March 2014 - THE Governor, during the inauguration, tasked the Chairman and other members with the duty of formulating programmes aimed at training and retraining Bayelsa youths on various skills which will help in keeping the youths off the streets.

The newly inaugurated Chairman of the Bayelsa Centre for Youth Development, Ekikabowei Victor Ben, who is an ex

Niger Delta agitator popularly known as “Boy Loaf” while appreciating the Governor for the opportunity to serve, assured people of Bayelsa that the youth centre would replicate the methods used by the Federal Amnesty Programme and he was sure this would produce much result.

Also, in a related development, the newly inaugurated President of the Ijaw Youth Council, Udengs Eradiri, and other

members of his cabinet were presented to Governor Dickson by the Special Adviser to the President on Niger Delta Affairs, Kinsley Kuku.

While presenting the IYC executives, Mr. Kuku applauded Governor Dickson’s commitment to furthering the cause of Ijaw people.

The IYC President, Udengs Eradiri, who also praised the stance of the Governor

on issues that bother on the progress of the Ijaws, said that the National Conference and the 2015 re-election of President Goodluck Jonathan were the foremost priorities of the IYC.

The Governor charged the IYC to work towards achieving more unity amongst the Ijaws, especially the youths.

[Channels]

✓ SOUTH AFRICA: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT A PRIORITY , SAYS MINISTER

Cape Town, 3 March 2014 - THE South African minister for performance monitoring and evaluation in the presidency Collins Chabane has highlighted the importance of finding solutions to South Africa’s chronic youth unemployment.

Speaking at the opening of the Presidential Youth Indaba on Jobs and Skills on Friday, minister Chabane said that South Africa has

one of the highest unemployment rates in the world with about 3.6m youths between the ages of 15 and 29 having no work, reported the South African Government News Agency.

“Finding solutions to youth unemployment is of utmost importance.

If we want to increase the absorption and retention of young people into the economy, we need to prioritize

pragmatic, demand focused and solutions driven interventions,” said Chabane.

The minister acknowledged that most of South African youth is trapped in temporary, informal and casual work with limited prospects for advancement.

He highlighted one initiative, the Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator.

Harambee was formed in 2010 to help young people, who are employable but disadvantaged because they don’t have the money, skills or social know how, to find jobs.

It has placed more than 1,000 candidates in full-time jobs.

[Recruiter]

✓ TANZANIA: POOR YOUTH BENEFIT FROM VETA PROJECTS

Dodoma, 2 March 2014 - THOUSANDS of youths vocational education (Veta) graduates are expected to benefit from a strategic project initiated to assist them employ themselves or get employment in both public and private sectors.

The initiative, which is funded by International Youth Foundation (IYF) targets youth from poor backgrounds, according to Eng. Zebadiah Moshi, VETA Director General.

He was speaking at the official closing of a

workshop on Internship and Job Placement for Heads of Veta colleges from different regions.

Internship and Job Placement is a part of a wide and comprehensive three-year project, “Tanzania Youth Scholars” project, designed to assist youths from poor families to access vocation education offered by Veta colleges.

This project is sponsored by IYF and implemented by Veta.

VETA director said under

the Tanzania Youth Scholars project, the youths are supported to get requisite vocational skills in various disciplines, noting that “but access to vocational education is one thing and utilization of the gained knowledge is another thing.

That’s why we have come up with Internship and Job Placement project, in order to assist these graduates to employ themselves or secure jobs in public and private sectors.”

He explained that the

graduates under the project will be placed under Internship programmes with the view to build their competencies and later on connect them to the job markets.

“The workshop for heads of Veta colleges I am closing today aims to equip them with best practices on how to assist these youths to get involved in self employment or absorbed by the labour market,” said Moshi.



For her part, Sarah Shebele, IYF Country Director, described Veta as a key implementing partner in the Youth Scholars project, which seeks to support youths acquire vocational relevant skills, observing that so far about 840 youths have benefited from the project.

Shebele said the project benefited vulnerable youth through short and long-courses offered in

several VETA centres including Dares Salaam, Mwanza, Kigoma, Tanga and Mtwara.

Petula Nash, IYF Programme Director said internship and job placement was a crucial component in the implementation of Youth Scholars project, because of a number of factors that could prevent the graduate youths to successfully play their "cards" in the labour

market.

"Of course, we are assisting them to access vocational training, but they might miss opportunities because of complications and complications of the labour markets...they have no connections, no contacts, lack competencies needed by the labour market.

"But with internship and job placement, the programme would build their

confidence and capacities and later on connect them to the job markets," said Nash. According to the programme director, the initiatives would help to prepare the graduates gainfully compete in the wake of increasingly challenging, competitive and dynamic national, regional and global labour markets.

[Guardian on Sunday]

✓ UGANDA: THE ANSWER TO YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT LIES IN TAX INCENTIVES

Kampala, 6 March 2014 - ALTHOUGH many interventions have been put in place by Government to address the problem, corruption, population explosion, lack of priority budgeting, poor work culture, a rigid education system and failure to make agriculture attractive to the youth among others are serious challenges.

To minimise the problem of youth unemployment, there are two things the government ought to do: Improve the legal framework to increase opportunities of youth employment and create tax incentives for youth employers.

To begin with, improving the legal framework to increase opportunities of youth employment is the most obvious method of reducing youth unemployment.

Tightening the legal framework will increase opportunities for youth employment and practical preparation of youth for work by all higher institutions of learning.

However, the government

will need to provide attractive remuneration packages to teachers, lecturers and other professionals to ensure a good work done.

Secondly, creating tax incentives for youth employers is equally crucial.

A more creative and constructive approach would be to improve incentives for companies institutions which employ these "theoretical and inexperienced youth" to cater for the expenses in training and recruitment.

For instance, it would work, if the tax regime is re-organised so that there are tax rebates on youth employers in organisations which employ a given number of youth for a given time and have spent a given amount of money training them for better efficiency on the job.

A key reason for youth unemployment, which is often times overlooked, is insufficient skills and knowledge applicable to the job they are applying for.

It is, therefore, important

that youth employers are indirectly refunded these expenses of "refining employees to suit their demands".

The agricultural sector being dominant in Uganda employing 82% of the population and contributing about 23.9% of the total GDP in 2013, and, therefore, a high priority area in the government's National Development Plan; youth employers in agricultural value chain development would be a strategic focus for such proposed tax incentives after all most industries and services in the country are dependent on this sector.

All private employers registered to remit Pay As You Earn (PAYE) to Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) would qualify and would be able to deduct the incentive amount for which they qualify from the income tax they would have to pay to URA.

Furthermore, youth employees who would qualify would have to, for instance, be between 18 and 29 years old; be working in a special sector or industry which indicated by the finance minister in consultation with the

ministers of labour and trade and industry like agriculture; have an identity documents detailing when he/she finished school, among others.

The tax incentive would not be applicable to youth domestic workers.

By and large, it is imperative to note that the Ugandan government supplemented with civil society organisations has applied several national and local strategies to reduce youth unemployment such as the "Entadikwa" Scheme, the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme and the government sponsored youth training programmes through Enterprise Uganda.

Most of these government and civil society interventions have been moving hand in hand with other poverty reduction strategies.

Whereas the Government has of late concentrated on establishing youth funds and entrepreneurship skills training, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and especially Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have focused on self-reliance.



The magnitude of Uganda's youth unemployment crisis is a cause for concern and while the long-term solution

is to "fix" the education system and place the economy on a growth path that is better aligned with

the scale and capacity of its resources, in the short to medium term more forceful and greater interventions are

required than have hitherto been provided.

[New Vision]

✓ ZIMBABWE: PATSIME FIGHTS YOUTH ILLS THROUGH THEATRE

Harare, 4 March 2014 - PASTIME trust Zimbabwe has introduced a play that explores the dangers of teen pregnancies and drug abuse among the youths.

The play, "School Girl" has already been performed at several schools in the capital and other towns with the aim of discouraging children from early sexual indulgence and drug abuse, which has been on the increase amongst youths.

"School Girl" has been developed under the theme "Buddiz for Luv" project run by Patsime Trust with a general goal of changing youth's attitudes for the better.

Patsime programme coordinator Elscent Chitsanga revealed that her organization had specifically chosen theatre to teach and enlighten youths because of its ability to pass messages better than most other forms of teaching.

"Theatre is able to cut through all age groups as we work with kids from primary school to those who are at universities and as such the medium is able to appeal to many young people.

"Because all age groups are able to relate to theatre with ease and it thus also allows the audience a platform to air their views as youths and in the process all issues affecting them can easily be dealt with," explained

sanga.

Currently Patsime has contracted theatre groups to spread the message using the same script and groups such as Bambelela and My Age have been on the forefront.

They have already visited more than 20 schools apiece in Bulawayo and Masvingo with plans underway to spread wings even wider.

"School Girl" is a play based on a 16 year old school girl who has a passion for music but lacks guidance and ends up following her passion to the extremes and suffers consequences of drug abuse and indulgence into early sexual activity.

The play also highlights most of the problems faced by youths.

[The Herald]

NEWS



✓ CANADA: CANADA IS FAILING HOMELESS YOUTH, REPORT SAYS

Ottawa, 3 March 2014 - CANADA is failing its homeless youth population and big changes are needed to help young people transition safely into adulthood, says a York University professor.

Stephen Gaetz argues in his report "Coming of Age" that the current approach to homeless youth, which involves emergency responses such as shelters and drop-in centres, is doing little to reduce homelessness.

Youth make up about 20 per cent of people who use the country's emergency shelters and there is little evidence that the number of young people who become homeless or stay on the streets has fallen in the past

10 or 15 years, the report says.

StatsCan reports that the number of people under 15 years old living in shelters shot up from 1,830 in 2006 to 2,145 in 2011.

While emergency response is important, Gaetz argues that the current approach keeps young people in shelters for years and stops them from becoming self-sufficient adults.

He compares it to dealing with victims of natural disasters:

"Imagine for a second that (forest fire evacuees) in Kelowna or Slave Lake were still living in hockey arenas or motels all these years later.

That would seem shocking and absurd and most of us would see this as the complete failure of our emergency response that we really, really let these people down."

Gaetz wants to see emergency responses integrated into a broader strategy to deal with youth homelessness.

He wants the strategy to include "temporary, short-term stays" in shelters, a "system of care" that determines the needs of young people and day programming to help them move forward with their goals.

The report lauds strategies such as Australia's "Family Reconnect Program," which

works to improve an at-risk youth's level of engagement with "family, work, education and training in their local community," the report reads.

The result? Positive outcomes for young people and their families in areas such as stability of a living situation, conflict management and attitude towards school, the report says.

Ultimately, Gaetz wants to see a "shift from an approach that manages the problem, to an approach that ends youth homelessness."

[The Huffington Post]

✓ CHILE: WAGE SMART WAR ON YOUTH JOBLESSNESS

Santiago, 11 March 2014 - THE recent Budget speech again highlighted the pressures on our economy and, in particular, the need to reduce youth unemployment and transform the high number of young people into a competitive advantage.

In South Africa, around 46 percent of young people aged 15 to 24 are out of work.

It is one of the highest rates in the world.

The government sees the pressing need for action as it has allocated more than 20 percent of national expenditure to education, including R23 billion for the development of educational infrastructure.

While this is admirable and necessary, addressing youth unemployment cannot and should not be left to "the powers that be".

We know that some of the finest minds in business, civil society and academia are grappling with the issue.

For example, how to tackle youth unemployment was the question posed to the undergraduate entrants in this year's Nedbank and Old Mutual Budget speech competition, now in its 43rd year.

The judges agreed that this year's entrants were of a high standard: insightful and incisive.

Overall winner Josh Budlender believes sustained inclusive

economic growth and investment are needed to lower youth unemployment, but says there are a number of supplementary measures that would accelerate their impact.

A youth wage subsidy, which rewards employers that hire low-skilled workers aged 18 to 29 earning below the tax threshold, would provide people with access to the working world.

It would help overcome the catch-22 situation that sees even talented graduates being unable to get work because they have no experience and can't get experience because they can't get work.

Budlender also refers to the structural mismatch between the skills demanded by the modern South African economy, and the skills it supplies.

That ratio has grown from around 35:65 between 1970 and 1975, to 53:46 between 2000 and 2002.

"The causes of youth unemployment... are a combination of deficient demand for labour, due to the increasingly skills intensive orientation of the SA economy, and substandard supply, caused by the emergence of low-skilled youth," he says.



The National Treasury has found that unemployed young people have three times more chance of finding work if they have experience, and that introducing the subsidy would enable about 178 000 to work.

Budlender acknowledges that the youth wage subsidy is not without its flaws, but argues that it will be effective when combined with efforts to promote the growth of the informal sector.

He acknowledges that informal employment is a poor substitute for work in the formal sector, but that it is better than no work at all.

The runner-up in the

competition, Liberty Bapai, suggests several actions to address youth unemployment, including early education on career choices and mandatory work experience in all tertiary institutions.

He notes that Chile, India, Australia and Belgium have minimum wages for teens below the adult rate.

Properly regulated, this could give useful work experience to young people.

Any and all of these measures carry a cost, but none is as expensive as doing nothing about what Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande calls a ticking time bomb.

Youth unemployment is a focus of the National Development Plan and a number of efforts are under way in business to facilitate small, medium and micro-sized enterprises.

One example is Old Mutual's Masisizane Fund, which helps create black-owned small enterprises, especially in rural and peri-urban areas.

Moneyweb's Marc Ashton writes that at a recent MyStartupSA event, the initiative's founder, Andile Khumalo, pointed out that black would-be entrepreneurs had access to less start-up finance from family and friends than their white counterparts.

Such imbalances must be addressed.

The postgraduate category of the Nedbank and Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition asked entrants to examine the issue of energy security.

It's worth noting that one of the proposed remedies, investing massively in renewables, would have the added benefit of generating employment on a significant scale.

We have a number of powerful remedies within our reach and we must take them.

[Business Report]

✓ HONDURAS, YOUTH MARCH AND CELEBRATION INSPIRES STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY

Tegucigalpa, 5 March 2014

- AFTER leading a youth march to end violence and for jobs with Gauthier, the Mayor read her proclamation to this "courageous union and community leader in our State," noting his journey from Louisiana to New Haven, leading his union and in "the Communist Party USA, where he has campaigned for peace, to end police brutality, meet the needs of youth, to create living wage jobs in the community and for union rights."

Culminating two and a half years of youth organizing, the New Elm City Dream and the Young Communist League led the march with police escort.

Over one hundred youth and elected officials, union and community leaders marched from Elm and

Kensington streets where Tyrell Trimble was shot to death in July, 2012, to the Peoples Center to hear Gauthier's story.

Thanking the youth for marching and accepting the petitions for jobs they presented to her, Harp exclaimed, "If the demand is not placed there will be no action."

The youth carried large banners created with local artists including likenesses of historical African American leaders, New Haven youth who lost their lives, and Gauthier.

At the end of the march, one mother who lost her son to gun violence explained, "I never paid attention until it affected me. Now I want to be a part of this."

Chanting "Jobs for Youth Jobs for All," the marchers

filed into the Peoples Center to the sounds of drumming by Brian Jarawa Gray and joined the crowd already assembled.

As the room filled to capacity, people gathered outside the front and back doors, straining to hear the program.

Prize winners of the high school arts and writing competition presented their poems, essays and artwork on the theme, "If you were mayor of New Haven how would you work with young people to plan for the future of the city? As a high school student, what would you say to Mayor Toni Harp?"

Harp, the city's first woman and second African American mayor, promised to place the book with all the submissions into the New Haven Public Library

"for posterity." Before presenting his life story, Gauthier received additional citations from Rep.

Gary Holder-Winfield, elected two days later to fill the state senate seat vacated by Harp; Ald. Dolores Colon, chair of the Black and Hispanic Caucus of the Board of Alders, John Harrity, president of District 26, State Council of Machinists, Jarvis Tyner, executive vice chair of the Communist Party USA, and a poem by Baub Bidon.

The room was silent as Gauthier took the podium after giving his cousin in the audience a hug.

He described racist incidents in segregationist Louisiana, in the military in the Dominican Republic, and in New Haven that had shaped his life.



His mother's teaching and example led him to decide to turn his anger into organizing to bring about change, he said.

He described his years working at the Winchester sporting arms factory where he was a leader of a six month strike in 1979 and then elected president of the International Association of Machinists, Victory Lodge 609.

He also spoke of his earlier participation in the union organizing drive at Yale

New Haven Hospital, acknowledging his co-workers from those experiences in the audience.

"As Communists we strive for a better life for workers and their families, those who produce the wealth of this great nation," said Gauthier. "

I urge the youth today to step out of the crowd and become community leaders, become leaders on the job. Don't let other people who know us define us.

Learn your family history. Learn the real history of our nation.

You cannot change anything unless your first find out how it works and what role you can play to make this democracy in these United States work for all people."

Ben McManus, chair of the People's World committee that planned the event, thanked Gauthier and recalled his own first introduction to the

Communist Party newspaper as a child in Newark, New Jersey.

Before enjoying a homemade meal, those present reached into their wallets to make a contribution to the fund drive.

[People's World]

✓ JAMAICA: WORLD BANK HELPS JAMAICA TACKLE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Kingston, 5 March 2014 - THE World Bank has moved decisively to introduce novel avenues of investment in a bid to combat youth unemployment as well as resuscitate Jamaica's ailing economy.

In so doing, the World Bank said it was focusing renewed attention on investment-starved Jamaica as it seeks to introduce fresh initiatives that it believes can assist in propelling the country out of the economic abyss in which it has found itself.

The World Bank's Fabio Pittaluga told The Gleaner that his organisation was particularly concerned about the crippling levels of youth unemployment in

Jamaica. "We are here to provide innovative solutions for our client, which is Jamaica, that has a huge problem with high youth unemployment, and the traditional markets whether it's agriculture, tourism or the manufacturing sector are not necessarily going to generate the kinds of jobs needed to provide a viable set of options for young people," said Pittaluga.

He said it was against this backdrop that the World Bank's Digital Jam 3.0 was initiated.

Scores of Jamaican youth were in attendance at the conference on the weekend, with Pittaluga expressing satisfaction with the

outcome. Sharon McDade, an invitee of the World Bank, told The Gleaner she brought a revised concept of 'angel investing', targeting people who are desirous of starting new businesses but are not being given the time of day by traditional financial institutions.

ANGEL NETWORKS

She suggested that a system be put in place where Jamaicans with some degree of wealth could establish entities dubbed 'angel networks' to assist budding entrepreneurs.

To this end, McDade has addressed a group of private citizens in Jamaica, with

high net worth, who can assist Jamaica out of its dire straits without struggling for overseas investment alone.

In addition to financing start-up business activities, McDade said the 'angels' could also invest in privately held businesses that possess real opportunities.

[The Gleaner]

✓ USA: LEFT AND RIGHT: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

Washington, D.C, 5 March 2014 - THE national unemployment rate is currently 6.6 percent, quite an improvement from the 9.9 percent peak during the Great Recession.

However, the American youth (ages 16 to 25) unemployment rate is 14.2 percent.

Apparently it is not a great time for young people to leave the parental nest and

become economically independent. Not that most of the rest of the industrialized world is doing any better: the current average youth unemployment rate in the European Union is a

whopping 23.6 percent. Forced unemployment is a stressful experience for anyone, and it is potentially devastating to those just beginning their adult lives.



Lack of connection to the working world can lead to various permanent negative consequences, such as lifelong poverty, an entitlement mentality and an absent work ethic, and an inability to become responsible spouses, parents and citizens.

However, there is one industrialized country that manages to more fully employ its young: Germany, with a youth unemployment rate of 7.4 percent.

What are the Germans doing that no one else is doing? They are assertively training their youth for 21st century technical, trade and commercial jobs through apprenticeship programs.

After sixth-grade German children are separated into three academic tracks, based on assessments of their academic potential.

Students in the highest track are prepared for four-year university admission.

The rest are placed in the other two tracks. Students in these tracks are placed in specific apprenticeship programs, based on student interest and aptitude.

These programs combine school two days a week with two or work days of specific on the job training in an actual business.

When student-apprentices graduate from high school they are frequently hired by the organizations where they did their apprenticeships.

Although this system seems undemocratic, at any point students can opt to test for

admission to the university preparation track.

Furthermore, apprenticeships are not a sentence to permanent have-not status. In fact they frequently lead to high paying jobs requiring sophisticated technical skills.

Unfortunately the United States has never fully embraced the apprenticeship model.

In the current version of the American dream middle class parents believe that their children have to get four-year college degrees to reap the benefits of being American.

This belief pushes millions of young people into baccalaureate college programs that are wrong for their abilities and interests.

And, in a democracy domestic government policy generally follows majority desires, and this is certainly the case with higher education.

The federal and state governments strongly support four-year institutions, and they support community colleges as feeders to colleges and universities.

However, four-year institutions emphasize a liberal arts curricula that was established to produce well-rounded and responsible citizens; an essential goal in a democracy, but not directly relevant to getting a good job.

In addition colleges and universities are in the education business, not the

training business, and therefore they emphasize knowledge accumulation, rather than skill acquisition.

Unfortunately, knowledge accumulation by itself does not always lead to employment in modern workplaces. Jobs increasingly require skills that are best acquired through supervised training and practice.

Community colleges are perfectly positioned to facilitate apprenticeship programs.

They already offer numerous two-year vocational and technical programs that emphasize skill acquisition, they already have relations with nearby businesses and organizations, and they teach liberal arts courses that promote responsible citizenship.

Community colleges could further promote apprenticeships by expanding college credit for apprentice training, and the federal government could extend tax credits to employers to encourage them to participate in apprenticeship programs.

Using community colleges to kick-start a national emphasis on apprenticeship programs would help amend the disconnect between post high school education and employment in the United States, a disconnect that threatens the American dream and hurts our global competitiveness.

The very hopeful return of manufacturing jobs to the United States is endangered because not enough

American workers have the skills to do the jobs that are available.

What is required now is a president willing to challenge erroneous, deeply held attitudes about education.

[Daily Record]

NEWS



✓ AFGHANISTAN: AFGHAN YOUTH AND PEACE

Kabul, 5 March 2014 - MY perspective is without the youth struggle, it is impossible to achieve success, particularly in peace building.

Youth have novel ideas and are energized to implement their ideas.

The youth have capabilities to create new thinking and make social changes which lead to new ways for peace.

The youth can build relationships across ethnic, religious and political lines and raise their voice for peace and opposition to war.

As the backbone of a

country, youth should have a greater role in government to help achieve peace. In the case of Afghanistan, it is difficult to imagine a scenario where genuine peace is achieved without youth participation.

Nearly 70 percent of Afghans are under the age of 25.

Unfortunately, the Afghan government ignores this key constituency.

After decades of war and hardship, the Afghan government has been unable to end internal divisions.

This may in part be attributed to the fact that the

government does not listen to its youth.

The majority of Afghan youth do not see a bright future in politics and therefore turn to illicit behavior such as joining a militia or selling drugs. Afghanistan is the world's largest grower and producer of opium and has at least 1 million drug users.

The Afghan system creates this self-inflicting cycle of despair by not allowing everyone student the opportunity to pursue higher learning at the university level.

Even educated Afghans with a college degree are

not guaranteed jobs. In this despair, unable to provide for themselves and their families, many turn to drugs or joining terrorist organizations.

If Afghanistan and the international community honestly wants peace in Afghanistan and rest of the world, they need to have a more inclusive youth program. If the youth are given a fair chance and have a greater role in their nation's future, they will help serve the cause of peace.

[Sharnoff's Global Views]

✓ KSA: SKILLED YOUTH NEEDED TO DEVELOP ENERGY SECTOR

Riyadh, 4 March 2014 - OFFICIALS urged Saudi students to enroll in polytechnic schools to lead and develop the nation's energy industry.

The statement was made recently during the inauguration of the construction and drilling training center at the Saudi Technical Institute for Petroleum Services in Dammam.

The event was held under the auspices of Eastern Province Gov. Prince Saud bin Naif, who attended the institute's graduation ceremony.

Khalid Al-Falih, president and CEO of Saudi Aramco, attended the ceremony along with Ali Nasir Al-Ghofais, director of the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC), and Abdulrahman Abdulkarim, the ministry

consultant and chairman of the institute's board of trustees.

Ali Al-Naimi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, said that the Saudi youth is capable of taking the lead in technical industries and oil excavations. He added that awareness programs should be dedicated to encourage more students to focus on the industrial sector.

Al-Naimi added that more students should attend polytechnic institutes instead of universities in order to support sustainable development of the Kingdom.

Khalid Al-Falih placed value on the role played by the Saudi Technical Institute for Petroleum Services in serving the Saudi youth and preparing them to work in the Kingdom's petrochemicals

sector.

Al-Falih confirmed his company's commitment to build a young generation ready to lead the Kingdom's energy industry.

"Our company relies on training the youth to advance the nation's petroleum industrial field," he said, adding, that the company relies on three cores: a strong training foundation, qualified trainers and youth with high aspirations.

For his part, Ali Al-Ghofais said that a suitable working environment and a strong training foundation for the youth is needed to build local expertise in the field.

Al-Ghofais indicated that the TVTC plans to build institutes in alternative industries in the Kingdom such as the Waad Al-Shamal project and the

Ar'ar mining institute, which aim to train up to 3,000 Saudi youth.

Al-Ghofais said plans are under way to launch an institute specializing in petroleum industries in the Al-Ahsa area in the next three months in collaboration with Saudi Aramco.

Abdulrahman Abdulkarim said that the Technical Institute for Petroleum Services was an initiative driven by Ali-Naimi to prepare the Saudi youth to be a part of the energy market.

"More than 2,000 trainees are enrolled in the three training centers and 70 companies have signed the training agreement," Abdulkarim added.

[Arab News]



✓ OMAN: THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE DRAWS THE YOUTH

Muscat, 1 March 2014 - BY Kabeer Yousuf Contrary to what most of us might hither to have perceived, it is the real pulse of the youth who are driven by an unquenchable thirst for knowledge that is reflected at the 18th edition of Muscat International Book Fair (MBF), where more than 160,000 titles are stacked in ascending and descending orders for a grab.

Yesterday being weekend, youths from across various governorates swarmed around various pavilions that shelved titles from 'Effective Management in the Arab World' to 'First Aid in Kitchen' and from 'Mind Your Attitude' to 'Habits of Influential People' since morning declaring to the world loud that reading habit among our youth is on an ever-nourishing and growing mode.

"The success of this annual book fair has been astounding and it has come to a stage that people are waiting for this event every year.

This year we hope to give an opportunity for people from different parts of the country, citizens and residents alike, to find what they need from a tank of what we call it 'a food for thought' during these 10 days", Dr Abdulmunim bin Mansour al Hasani,

Sultanate's Minster of Information, said.

"More than just bringing about some titles and publishers from across the continents, we are aiming at inculcating a habit of reading in the tender minds and to nurture a culture of reading in the future generations", he added.

This year around, more than 570 publishers with more than 160,000 titles are ready to be grabbed by avid readers from all over. The minister hoped that given the limitations, the MBF provides a great venue for people to own their favourite titles all under one roof.

"This year, we have announced the cultural events whereby the cultural institutions and societies in the country are given a chance to conduct seminars and other brain racking sessions whereby the visitors will be able to refresh their knowledge and information.

The members of society are interested in the events here". The committee of MBF organised an evening of poetry the other day.

The evening titled "The Eloquent Poetry" for the poet Mohammed bin Bashir al Mathlouthi from Tunisia, poet Mohammad al Damrah from Jordan, poet and writer Abdulsalam al Atari from

Palestine and the poet Shaimaa al Alawi from the Sultanate witnessed the visitors sinking in the inexplicable warmth of poems one after the other.

The evening was moderated by Badr al Shaibani, a renowned poet. This event, which is a part of a series of events, comes within the activities of the cultural programmes of the exhibition which runs till March 7, and with participation of a number of government agencies and associations in the country.

The National Youth Commission (NYC) has introduced the initiative of "My City is Reading" and displayed presentation of influential figures at its beautifully decorated pavilion at the MBF.

Many versions have been signed at signature concerts that took place in the first day of the exhibition such as version of "The Wizard of Oz strange" written by Fahd al Saidi, and the version of "Personal Narrative" belong to Khamela al Rahby and is at the NYC corner in the exhibition.

The beginning of the cultural programme was marked with "The Relation of Book to the Cinema" on the sidelines of the Fair.

The Omani Society for Cinema in collaboration with the main committee of

MBF organised the cultural programmes by displaying short Omani films that embody the relationship between books and cinema. A number of government agencies and some associations in the Sultanate were involved in this.

This year's session of the MBF is particularly special because of the Oman Encyclopedia which took more than 10 years of hard work of nearly 100 writers and specialists.

"We are giving an opportunity for the rest of the world to know more about the country as a whole. We used thousands of references in the compilation of this historical book and is a treasure in the history of the country", he added.

The Ahmed bin Majid tent is for children's literary collections and in association with the Ministry of Education, there are several events for the youth including drama and films that will certainly pull more youth to the book fair.

In order to help the youth in improving their English language skills, various publishers are providing the youth with language sources where they can achieve their goals towards effective linguistic skills.

[Oman Daily Observer]

✓ PHILIPPINES: UNDERSTANDING THE YOUTH

Manila, 10 March 2014 - WITH rapid advances in technology providing the youth with more and more new gadgets to play with and unlimited access to

information, the gap between the older and the younger generation continues to grow bigger. With this in mind, the Young Journalists

Association of Mandaluyong (Y-JAM), a 16-year-old youth developmental program of Mandaluyong Mayor

Benhur Abalos recently held a forum on "Understanding the Youth of Today" at the Kaban ng Hiyas in Mandaluyong City.



Invited to attend the forum supported by Councilors Charisse Abalos and Boy Esteban were high school and college students, parents representing different groups, and teachers, including two guidance counselors, and this writer, a longtime Y-JAM adviser and workshop facilitator, acting as moderator in what turned out to be a spirited exchange of ideas between young and old.

"We are very happy that Mandaluyong City hosted this first-of-a kind interaction between students, parents and teachers, and we plan to make this an annual affair and even doing it on a per-school basis come next school year," said the younger Abalos. Esteban, who heads the city council's education committee, lauded Y-JAM and the schools and different groups, including the Parents-Teachers Associations, senior citizens, Kilusang Kababaihanng Mandaluyong, and all the

schools that sent representatives to the forum.

Among the high schools represented were Mandaluyong High School, Eulogio Rodriguez Integrated School, Bonifacio Javier National High School, Addition Hills Integrated School, Highway Hills Integrated School, and Andres Bonifacio Integrated School while college students present came from the Rizal Technological University, University of the Philippines-Diliman, and Far Eastern University.

The discussion centered on the most common causes of arguments between parents and teachers on one side and their children and students, on the other, topmost reasons were their parents' lack of trust, parents who choose what college course their children will take, the endless times of comparing the parents' generation's values and those of the younger ones, the youth's fixation with technology, "barkadas" lack of freedom in what to do,

and lack of communication, among others.

The parents came out with their own list of reasons like the kids' refusal to follow immediately when told to do something, a perceived lack of respect for elders, lack or absence of communication, telling lies to parents, overuse or misuse of technology, the choice of parents on college courses of kids, children who want to be left alone, decision-making with parents supposedly not allowing kids to make their own decisions, (after all, it is their lives, the kids explained) and the kids' being prone to oversensitivity, particularly when they are reprimanded.

The teachers had their points like the current generation's seemingly lack of focus on studies, study habits, laziness, short attention span, misuse of gadgets even inside classrooms, hidden vices, behavior or misbehavior inside and outside the classroom, being disrespectful and being

concerned with form more than substance.

The students came up with their own observations on teachers like favoritism. In college, they claim there are professors who are too bookish, or show up in class only for a short time, or simply do not report for work, other styles of teaching that students say do not benefit the students, lack of consideration for needs and concerns of students and others.

Panel members were given the opportunities to amplify their thoughts and in the end, as I explained it, the bottom line is having an open mind that will enable both sides to understand each other and arrive at a compromise.

[Manila Standard Today]

✓ SINGAPORE: YOUTH IN SINGAPORE SPEAK UP AGAINST CYBER-AGGRESSION

Singapore, 3 March 2014 - LED by a team of students from Nanyang Technological University's Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, the campaign seeks to raise awareness of the growing problem of cyber-harassment in Singapore and to educate youths about the consequences of engaging in such acts.

Their finale road show held over the last weekend at *SCAPE saw 750 youths showing interest for the cause, and taking pictures to

pledge their commitment for online civility and etiquette.

"We are very heartened to see so many youths coming forward to state their commitment for this cause. Many of them were also surprised when they learnt that Singapore was ranked amongst the top globally in cyber bullying," said Kwang Shuwen, a member of Not A Keyboard Warrior's team.

Within less than two months since its launch, the campaign's Facebook page

garnered a total of 800 likes.

Their street interview with several Singaporean youths titled, "*Are you turning people off with your Facebook Profile?*" has gone viral.

The campaign is supported by Harley-Davidson of Singapore which also co-produced a series of online advertisements against cyber-aggression in Singapore.

"Harley-Davidson has been very active worldwide

speaking up against abuse and bullying of children and youth. Together, we hope to bring across the message that youths do not need to put others down to embody qualities like courage, toughness and to stand out from the crowd," said Dawn Eng, member of Not A Keyboard Warrior.

Singapore is currently ranked second highest globally for cyber-bullying (First: China, Third: India).



Actions which constitute cyber-harassment include comments made online directed at specific individuals containing personal attacks, derogatory/discriminatory remarks and obscenities.

The intentions of such acts are often to threaten the employment, reputation, or safety of the victim by turning other people against them. Aggressors may also actively encourage others to harass the victim.

The city state has faced several cyber-harassment cases in the last few months that involved high profile individuals such as 22-year-old man who posted racist comments under the nickname "Heather Chua", NTU sociology student Lim Jialiang and British expat Anton Casey.

According to Dr Carol Soon, research fellow of the Institute of Policy Studies, research has shown that negative behaviour online is an accurate reflection of someone's behavior offline. She praised the campaign for being a "commendable endeavour".

When asked on how youths should speak online, Bryan Choo, Founder of popular blog, TheSmartLocal.com said, "I hope more netizens can exercise a less emotional approach that would lead to a more civil environment in the digital space."

Cyber- harassment would soon be criminalised in Singapore under the proposed new harassment law which will cover a range of

behaviours, such as sexual harassment within and outside the workplace, cyber-bullying and bullying of children.

This move is supported by over 80 percent of Singaporeans.

"The Internet is not a law-free zone. Laws relating to contempt of court, defamation, religious harmony and sedition apply to online statements just as they do to statements made verbally or in print.

Be aware of this, and communicate responsibly," cautioned Dr Jack Tsen-Ta Lee, Assistant Professor at the Singapore Management University School of Law.

[The Independent]

NEWS



✓ BULGARIA: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN BULGARIA ON THE RISE

Sofia, 1 March 2014 - THE unemployment among the non-studying Bulgarian youth up to 25 years of age has risen sharply in the past year.

According to a Eurostat survey in January 2014 it reached 30%, while in January 2013 it was 27.8% or

around 63 000 people.

By unemployment rate Bulgaria is at the seventh position in Europe. In January this year there were 424 000, which is 13.1% of the people of working age. It is by 0.1% more than in December 2013.

According to the Eurostat data, employment among Bulgarian women remains higher than among men. The unemployment rate was 12.5% and 13.4%, respectively.

The total unemployment in the EU in January 2014 is 10.8%. The highest

unemployment rates are in Greece, 28% and Spain, 26%.

The lowest unemployment rates are in Austria, Germany and Luxembourg.

[Novinite.com]

✓ CYPRUS: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 19% IN 2014

Nicosia, 6 March 2014 - UNEMPLOYMENT is expected to peak at around 19% in 2014, registering a slowdown in its growth rate as a result of lower economic contraction than originally estimated, according to figures released Wednesday by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry sees some signs for a better performance in 2014, associated with sound

confidence sentiment and lower uncertainty in the financial sector.

For 2014, the revised Troika projection for growth is to decline by 4.8% while employment growth is estimated to shrink by less than 4.4%.

Unemployment on average in 2013 stands around 16% of the total labour force, according to Ministry's data, whereas the 2nd

Troikas revision estimated 16,7%. Employment decelerated in 2013(Q3) by less than 6% with signs for even lower reduction in the next quarters.

Lower unemployment is driven by lower than expected recession, labour supply reduction of domestic and foreign labour and downward adjustment of wages.

Non Cypriots' employment was reduced by nearly 10% and Cypriots' employment reduced by 1,3% compared with 2012 average.

Youth unemployment remains high at 38.8%. Long run unemployment was 6,4% in the third quarter of 2013, compared to 3,9% at the same period of 2012.

[Cyprus & World News]

✓ GREECE: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 27.5% IN DECEMBER

Athens, 6 March 2014 - THE country's unemployment rate fell slightly in December, with 27.5% of the workforce registered as being out of a job, according to the Hellenic Statistics Authority (Elstat), meaning that for the 9th month running, unemployment remains above 27%, the highest rate in the entire European Union.

People walk outside a state employment agency OAED office in Athens (Photo: AFP). The figure was less than the revised 27.6% figure (down from 28%) recorded in the previous month.

The figures showed the total number of people employed

in December at 3,555,034, the unemployed at 1,349,495 and the economically inactive at 3,388,927. This means that the country's unemployment figures have grown by almost million in five years. In December 2008, as the international crisis was breaking, 434,149 people (8.9%) were recorded as unemployed.

The figures also show that about 3.5 million people are working to support more than 4.7 million unemployed and inactive people.

The data (pdf) showed that in December, the number of people with jobs fell by 5,418 compared with the previous month,

representing a 0.2% rate of decrease.

The ranks of the unemployed fell by 10,864, a fall of 0.8%. The number of economically inactive also grew by 4,453, up 0.1%, on November.

The data showed that the unemployment rate for women (31.6%) is higher than that for men (24.5%). The regions of Epirus Western Macedonia (30.4%), Macedonia Thrace (28.8%) and Attica (27.9%) had the highest unemployment rates.

Peloponnese, Western Greece and the Ionian Islands recorded the lowest figure (22.7%).

In terms of age group, the largest proportion of unemployed was in the under-25 age group, where 55.5% are registered as unemployed, down from 61.4% in the previous month.

As Elstat has pointed out in the past, not all youth it deems unemployed are looking for work. In the first quarter of this year, the unemployment ratio, which seeks to determine how many of under-25s are looking for work but can't find it, 71.3% of that age group were deemed inactive, or not looking for work, and 17.2% classed as unemployed.

[EnetEnglish.gr]



✓ MALTA: [WATCH] €2 MILLION YOUTH GUARANTEE PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

Valetta, 3 March 2014 - THE government has submitted its plans on the Youth Guarantee, Education minister Evarist Barolos said today.

The plans were submitted last week to the European Commission.

Denying accusations by the opposition that the plans were submitted late, Bartolo explained that the December deadline applied to countries where youth unemployment reached 25% but other countries had to submit it by springtime.

"While other countries have a problem with very high youth unemployment levels, Malta faces a challenge to encourage youths to further their studies."

The minister explained that Malta has one of the highest rate of early school leavers, persons under 29 years of age with a lack of skills and young persons who enter employment too early. The youth guarantee is set to be

introduced this year in a bid to assist youths who are no longer in education and who can receive training to find work.

Although youth unemployment in Malta is nowhere near EU, in its 2014 Budget, the government said it would still provide "individual attention" for 350 youths who are inactive or seeking jobs, so that they can continue studying or training for work. They will be paid €1,440 in the form of an educational investment, to a total cost of €2 million.

In a press conference addressed by Bartolo and the two parliamentary secretaries Stefan Bountempo and Ian Borg, the minister said that although Malta has a low level of youth unemployment, the country has "nothing to boast about" the high levels of young persons who enter the

labour market too early, without the necessary skills.

The rate of youth unemployment in Malta stands at 11.6%, meaning the country is among the best five performers in the EU28, where 5.6 million young people are unemployed.

Bartolo added that the aim of the programme is to encourage young people to enter employment, training or education. "This programme which will come at end in December is not a stand alone.

We have introduced other initiatives such as the tapering of social benefits, the youth entrepreneurship programme and the programme aimed at for their SEC exams," Bartolo said.

Following the December 2014 deadline for the youth guarantee programme, other cycles will be launched.

The chairperson of jobsplus Clyde Caruana said that 26% of young people out of work, training or unemployment were single parents, 10% were disabled persons and 9% Were on unemployment benefits.

He added that while a further 9% were registered as unemployed but received no benefits; the majority of young person's out of work, training or unemployment were not officially listed as unemployed.

Parliamentary secretary Stefan Buontempo said the initiative ensures greater coordination between formal education and achieving soft skills.

Ian Borg said that the government was among the first to make use of the European social fund and allotted €2 million in unused funds for the programme which will benefit up to 350 persons.

[Malta Today]

✓ TURKEY: TURKEY ADDS 229K MORE JOBLESSIN 2013

Ankara, 6 March 2014 - ACCORDING to the Turkish Statistics Institute (TurkStat), the number of unemployed reached 2.74 million in Turkey in 2013.

This brings the unemployment rate for 2013 to 9.7 percent, a 0.5 percentage point increase over 2012.

Unemployment was 11.5 percent, with a 0.4 percentage point increase in urban areas; and 6.1 percent, with a 0.6 percentage point increase, in rural areas in 2013.

Turkey's nonagricultural unemployment rate, a critical gauge for joblessness in the country, was 12 percent in 2013, a 0.5 percentage point increase over 2012, while youth unemployment (15-24) hit 18.7 percent in 2013.

Turkey added 703,000 jobs in 2013 to reach 25.52 million. The agriculture sector lost 82,000 jobs, while the nonagricultural sector added 785,000 in 2013.

In 2013, Turkey

experienced its slowest annual employment growth since the 2008 global financial crisis, though the 9.7 percent jobless rate just missed analysts' forecasts that unemployment would hit double digits by the end of last year.

The government had forecast 2013's year-end unemployment at 8.9 percent, while the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had a relatively bleak outlook of 9.5 percent.

Unemployment in Turkey has been declining since the economy's strong recovery from the 2008 crisis.

The latest figures on the Turkish job market, however, come as a mild disappointment.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's government was able to bring the jobless rate down from 10.8 percent in 2004 to 9.7 percent in 2013, a minor success.



An earlier report prepared by the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) said that in addition to the economic risks caused by the fragility of the Turkish economy, the country may face serious political risk stemming from two upcoming elections and the government's efforts to contain an ongoing corruption scandal.

Ankara and Izmir, Turkey's second and third largest cities, hosted the second and third largest employed populations in 2013.

Elsewhere, unemployment in the eurozone stood at 12 percent in January. The single currency area showed signs of economic recovery where new jobs were created.

[Today's Zaman]

Of those who were employed in 2013, 50 percent were employed in the service sector and 23.6 percent were employed in agriculture. Industry and construction, two of the pillars of Turkish economic growth, saw jobless rates of 19.4 and 7 percent that same year.

The labor force participation rate (LFPR) was 50.8 percent in 2013, a 0.8 percentage point increase compared to the previous year.

The LFPR for men was 71.5 percent with a 0.5 percentage point decline, and 30.8 percent, with a 1.3 percentage point increase, for females in 2013 compared to the previous year.

The highest unemployment rate was seen southeastern Anatolia including Mardin, Batman, Şırnak and Siirt provinces at 21.1 percent in 2013.

The lowest unemployment rate was found in the region including Konya and Karaman provinces, at just 4.7 percent.

Of those employed in 2013, 18.3 percent lived in İstanbul, Turkey's largest and most expensive city.

NEWS



✓ AUSTRALIA: CALLS TO ADDRESS MIGRANT YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Canberra, 7 March 2014 - HUMANITARIAN migrants have the highest unemployment rate of all the migration categories, according to a report released by the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) commissioned by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation to inform its Youth Initiative.

"This is especially crucial, given that a significant proportion of refugees and humanitarian entrants are young people," the report said.

The Facilitating the Transition to Employment for Refugee Young People report revealed unemployment is higher in young people from households where a language other than English is spoken.

The report identified that young people born outside of Australia have an

unemployment rate of 9.1 per cent compared to the 7 per cent unemployment rate of those born in Australia.

In the category of 20-24-year-olds in Victoria, of young people who speak only English at home, 6.6 per cent are unemployed compared to 9.4 per cent of young people who speak a language other than English.

CMY said that the employment-related needs of young refugees were not being adequately addressed by available settlement, education and employment services. It is calling for more targeted programs to assist this particular cohort.

CMY Chief Executive Officer Carmel Guerra said that refugee and newly arrived young people have the passion and capability to become productive members of the Australian community.

"Host countries such as Australia have a significant bearing on the experiences and outcomes of refugee young people they can make the difference between a young person reaching their full potential and a young person achieving negative outcomes," Guerra said.

"These young people undoubtedly bring with them a multitude of strengths and personal resources that are a great asset to the Australian economy."

The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Chief Executive Officer Catherine Brown said that the Foundation was pleased to partner with CMY to commission the report.

"As part of the Foundation's commitment to supporting young people through our Youth Initiative, we felt it was

important for the Foundation to learn more about issues impacting young people," Brown said.

"Access to appropriate education, training and employment is an issue affecting many young people today.

"Reviewing and learning more about what has worked and what has not worked for refugee young people to find and gain employment will help us ensure that we make the most impact through our grant making."

Guerra concluded that refugee young people are an untapped resource and with appropriate support will prove to be an investment into the Australian workforce.

[Probono Australia]

✓ FIJI: YOUTHS CALL FOR EMPOWERMENT

Suva, 4 March 2014 - FEW youth groups on Taveuni are appealing to the Youth Ministry for more workshops to include youths in other villages and settlements on the island.

Naqara youth Miliakere Misimoa said most of the youth empowerment workshops on the island were focused on young people of Somosomo Village.

Ms Misimoa said other youth groups felt neglected and it would be grateful if empowerment workshops and income-generating pro-

jects were shared with them.

"On the same note, we are still thankful to the ministry for bringing these sort of programs to youths in rural settings," she said.

"We just feel that they need to include youth groups like ours."

Bouma youth Viliame Ratakele said youths in his area also needed guidance and empowerment workshops.

Mr Ratakele said with proper guidance and assistance from the

ministry, youths in his area would flourish and learn to be independent.

Responding to the concerns, divisional North youth officer Ioane Soko asked youth groups to bear with them because they would be included in later programs.

"We have just started with a few youth groups on the island including those in Qeleni, Vuna and Delaikatoba settlement," he said.

"We are currently assisting six youth groups and we will include the other youth groups in our campaign too.

"Youth groups need to register with us at the ministry before we can work with them."

Mr Soko said they would be on the island next week and he urged youth group representatives to contact their youth officer at the provincial office in Somosomo.

[The Fiji Times online]



✓ GUAM: GET READY FOR YOUTH FEST!

Hagåtña, 10 March 2014 - APRIL is Youth Month and Sanctuary Inc. is celebrating by hosting its 4th annual Island Wide Youth Fest from 3 to 8 p.m. April 5 at Agat's Sâgan Bisita.

The event is Sanctuary's largest annual fundraising and outreach effort of the year. It assists the

organization in covering its operational costs and to educate the public of all of Sanctuary's services.

Youth groups, and student and nonprofit organizations can reserve spaces for fundraising and to conduct outreach services.

If you want to recognize a

youth for all of his or her hard work, nominate him or her to become the Youth of the Year 2014! All youths ages 5 to 24 who are attending school full-time, or can provide proof of high school graduation or equivalent, and are a resident of Guam for at least a year can participate in the Youth of

the Year Recognition Program.

Winners will receive a plaque/trophy, a monetary prize and will be the face of Sanctuary for a calendar year.

[Guampdn.com]

✓ NEW ZEALAND: COURSE GIVES YOUTH SKILLS

Wellington, 7 March 2014 - AN OVERNIGHT boat cruise - the only way to do the Bay of Islands! Young people are getting some extra skills under their belts in preparation for entering the workforce.

An initiative aiming to provide young people with a range of work-ready skills is being launched this month by Conservation Volunteers New Zealand in the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area. The initiative, dubbed the Hibiscus Youth Action Programme, is a 12-week course that will teach practical skills, as well as how to work co-operatively

and collaboratively within a team.

A range of practical outdoor skills and several accredited courses will be part of the training taking place in a variety of locations on conservation-related projects in the area.

CVNZ national manager Eddie Morrow says the programmes are invaluable in helping young people into work.

"They are a proven pathway for acquiring new skills, qualifications and building important self confidence and belief," he says.

Participants receive credits in first aid, workplace

health and safety and introduction to power tools. A certificate will be presented to those who complete the course. "It will demonstrate to potential employers the individual's commitment to learning and supporting community projects," Mr Morrow says.

CVNZ has experience in managing youth-targeted conservation training programmes in New Zealand and in Australia, including three projects in post-earthquake Christchurch. Feedback from Christchurch participants was positive.

A Christchurch WINZ case

manager who referred a young beneficiary to the programme says she has seen dramatic changes in attitude and confidence of the person since being a part of the CVNZ programme.

This training scheme is open to all 17 to 24-year-olds living in the Hibiscus and Bays area who are able to commit to three days a week over 12 weeks to complete the programme. The course starts early this month so organisers encourage those interested to contact them as soon as possible.

[North Harbour News]

✓ NEW CALEDONIA: CIVIC YOUTHS READY FOR PRO LEAGUE

Noumea, 7 March 2014 - THE Youth Pro League (YPL) will have new challengers in southerners Point Fortin Civic (PFC), when the 2014 YPL kicks off tomorrow at four venues across Trinidad.

TT Pro League debutants Point Fortin Civic have done remarkably well in the professional division, sitting third on the Digicel Pro League standings after two rounds, and tomorrow the southerners will field youth teams in the under-14,

under-16 and under-18/ reserve divisions.

Point Fortin Civic will host last season's under-13 winners North East Stars at the Mahaica Oval in Point Fortin, beginning with the under-14s from 10 a.m., the under-16s from two p.m., and the under-18/reserves from four p.m.

"We are starting on Sunday and we will be ready," said PFC technical director and former Trinidad and Tobago standout Steve David.

"The guys look really good. They are ready to play and are all pretty excited. But we don't know what to expect. Until we get a feel of the league and know what it's like, only then I'd have an idea on how well we would do."

Also tomorrow, last season's under-15 and under-17 winners St. Ann's Rangers will host San Juan Jabloteh in the under-14, under-16 and under-18/ reserve divisions, at Trinity College ground in Moka.

Last season, Jabloteh represented Defence Force at all youth levels, finishing runners-up in the under-13 and under-17 divisions and third among the under-15s. Valsayn

[Trinidad Express Newspapers]

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