

# Perspectives

September 2003

## on Children and Youth

*A Periodic Report from the  
International Youth Foundation*



**President of the Philippines Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Nokia Executive Vice President Veli Sundbäck officially launch Bridgeit, a global initiative which will enhance the educational opportunities for more than 14,000 Filipino students this year.**

### **In This Issue:**

- Global Learning Program Launched..... 1*
- Partnerships Expand IT Skills Programs in Spain,  
the Philippines, China, the West Bank..... 3*
- Interview with Bill Conn, National Chair  
of the Foundation for Young Australians..... 4*
- IYF Welcomes New CEO..... 5*
- Partner News..... 7*
- Youth Gain Employment Skills in Latin America  
and West Bank..... 9*
- YouthActionNet Announces New Award Winners..... 10*



## Innovative Learning

# Global Learning Program Launched: Bridge*it* Brings Excitement to Rural Classrooms

*“Today’s launch is truly unique, not only demonstrating how advanced mobile technology can be used for educational purposes, but also how the public, civil society, and the private sectors can cooperate successfully both at the global and local level.”*

— Veli Sundbäck  
Executive Vice President, Nokia

Imagine a group of elementary school students in an impoverished rural village on the Philippine island of Mindanao, intently watching a colorful video on plant and animal life as part of their science class. Afterward, they gather in small groups to talk about what they’ve learned, guided by their teacher, and then go outside to begin creating a small terrarium with plants and insects they found near the school. This dramatically different learning experience, both inside and outside the classroom, is the result of Bridge*it*, an innovative education program that seeks to bring interactive multi-media learning materials and enhanced teaching skills into the classrooms of some of the world’s most underserved schools.

The program, the result of a unique collaboration that includes Nokia, the Ayala Corporation, Philippine Department of Education, Pearson, IYF, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was officially launched on May 16 in the Philippines, where the initial pilot phase is taking place. The launch in Manila was

attended by Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and top education, corporate, and civil society leaders. Bridge*it* aims to improve learning opportunities for more than 14,000 elementary school students across the Philippines.

At the launch, Ayala Corporation President and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II noted the program’s potential to help bridge the digital divide. “While we cannot replace, nor should we seek to, the need for traditional learning materials such as textbooks, Bridge*it* has opened new ways to improve learning opportunities for thousands of elementary school children throughout the Philippines through new technology. This gives us the opportunity to remake the face of education to help the poor, not only in our country, but in other developing nations as well.”

Currently operating in more than 40 schools, the program, which focuses on science and health and is known as text2teach in the Philippines, enables teachers to use mobile phones to access a library of 120 science videos describing subjects ranging from plant and animal life to what causes earthquakes and how the heart works. Once selected by the teachers, the videos are downloaded via satellite to a digital video recorder connected to a television in the classroom. Teachers can then play the video, introduce activities, and lead lively discussions based on a related curriculum. All video content and lesson plans are fully integrated into the country’s formal science curriculum, and meet local education guidelines.

Equipped with enhanced technology and training, teachers are motivated and empowered to teach in creative and interactive ways, and students are learning new skills with greater confidence and curiosity. Initial results are impressive. Many teachers participating in the program report 100 percent attendance



AYALA CORPORATION

**Filipino students benefit from new videos and interactive classroom discussions in their science and health classes, as a result of Bridge*it*.**

in their science classes. Students say they are excited and more curious about the science class because of the videos, and feel energized by the more interactive atmosphere in the classroom.

### **A Unique Partnership**

*Bridgeit* draws on the resources and expertise of a wide range of partners in the public, private, and civil society sectors. Nokia, the world leader in mobile communications, served as the initial catalyst for the program, including coordinating the technical delivery of the hardware and software necessary for the delivery and playback of the videos. Pearson, an international media company with leading businesses in education, business information, and consumer publishing, developed the content for the video and accompanying curriculum. The initiative is drawing on the expertise of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to identify lessons learned and “best practices.” IYF brings its experience in teacher training and overall project management.

Local ownership and engagement is seen as critical to the long-term success of *Bridgeit*. In the Philippines, the Ayala Foundation has played the lead coordinating role, helping to introduce, test, and implement the program. Among the other key organizations who contributed their time and services is the Philippines Department of Education, which helped define the curriculum-based objectives of the program, and ensured that the *Bridgeit* content matched the desired learning outcomes. The Southeast Asian Ministries of Education Organizations (SEAMEO-Innotech), a local training group with extensive knowledge and experience in the educational system, acts as the primary local training coordinator and project manager.

### **Building on Global, National Trends**

A number of global trends helped inform and guide the development of *Bridgeit*. Among them: the strong international movement around the issue of “education for all”—one of the UN’s Millennium goals—and the urgent need to make far greater investments in learning and education. There is also the growing recognition of the capacity for mobile communications to overcome some of the traditional barriers to rapid and effective human communications, and the power of video and multimedia content in helping students visualize, experience, and understand difficult concepts.

### **Focus on Training Teachers**

Too often, teachers are expected to utilize innovative technology in the classroom without adequate training and preparation. From the beginning, such training was built into the delivery of *Bridgeit*. The initial sessions were carried out in the Philippines by Joyce Phelps, Vice President for Training at IYF. The workshops focused on assisting teachers to take a more student-centered, interactive approach to teaching, as well as getting them familiar with downloading and using the video as part of their science lessons. About 90 fifth and sixth grade teachers participated.

During the training, teachers were introduced to a range of innovative teaching skills, including how to lead an engaging discussion, stimulate critical thinking, and use group work as a motivating, instructional strategy.

*Bridgeit* is seeking to address real youth development needs in underserved, rural communities. The initial response to the new learning environment from teachers, students, and parents, including improved student attendance, reflects a positive start to this exciting initiative.

*“So far, there has been 100% attendance in these classes, because students don’t want to miss anything.”*

*—Teacher in Quezon City, Philippines*

*“I find myself participating more in the classroom discussions, and I like to volunteer to answer my teacher’s questions.”*

*—Participating Student*

## Innovative Learning

# Partnerships Expand IT Skills Programs in Spain, the Philippines, China and the West Bank

### Lucent/IYF Partnership Scales Up IT Skills in Spain

A \$400,000 grant from the Lucent Technologies/IYF *Global Fund for Education and Learning* "Scale up Fund" will enable IYF's Partner in Spain, Fundación Esplai, to launch a two-year project aimed at increasing access to information and communications technology (ICT) among Spanish youth. From May 2003 through April 2005, Fundación Esplai will have developed 28 new ICT centers, serving an additional 11,200 Spanish youth by means of promoting greater social inclusion through access to ICT. The Foundation also plans to improve the centers' management and strengthen the capacity of "youth motivators," who work with the young people at the centers. FE seeks to ensure self-sufficiency of funding for 75 percent of the centers within two years.

### Unocal Expands e-Skills Learning in the Philippines

In the Philippines, more than a third of young people, ages 15 to 24, are out-of-school and jobless or underemployed. To address this issue, three years ago the Consuelo Foundation, with funds from the Lucent Technologies Foundation/IYF *Global Fund for Education and Learning*, launched the e-Skills Project. The project developed interactive multi-media courseware, in the form of CDs, for technical training and education. The courseware is being used by training organizations to run training programs for the youth in partnership with local communities, local government units, and the private sector.

With new funds from the Unocal Foundation/IYF "Empowering Youth Program," the Consuelo Foundation is now able to expand the reach of the project to three new sites. Aptly named the 5 E's Project (*Educate, Enable, Energize, Employ the Out-of-School Youth through E-learning*), this Unocal-supported initiative benefits more than 1,650 out-of-school youth. Of this number, 1,500 are being trained in a

two-year electro-mechanics course and 150 in other trades, including automotive mechanics, electronics, building wiring, and welding.

Alan is a 21-year-old Filipino from Ligao City who left school and was unable to find a job. He is currently benefiting from the Community-based Technical Skills Training through the 5 E's Project. "I was a bum," he admitted, "and had little motivation to work." Last year, he participated in the Skills for Life program, which is part of the e-Skills Project, and in January 2003, began the formal training in automotive mechanics, and is now doing on-the-job training. Alan now dreams of having his own auto shop, but knows he will have to work hard, and save the capital to do so.

### Intel Computer Clubhouse Sparks Imaginations of Palestinian Youth

As a result of a new partnership between IYF, the Welfare Association (WA), and Intel Corporation, the first Intel Computer Clubhouse in the Arab Middle East opened its doors on July 1. The Clubhouse has been filled with young people ever since, with as many as 60 young people attending every day. The 8- to 18-year-olds who participate in the many computer programs and other learning activities come from a disadvantaged area of Ramallah, as well as a number of nearby refugee camps. "I like to work with graphic design programs and hope to become a graphic designer in the future," says 16-year-old Mohammad Hammad, an aspiring artist. "I joined the Clubhouse to develop my skills in an atmosphere of collaboration and sharing information with other members."

One day a week is being reserved for girls only, giving them a chance to explore their interests among themselves, in keeping with their cultural traditions. Students from nearby universities act as mentors for the children. Clubhouse members have access to a range of design software that allows



PATRICIA LANGAN

**Palestinian youth have access to a music studio and video production facilities, in addition to a wide range of computer programs, through the new Intel Computer Clubhouse near Ramallah.**

them to create artwork, animation, websites, and computer games, among other activities. The young participants are also excited about having access to the music studio and video production facilities, as well as other tools, such as microscopes, cameras, and robot designing kits. "The Clubhouse is the first of its kind in the region, and reflects a major positive impact on youth through their exposure to these new tools and opportunities," says Raed Yacoub, the Coordinator of the Clubhouse.

### Visteon Promotes Education, Youth Development in China, Korea

A grant from the Visteon Corporation will build and equip a "Hope Net" school near Shanghai, with Internet-ready computer labs. Managed through the China Youth Development Foundation, the grant will help improve the educational and technological opportunities available to students in underserved areas. In the Republic of Korea, funding will provide training and education to 160 practitioners working with abandoned and runaway children. Through Kids&Future, the program will support services for more than 2,000 young people.

## Youth Participation and Leadership

# Engaging Young People in Decision Making: Insights from Australia

*The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) sees engaging young people at the leadership level as integral to its mission. In the interview below, Bill Conn, who serves as an advisor to Merrill Lynch in Australia and is National Chairman of FYA, discusses the benefits and lessons of engaging young people at the highest level of the Foundation.*

### To what extent is youth participation at the core of the Foundation's philosophy?

There is no question that FYA is completely committed to the principle and practice of youth participation at all levels of the Foundation. This starts with our own Board and Committees. A central theme running through all grant applications is the involvement of young people in every stage of the



**Bill Conn**

grant process. We require young people in developing the grant application. The decision makers on our grant making committees consist mainly of young people. And where the grant application has been successful, we require young people to be at the center of working towards achieving the objectives of the grant application. In essence, what we have are applications from young people being assessed and decided upon by young grant makers from the Foundation.

We use the knowledge gained from working with young people to advocate for youth participation more widely within the community, and in particular with other philanthropic foundations.

### Describe the benefits and challenges of including young people at a decision-making level?

The Foundation has gained an enormous amount from having young people involved in meaningful decision-making at every level of the organization. Perhaps the most significant benefit for us has resulted from our decision to make young people the majority decision makers on a significant proportion of our funding. With this involvement, our funding decisions reflect the priorities and issues that are important to young people.

*"I believe this experience will stay with me long after I finish my term as a Youth Grant Maker and I look forward to using the skills I have learned in the future."*

— Youth grant maker

In addition, as Board Members, young people have the final say on our strategy and plans for implementation, not to mention involvement in governance, appointments, and financial matters. We believe there has been a real benefit for the young people themselves.

I think all of the people that were involved in the Foundation prior to the engagement of young people would say that they have experienced challenges along the way. Initially, we weren't sure what level of interest there would be from young people. There is, naturally enough, a whole range of adjustments that we "older" members of the organization have made. It has required considerable training, mentoring, and patience for all of us!

### How did this level of youth engagement come about?

We decided to significantly accelerate the involvement of young people as a consequence of a strategic review of our operations in 2001. The vast majority of the Board and Committees were supportive of this initiative, so we were able to introduce the concept of significant active youth participation. The outcome of the process has exceeded the expectations of many Board members.

### What lessons can you offer those considering such a move?

Research that we commissioned shows that young people require three key elements that help ensure their decision-making role is both effective and satisfying:

*Meaning*—doing something that has a larger purpose and that they believe in; *Control*—making decisions, being heard, and thus having what it takes to see the task through and do it well; *Connectedness*—working with others and being part of something bigger than oneself.

The full research paper is available on [www.youngaustralians.org](http://www.youngaustralians.org). It provides a good overview, including what works and what doesn't for young people in decision-making roles, as well as a tool kit for anyone wanting to introduce the concept to their organization.

Other key lessons we have learned:

- The Board needs to be committed to the process and prepared to see it through despite any initial, or even on-going, challenges;
- Supporting young people with resources, training, and mentoring is critical for success;
- Communicate clearly and often, especially early successes, within your organization as well as your stakeholders and to the wider community.

## IYF News

### IYF Welcomes New CEO

David W. Hornbeck, a prominent youth advocate and education reform leader in the United States for more than 30 years, has been named IYF's new President and CEO.

"David is both a visionary and a pragmatic leader who recognizes the urgent need for empowering youth and providing them with the skills to lead productive and responsible lives," said David Bell, Chair of IYF's board and Chairman of the Financial Times Group of London.



David W. Hornbeck

Hornbeck comes to IYF with a broad range of experience. Currently the Chair of the Children's Defense Fund, he has served as Superintendent of the Philadelphia Public Schools, State Superintendent of Schools in Maryland, and as an advisor to the Business Roundtable and numerous governments worldwide. He is Chairman of the Board of the Public Education Network, and the Founder and Chair of Good Schools Pennsylvania, a grass-roots initiative of thousands of high school and college students, parents, and other citizens supporting quality public education for all. In the early 1960s, as a member of Operation Crossroads Africa, Hornbeck lived in Nigeria and worked with Nigerian and American students to build a school library. Over the years, he has led and participated in missions and consultancies under such auspices as the World Bank, Partners of the Americas, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

### IYF Names New Vice President

Charles (Chic) Dambach joins IYF as Vice President for New Business Development, bringing with him a long career in the non-profit sector and a strong record of forging multi-sector partnerships. Dambach led the international programs for BoardSource, formerly the National Center for Nonprofit Boards, and is currently Chair of the Board of the Coalition for American Leadership Abroad (COLEAD), an advocacy network of 45 international affairs NGOs. A Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia from 1967 through 1969, Dambach later served as the President and CEO of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA).

### Head of Global Education Company Joins IYF Board

Doug Becker, Chairman and CEO of Sylvan Learning Systems, Inc., has joined the IYF Board. A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Becker has devoted his career to improving educational opportunities for young people, particularly those at risk. Since assuming the leadership of Sylvan Learning Systems in 1991, Becker has transformed the company into a dynamic global education leader that provides education services to families and schools worldwide. Becker established the Sylvan Learning Foundation in 1997 to provide support for education initiatives in Baltimore and across the United States. He is also the Founder and Chair of Port Discovery—The Baltimore Children's Museum, and is a trustee or director of numerous educational organizations.

### New Alliance Promotes Life Skills, Citizenship in Ireland, Germany, and the UK

The International Youth Foundation (IYF) has developed a new partnership with mmO2, a leading European provider of mobile communications services, to support an innovative multi-country program of youth development that emphasizes educational achievement, technological innovation, life skills, and citizenship in countries where the company operates. mmO2 employees will support the program, called "What Youth Can Do," by sharing their technical expertise, mentoring, and setting up access to the company's technology. IYF and its Partner organizations in Ireland, Germany, and the United Kingdom, will work with the mmO2 businesses and employees on projects that seek to improve the conditions and prospects for young people and their communities.

"We are delighted to be working with IYF in the countries where we operate," said Peter Erskine, CEO of mmO2. "Tackling the issues that put



FRANK SCHOETTKE

**In Germany, young people will develop their literacy and communications skills through a new partnership between IYF and mmO2.**

youth at risk is an important focus for our community investment, and we believe that giving young people positive development opportunities and access to the latest technologies to support their learning will contribute to this aim. We want to help ensure that all young people have the opportunity for better experiences in life.”

In Ireland, mmO2 will support the “Communications and Information Technology for Youth”, or “CITY” project, for underserved and at-risk young people ages 10 to 19. The project will be managed by the Irish Youth Foundation (IrYF), and provides supervised computer access to e-mail, Internet surfing, homework, and school projects for youth growing up in an area of considerable deprivation.

*“Tackling the issues that put youth at risk is an important focus for our community investment, and we believe that giving young people positive development opportunities and access to the latest technologies to support their learning will contribute to this aim.”*

*—Peter Erskine, CEO of mmO2*

The German project, SCHOLA-21, is an Internet-based learning initiative that connects young people in different countries by enabling them to work together on projects. The initiative aims to support youth in developing a range of skills including literacy, communication, multi-cultural understanding, and citizenship. The UK project focuses on young people at risk of becoming homeless, equipping them with critical life skills to encourage their independence and promote their employability.

#### **IYF Joins Consortium to Broaden Opportunities for Out-of-School Youth**

IYF is joining a new international effort with and on behalf of out-of-school youth, called Equip3/Youth Trust. It is part of the Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP), a global, multi-award, multi-year education initiative developed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Over the next five years, the project will seek to prepare and engage out-of-school children, youth, and young adults for their roles in the world of work, civil society, and family life. This will be carried out through building the capacity of youth and youth-serving organizations to improve earning, learning, and skill development opportunities for young people and through expanding the involvement of young people in the design, implementation, and evaluation of those activities.



**Underserved young people in Ireland are gaining access to supervised e-mail, Internet surfing, and school projects as a result of a program managed by the Irish Youth Foundation.**

Equip 3/Youth Trust will help countries meet the needs and draw on the assets of young men and women by improving policies and programs affecting the education, training, and social and economic development of out-of-school youth. It will also strengthen the contributions that youth can make to development in sectors such as education, democracy and governance, urban development, health, and agriculture.

IYF has joined a powerful consortium of organizations which will carry out the initiative. The leader of the consortium is the Education Development Center (EDC). IYF, the Academy for Educational Development, and the National Youth Employment Coalition are the core partners responsible for program management. Nine other international organizations, including World Learning, Street Kids International, and Sesame Workshop round out the consortium. For more information, please visit [www.equip123.net](http://www.equip123.net).

## IYF Welcomes Two New Partners

### HUNGARY

#### Foundation for Democratic Youth (Demokratikus Ifjúságért Alapítvány) (DIA)

The Foundation for Democratic Youth (DIA) in Hungary seeks to strengthen civil society in the region by increasing the active participation of youth in their local community. Originally created as a national network aimed at fostering community service and civic education among young people, its primary focus has been fostering exchanges of young volunteers as a way to overcome prejudices and reinforce volunteerism in Central and Eastern European countries.

The Foundation, which works with young people, ages 14 to 25, supports their transition into adulthood by providing them with opportunities for social problem solving and by strengthening their self-confidence. DIA is a partner in Make a Connection, a global initiative of IYF and Nokia. DIA is in the process of further developing its grantmaking by awarding mini-grants to local youth-led projects fostering youth participation, youth volunteerism, and civic education.

#### Highlights of programs include:

■ *Youth Engagement* The Make a Connection program in Hungary supports DIA's network of 500 volunteers through micro-grants in more than 20 communities. As part of its activities to enhance the number of local action groups and participating youth, the program facilitates local training on project management and skills development.

■ *International Exchanges* DIA has volunteer exchange programs with the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Serbia and Montenegro and Russia as a way to promote youth participation and leadership.

■ *Cross Border Summer Camp* A DIA-sponsored summer camp brings together volunteers from across the region who are active in local service learning programs. Through the use of peer education, the camp helps to promote international tolerance, teamwork skills, networking, and the development of future collaborative projects.

### TURKEY

#### Education Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (Türkiye Eğitim Gönüllüleri Vakfı) (TEGV)

Education Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV), established in 1995, is one of Turkey's most successful NGOs, known for its creativity, integrity, and vision in supporting public education. Today, TEGV reaches over 300,000 children and young people, ages 7 to 16, engages more than 8,000 volunteers, and is supported by nearly 100,000 individual and institutional donors. Its mission is to provide and develop after-school educational and training programs that encourage children to become rational, self-confident, creative, respectful, and tolerant individuals.

TEGV emphasizes interactive learning and individual intellectual and emotional development, making use of the latest technology and advanced concepts for learning. Programs capitalize on the active involvement of parents, neighbors, and community leaders in strengthening local civil society.

#### Among its initiatives:

■ *The power of peer-to-peer education* With the help of the IYF/Nokia Make a Connection initiative, this program aims to strengthen academic and life skills and promote active participation among 39,000 children and adolescents through a series of arts-related workshops.

■ *Education parks and learning centers* TEGV runs more than 90 educational facilities, providing children and their parents with an active, easily accessible learning environment, and offering programs ranging from formal literacy training to entrepreneurship.

■ *"I am a person, an individual, a citizen"*

The program introduces children to the universal concepts of human rights, freedom, and citizenship, and encourages them to develop their own projects.

■ *"Young Achievements"*

This course introduces young people to the concept of market economies and business enterprise, giving students the opportunity to learn about business administration by creating and running their own firm.



ORHAN CEM GETİN

**Children in Turkey strengthen their academic and life skills by learning to express themselves creatively, as part of the Make a Connection program.**

## Young People in Ireland Become Grantmakers

Over the past year and a half, The St. Paul Companies, Inc. Foundation has supported an innovative program in Ireland called "Youth Investors: Young People as Grantmakers in Their Own Communities." During the first year of its partnership with the Irish Youth Foundation (IrYF), which began in 2002, The St. Paul Companies, Inc. Foundation has been instrumental in establishing a network of four Youth Investor (YI) groups in Ireland, which aim to empower disadvantaged youth between the ages of 15 and 25. Participants gain the skills, training, and resources to support community-based initiatives that benefit their peers as well as meet own their personal needs. Young people make decisions on funding applications, monitor project activities, and assess results. This year, with additional funds from The St. Paul Companies, Inc. Foundation, two new YI groups will be established.

Martin Evans, for example, an 18-year-old volunteer, received a small grant from one YI group. With the funds, Martin will purchase software to ensure safe internet access for children in a computer club that he established. He also plans to train other youth who will tutor groups of children on safe internet access.

## Partner Exchange Programs Promote Learning

IYF is helping to promote staff development among its Partners through a series of partner exchange programs that will enhance their ability to work together on common challenges facing youth across national boundaries.

Among them:

### Australia – Ireland

The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) and the Irish Youth Foundation (IrYF) will have an opportunity to explore cross-border aspects of grant-making and philanthropy, as well as visit initiatives and projects with an emphasis on information technology (IT) and education. The IYF grant will facilitate two exchange trips by the end of the year.

### Brazil – Mexico

Funded through the IYF/Nokia Make a Connection initiative, two IYF Partners, Fundación Vamos in Mexico, and Fundação Abrinq in Brazil, will learn about each other's common experiences with that program. The purpose: for each organization to more clearly understand the different lifestyles and cultures of youth in the two countries, and to develop effective strategies to equip them with life skills.

### Puerto Rico – Argentina

Through support from Lucent Technologies, Fundación Comunitaria de Puerto Rico (FCPR) visited Fundación SES in Argentina in May. FCPR has a significant interest in middle school dropouts, and seeks to expand more effective strategies to address that challenge. During the visit to Buenos Aires, FCPR became better acquainted with SES's socio-education approach, discussed FCPR's future education initiatives, and shared experiences in education strategies for disadvantaged youth.

## South Africa Career Day Puts Youth at Forefront

More than 1,500 young people and representatives from 90 corporations and businesses attended a career and exhibition event on June 16, 2003, sponsored by Youth Development Trust (YDT) in Johannesburg. The theme of the day, "Youth at the Forefront," underscored the need for young people to shape their own futures, and the future of their country.

Exemplifying the youth participation theme, the event was run and organized by Make a Connection graduates, now employed by YDT. The Make a Connection program, a global initiative of IYF and Nokia, promotes job training and placement among college graduates in South Africa. While the event included sporting events, arts and entertainment, and seminars, the message to the young people was more serious: continue your education, be empowered to shape your own future, take advantage of job training and placement opportunities, and get involved.

## Abrinq Foundation Joins with UNICEF, ILO to End Domestic Child Labor

IYF Partner Fundação Abrinq is joining UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the News Agency for Child Rights to launch a nationwide campaign to stop child labor in households. The campaign is designed to make Brazilians aware of the exploitation that children are subjected to, as well as the damage that such exploitation does to a child's self esteem and progress in school.

## Youth Employment

# Youth Gain Employment Skills and Training in Latin America, the West Bank

### **Entra 21 Boosts Employment Training for Youth Across the Americas**

In Panama City, more than 600 disadvantaged high school graduates are being trained to work as operators and telemarketers at call centers servicing the hotel, banking, and commerce industries. The training is being carried out by Consejo del Sector Privado para la Asistencia Educacional (COSPAE), a Panamanian NGO. In Argentina, Fundación SES, a leading NGO (and IYF Partner), is using its network of community organizations to train 360 young people in five areas across the country in IT competencies identified by local business leaders, ranging from PC repair to web page design.

These are just two of the many initiatives being funded through *entra 21*, a US\$25 million job training and employment program for Latin America and the Caribbean. IYF is managing the program with major support from the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), international foundations, and multinational and local corporations. To date, *entra 21* has awarded its first eleven grants to nonprofit organizations to train young people in information technologies (IT) and life skills, and to help them find a job. Within the program's broad guidelines, prospective grantees design their projects with input from local business leaders in order to meet specific, local employment needs. The resulting projects are as diverse as their communities.

The 40 organizations that IYF eventually selects will be part of an unprecedented effort to document and disseminate best practices in youth employment, from designing job training curricula to mentoring disadvantaged youth as they find and maintain jobs with a future, all with the active participation of the local business community. The MIF, which is administered by the Inter-American Development



PAVEL CORNIEL

**In the Dominican Republic, where 80 percent of local businesses express a need for better trained workers, *entra 21* is helping to equip 360 youth with employment skills.**

Bank, worked with IYF to design the program, and is matching all contributions up to a total of US\$10 million. IYF has enlisted UNICEF and the Finnish Children and Youth Foundation in the effort, along with corporate partners that include Lucent Technologies, Merrill Lynch, and Microsoft.

### **IT4Youth Opens New IT Center in West Bank**

Hundreds of local citizens, many of whom are young people, ages 10 to 24, are now benefiting from the recently opened IT4Youth Regional IT Center (RITC), located in the village of Silet ad-Dhahr in the Jenin region of the West Bank. The RITC offers computer training and activities, an open access computer room where members can access the Internet, software programs, and educational CDs as well as vocational and employability skills training. Local business representatives

and school administrators have also visited the RITC to discuss cooperation possibilities.

The Center is a key component of IT4Youth, a 4-year pilot project aimed at enhancing the learning skills and employability of Palestinian youth. The program is a joint effort by IYF and the Welfare Association, a Palestinian non-profit foundation, with support from USAID. At the 14 rural schools now served by the IT4Youth program, 4,770 students and teachers have received training in the IT labs.

## Youth Participation and Leadership

# YouthActionNet Winners Chosen

In Australia, 23-year-old Frances Elcoate is providing Aboriginal youth with training in how to use computers and create websites, while in Ethiopia, Meseret Yirga, age 22, is using theatre and dance as tools to empower young women. Both young women are among ten youth leaders from around the world who received YouthActionNet Awards in June 2003.

Final selections were made following a peer review process in which previous youth award winners select the next round of awardees. The winners, ranging



KRISTEEN MENDOZA

**YouthActionNet awardee Harjant Gill, a 21-year-old Indian student, produces films that raise awareness about issues relating to gay and lesbian youth.**

in age from 19 to 24 and representing nine countries, come from diverse backgrounds, but share a similar vision: to promote positive social change in their countries.

The awards were presented by YouthActionNet.org, an interactive website created by and for youth, which works to inspire and promote youth leadership worldwide. Launched in 2001 by IYF and Nokia, YouthActionNet celebrates the dynamic role that youth are playing in leading positive change around the world.

Recipients are awarded US\$500 each to support their work, receive visibility through electronic and print materials, and become eligible to participate in international meetings sponsored through YouthActionNet. The initiative forms a vital part of the Make a Connection program, a global initiative of IYF and Nokia to provide opportunities for young people to connect to their communities, to their families and peers, and to themselves.

The YouthActionNet awards will assist Midjola Ejronu, a 24-year-old in Togo, to increase HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention efforts among young women and girls; and Harjant Gill, a 21-year-old Indian student in the United States, to continue producing films that raise awareness about issues related to the gay youth community. Recipient Benjamin Azubogu, a 19-year-old Nigerian, will also be helped by the awards as he leads efforts to highlight the devastating effects of war on children, while bringing youth victims of war together in search of solutions. For a complete list of winners, visit [www.youthactionnet.org](http://www.youthactionnet.org).

### Youth Raise Voices at World Bank Meeting

Two YouthActionNet winners, Billy Hallowell from the U.S. and Rula Khoury from Israel, and Daniel Cerezo, a member of the youth board of Fundación SES, IYF's Partner in Argentina, are among the select young people invited from around the world to attend a World Bank meeting in Paris in September. The gathering is being organized to provide a forum for young people to express their views on such issues as HIV/AIDS, unemployment, and conflict resolution to World Bank President James Wolfensohn, in preparation for upcoming World Bank/IMF annual meetings in Dubai.

## Health Education

### USAID Supports HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs

A grant from YouthNet, a USAID-funded initiative of Family Health International, will support HIV/AIDS prevention programs among youth in sub-Saharan Africa, as part of the "Empowering Africa's Young People" initiative. IYF, which serves as the Global Secretariat of the initiative, is part of a coalition of seven global youth movements working to expand outreach to young people in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention through life skills. The YouthNet funding will support workshops in five countries in sub-Saharan Africa to bring together youth and adults to jointly develop, strengthen, and scale up holistic HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

### Health, Life Skills Promoted in China

Workers in seven factories in China will soon be more informed about their health and ways to save and manage their money, as a result of the recent expansion in China by the Global Alliance for Workers and Communities (GA). The initiative will benefit nearly 70,000 workers, primarily in Nike footwear factories, and is expected to be in seven additional factories by the end of next year. Due to an agreement reached in August, GA will launch its in-depth survey of workers' needs and start training factory peer educators in the areas of health education and awareness, personal finance, and life skills. Says Country Director Ge Youli, "With the greater public attention that will come with the 2008 Olympics, we have a real opportunity to positively influence factory managers in the way they conduct their business and treat their workers."

**Perspectives is published by:**  
**International Youth Foundation®**  
 32 South Street, Suite 500  
 Baltimore, Maryland 21202 USA  
 Tel: +1 410 951 1500, Fax: +1 410 347 1188  
 E-mail: [youth@iyfnet.org](mailto:youth@iyfnet.org)  
 Web site: <http://www.iyfnet.org>

*The International Youth Foundation (IYF), founded in 1990, supports programs that improve conditions and prospects for young people. Currently operating in nearly 60 countries and territories, IYF and its global network of partner organizations have helped more than 30 million young people gain access to basic life skills, education, and job training opportunities that are critical to their success. In its work with hundreds of companies, foundations, and nongovernmental organizations worldwide, IYF is focused on building long-term, strategic partnerships among the business, public, and civil society sectors.*

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## Life Skills

### Children in Turkey Blend Life Skills with Art through Make a Connection

Thirteen-year-old Kubilay Takil painted deepening tones of blue in his “clean blue sea” painting, while Berker Bezer, aged 11, painted his dream of being in outer space. Both boys are part of a new initiative recently launched in Turkey aimed at developing the artistic talents and life skills of children and the young volunteers who will train them. The project, called “Atelier of Dreams,” represents a collaboration among the International Youth Foundation (IYF), Nokia, and Türkiye Eğitim Gönüllüleri Vakfı (TEGV), a leading educational NGO in Turkey and a new IYF Partner. The initiative is part of Make a Connection, a global initiative of Nokia and IYF. Turkey is the 14th country to join.

Children from diverse economic, social, and cultural backgrounds will attend creative workshops designed to help them develop their self-esteem and communication skills by using art

as a way to realize their dreams and imagine life outside their communities. The project, scheduled to run for an initial three years, is expected to benefit 40,000 young people through the Dreams Workshops, with nearly 900 volunteers committed to help promote their creativity and stir their imaginations.

“This program trains volunteers throughout Turkey in a quest to develop in young people the life skills necessary to be thriving, productive, and contributing members of Turkish society,” said Alan Williams, Vice President at IYF. (See Partner profile on TEGV on page 7).

## What's New

### Building Tolerance Among Balkan Youth

IYF has recently published *What Works in Building Tolerance Among Balkan Children and Youth*, authored by Cathryn L. Thorup, Ph.D., and with a foreword by Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland. The report explores existing divides in the Balkan region, while profiling nine civil society organizations that are working to encourage greater inter-ethnic cooperation and respect for differences among the region's young people. Notes President Ahtisaari: “A vital key to peace is cultivating both a recognition of commonalities and a greater understanding and respect for differences among the region's diverse ethnic groups, religions, nations, and cultures. While this process needs to be a shared responsibility among people throughout the Balkans, it is an especially important goal to nurture among the region's children and youth.”

The publication is the latest in IYF's “What Works in Youth Development” series, which aims to provide practitioners, policymakers, and donors with knowledge and insights into effective practices and innovative approaches impacting young people worldwide.

For a copy of this report and other IYF publications, see our website.

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