



IYPF NEWS

JUNE 2005

CONTACTS

International Young Professionals Foundation

PO Box 494
Mt Gravatt Plaza
Queensland, 4122
Australia

EMAIL
iypf@iypf.org

WEBSITE
www.iypf.org

Informing, Inspiring and Equipping Young Professionals as Sustainability Practitioners and Social Change Agents

Dear friends and colleagues

Welcome to our June 2005 newsletter. As we move in to the second half of 2005, I'm excited about how much is happening with IYPF, our partners and with individuals and organisations around the world working to make the world a better place for all. The 'development' agenda has taken on increasing prominence, with 2005 looking like it will be a landmark year in terms of reshaping some global power relationships, the activities of the UN, global trade, and, hopefully, mobilising many people to take action on poverty and sustainability issues.

The Global Call To Action Against Poverty, the Make Poverty History campaign and the upcoming "Live8" events leading up to the G8 meeting in Scotland are bringing attention to poverty and what we can do about it in an unprecedented way. We have already seen the G8 finance ministers agree to a round of debt cancellation due to public pressure and the leadership of the UK. More on the G8 meeting, the first of the White Band Days, and African development next month!

I believe we are very lucky to be alive in this time. The world is in a state of flux and as young professionals in our respective countries and communities, what we do matters, now more than ever. We have the power and the opportunity to make major changes to the future of our planet and its people. As young professionals, it is our responsibility to be conscious of how what we do impacts on others, and take seriously the power our privilege gives us and use it to create a better world for current and future generations.

This June newsletter offers more information and inspiration to assist us all in our efforts as sustainability practitioners and social change agents. The focus theme this month is education - looking at it both as a basic right, and also the opportunities through education for sustainable development to make a better world.

Our newsletter team continues to excel - as you can see! In addition to the Education materials, there is more on World Environment Day, a range of opportunities and resources, further updates on our various IYPF projects, and some info on the GCAP / MPH campaigns ahead of White Band Day on July 1, 2005.

Thanks again for your energy and enthusiasm. It is our pleasure to serve and collaborate with all of you amazing young professionals to make the world a better place for current and future generations through local and global action. Be inspired, be courageous, and we look forward to hearing from you on this edition and receiving your stories and comments for future editions!

Cameron Neil
CEO, IYPF
cameronneil@iypf.org

In this Edition

Board News

New Staff - Zengyi Zhao
Meet the Members - Simon Moss

IYPF Activities

- Youth And Sustainable Consumption
- IYPF Representation
- Regional Communities

Member Projects and Achievements

- A Unite for Sight Experience

Representation

- Advancing the Right to Water

MDGs

- Youth and MDGs Project Update

Feature Article

- An Environmental Agenda for the 21st Century

Focus on Education

- Education Sans Values?
- TNEP Leads the Way
- Education for All - Youth Action
- Inspiration - Barefoot College

Opportunities

- Training in Togo
- Courageous Conversations in Sustainability
- Multidimensional Poverty
- Building A More Ethical Society Awards
- Managing Micro-Finance
- UNDP Leadership Development Program

What Is IYPF

How You Can Help

IYPF ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

Board News

Reading the paper or watching the news can be a disheartening experience. The problems of the world can seem so overwhelmingly intractable that it is hard sometimes to imagine them ever being solved. At these times, perhaps it is worth remembering who we are.

If you are reading the electronic version of this newsletter, you have access to a computer with an Internet connection. Five-and-a-half billion people in this world have never used the Internet. If you are a young professional, chances are that you've been to university. More than 5.9 billion people will never have that experience. This combination of relative affluence and superior educational opportunity also brings other benefits: a life freer from malnutrition and disease, and ultimately a longer life expectancy.

If we were to draw up a list of characteristics of a person in prime position to change history, it would look something like us. The privileges we enjoy mean that we are in better positions to possess and mobilise the skills, knowledge, networks, and resources necessary to change our communities and the world.

Every day we make our own history. We make history as we say a kind word, develop new relationships, start a new project. If we squander our skills, sit back and float along, we choose to make a different history.

As you read the paper or watch the news, remember that there are other untold stories. This organisation has hundreds of members, all writing their history, and all in prime position to change the history of their communities.

What are you waiting for? Let's do something historic.

Alan Wu
Director
alanwu@iypf.org

Inspiration

The winners of the Mondialogo Engineering Award are worth checking out. International project teams have worked together over the past year to produce engineering proposals to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development in developing countries.

Abstracts of their work are available at
www2.mondialogo.org/mea/award-news/?&L=en

New Staff

Zengyi Zhao
Company Secretary - Australia

The IYPF team would like to welcome new Company Secretary, Zengyi Zhao, who speaks both Mandarin and English.

Zengyi lived in China for more than 22 years before moving to Canberra, Australia, in 2003 to further his studies. He studied in the engineering faculty at the Australian National University for a year and is now undertaking some intensive courses in ANU's School of Management.



Zengyi plans to return to China next year and attend several projects as a volunteer to support education development in many rural areas of China.

Meet the members

Simon Moss
s.moss@theoaktree.org

A dreamer, schemer; worker, student; romantic, cynic; soccer-fanatic, politics-addict; computer geek, outdoors freak; consumer-at-large and culture creator on the beat.



What has been your greatest achievement?
Climbing a 120m, 4 pitch rock climb in the rain whilst being scared of heights.

What inspires you to persevere with your work when it gets hard? The belief that it's worth it, that I chose to do this, and that it's the right thing to do given what I believe. And, the knowledge that my family and friends will be there when I get through it all.

How do you want to be remembered? With a smile.

A book you think everyone should read: William Golding's Lord of the Flies, because it taught me that people aren't good or evil - their deeds are.

A word of advice: Collaboration.

IYPF ACTIVITIES

Youth and Sustainable Consumption Project Update

Following its first meeting in April, the Youth and Sustainable Consumption working group has been collaborating to educate others about sustainable consumption, disseminate the results of the report, and build momentum for additional capacity building workshops and the realisation of a national training and development program in Australia.

On the dissemination and education front, the team has created a number of articles and press releases about the Youth & SC report that it is preparing to distribute through Australian and global networks and publications. A new section of the IYPF website is also being developed, linked to a TIG project page and discussion group, to better facilitate the involvement of more people in the project, assist with organising additional workshops and capacity building activities in Australia and around the world, and provide easier access to information and resources on sustainable consumption and youth and young professionals taking action in this area.

The team is also planning and attending a number of events to further generate interest in the project and issue and catalyse action. Representatives will speak at a UNESCO symposium on the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the Asia-Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (www.6aprscp.com), and the Students of Sustainability (SOS) conference (www.sos2005.org). During SOS a team of people from the Cycle for Sustainability project will be

introduced to the project and work on how to include SC education and capacity building into the activities they will conduct alongside their cycle through Australia. There are also early plans for a symposium with government and business groups in Canberra later in 2005.

Finally, the team is working to engage governments, business and donors to invest in the various activities and collaborate towards the vision of a national training and development program for young Australians and change agents in their communities for more sustainable consumption. An application has been submitted to the Foundation for Young Australians for activities in Victoria, a research grant applied for to further enhance the project, and the team is working on developing a prospectus to communicate the vision and investment requirements.

To get involved in the project working group, contact Tomi Winfree on tomiwinfree@iypf.org.

In related news, see the following for a snapshot of the global Sustainable Consumption movement: portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=26870&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

And also, Richard Denniss and Clive Hamilton from The Australia Institute recently released a book called 'Affluenza', seeking to highlight the absurdity of our consumption behaviour and our addiction to 'stuff'. Read a short article about it here: 'Affluenza: The New Illness in Australia' - www.brisinst.org.au/resources/hamilton_clive_affluenza.html

IYPF Representation

In addition to the representation activities discussed in the Youth and Sustainable Consumption project updates (reports from those events in next month's newsletter), IYPF CEO Cameron Neil will be judging at the Students in Free Enterprise national awards in Sydney (www.sifeaustralia.org.au) and speaking with IYPF Implementation Team member, Alexandra Meldrum, at the Initiative 21 conference (www.asiaentrepreneurshipjournal.com/SydneyConference) on "Meaning and Impact: Purposeful Entrepreneurship Amongst Young Professionals".

Regional Communities

Over the last month or so there have been some interesting posts and comments on the IYPF's Oceania e-mail list about work and family balance. Issues such as home ownership and affordability, barriers to having children, maintaining an ability to engage in social change work, and changes to the world of work have all been discussed. If you are in Australia, New Zealand or the Pacific, and are not a member of this group, you can join by sending a blank e-mail to IYPF-Oceania-subscribe@yahoo.com

Inspiration - Pioneering Ventures

The Pioneers of Change website profiles the work that pioneers are doing in the world both as Social Entrepreneurs creating new projects and organisations, and Intrapreneurial Ventures; the work of Pioneers who are creating change from within pre-existing organisations. To read the stories of Pioneers creating the change they want to see in the world, visit pioneersofchange.net/ventures/pionven

MEMBER PROJECTS

A Unite For Sight Experience

By Keith Tauro

www.uniteforsight.org

I can hardly believe it's almost time to leave for my internship. I will be volunteering as part of a team from Unite for Sight at an eye health camp in the Himalayan town of Shimla, in North India.

Unite for Sight sends volunteers to different parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Volunteers support eye health camps that conduct vision screening, vision education, eyeglass distribution and cataract surgery. Unfortunately I could only volunteer for one of their shorter programs but there is a vast array of opportunities to choose from.

I was drawn to the organisation by the simplicity of what it stands for and the enormity of its impact. The major part of a volunteer's work is to collect used eyewear for distribution to underprivileged communities in the developing world. Used eyeglasses are usually discarded or stored in drawers, but through the program's simple venture these can bring light to the lives of many.

My special interest in this program is that people, particularly children, who suffer from poor eyesight, get the help that was out of their reach. Unite for Sight helps restore eyesight to these children and they can perform better in everything they do and experience the joys of light and colour. It is a virtual rebirth for them, which improves their quality of life and reduces dependence so they can truly begin to live their lives. The joy and benefits of gaining eyesight affects not only the individual, but also their families, community and broader society. It's very gratifying and fulfilling to think of the far-reaching effects of our efforts. It's all about empowerment.

I have worked towards my internship for the last four months. I needed to collect at least 300 pairs of used eyewear for distribution at the camp, and when I first started out, that figure was quite overwhelming! I thought, "Where in heaven's name am I going to collect 300 pairs of glasses?"

I needed a clear plan to handle this project. Though the task seemed simple, I realized it was not easy to collect "used" eyeglasses. Though people have used glasses and sunglasses, I had to spread the message and collect those glasses. I needed to collect eyewear where people came together - naturally leading me to schools, companies and community organisations.

The next step was meeting people in these organisations, and talking to them about Unite for Sight to convince them to conduct eyeglass drives in their communities. Organising eyeglass drives

in these places was quite a challenge, but well worth every effort.

It was made much easier by a great support network of family and friends who helped out big time, as well as many people I met along the way who cared enough to help out. It's amazing how people come together to contribute towards what they believe in. This campaign has been touched by scores of people I might never have met in the normal course of my life. They are my inspiration.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, I have now collected over 2,500 pairs of prescription glasses, non-prescription glasses, sunglasses, lenses and frames! Awesome isn't it? I also had the good fortune to get the support of Al Jaber Opticals, a major optical store in Dubai, who kindly numbered the prescription glasses to facilitate distribution.

While all the work might sound like drudgery, I can assure you it's not. I enjoyed every moment of this project. It's been among the most interesting and fun months of my life. I've had great interactions with people from all over the world. The delight I felt once I reached my initial target and the amazement as more glasses kept pouring in was fantastic. It has been very exciting, and I would recommend the experience to everyone. And all this has happened before I've even left for the camp - I'm sure the best and most satisfying part of the work is yet to come!

About Unite for Sight

Unite for Sight was started in 2000 by Jennifer Staple, during her undergraduate studies. What started with a single volunteer has now grown to a force of over 4,000 volunteers working through 90 chapters based at universities, medical schools, corporations, and high schools worldwide. This volunteer network is the organisation's backbone.

I first heard about Unite for Sight through the September '04 IYPF newsletter. This was before I attended the IYPS that, being the amazing gathering that it was, gave me ample inspiration to volunteer. Like the IYPF, the success of Unite for Sight lies in the vitality of young people dedicating their time and efforts, coupled with the advice of more experienced professionals. Organisations like Unite for Sight and the IYPF are testaments to the amazing potential of young people to change the world for the better.

Keith is happy to answer questions at keith.tauro@yahoo.com, or contact Jennifer Staple at JStaple@uniteforsight.org to get involved with Unite For Sight.

REPRESENTATION

Advancing the Right to Water...

Insight from CSD 13 and UN WED2005

By Mawuli Dake (Maawuli@yahoo.com)

It is said that water is **life**. Yet today, more than 1.4 billion people in the world lack access to this basic right and more than 3 billion face shortage by 2025. The importance of water to poverty alleviation, human health, ecosystem sustainability and development in general cannot be overemphasized. Instead of the world working together to address the water challenges and helping those without water, the corporate world together with other powerful multilateral institutions are seeking to exploit and manipulate the situation for profit. It is therefore appropriate that water has become one of the key issues in international debates and processes in recent times - not only in UN processes but also in international and national civil society dialogues and initiatives.

I had the privilege to participate and speak on the subject at events during two important United Nations processes recently- Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) 13, which took place in New York April 11 to 22 2005 and the UN World Environmental Day 2005 (WED2005) held in the City of San Francisco from June 1 to 5. Both of these UN events focused on water as a key theme. My presentations at both events attempted to advance the global call for a UN treaty/convention on the right to water - an international initiative by a broad platform of human rights, development and environmental groups from across the globe to mobilize for and support an international convention that guarantees water as a right.

Why the need for an international convention?

I cannot find a better way to express this than how UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan clearly put it: "**No water – no future**".

The issue of water cannot and should no longer be taken for granted. It has become a life or death issue for many people across the globe. And this is what the current reality looks like: lack of water leads to increased hunger, poverty, misery and disease, as well as desertification. Social unrest, violent conflicts and the danger of war over access to water become intensified. The demand for a water convention is therefore more than just a legal exercise of little practical relevance on the part of some specialists. It is an urgent call to action. And no one who is concerned about the future of humanity should ignore this call. It is also important to make sure that it is designed in a way that ensures that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered and their rights protected.

To achieve this, some principles must guide the initiatives. Some of these principles and justifications include:

- First is the need to establish the right to water for all people in a binding manner. This kind of benchmark has been important to the protection and promotion of basic rights and this is urgently needed on water.
- Second, it should seek to ensure that the people have a democratic say in determining and deciding national and local water policies that affect them. This will also ensure that those who are affected most by such policies participate and their needs are adequately covered.
- Third, it will be an important step to guarantee the rights of women, children indigenous people etc under international law and also for coming generations.
- Fourth, it is a necessary step to protect water as a public/common good and protected against the attempt to reduce it to an economic good for profit.
- Finally, it should empower communities and governments to defend and protect their water resources against exploitative and powerful giant companies that are currently grabbing the world's water without limits, and place peoples right over the profit interest of these institutions.

These are some of the key principles guiding the current debate and the initiative on the international convention on the right to water. I invite all of us to join in these efforts as a matter of **responsibility**. There is also an international working group on the initiative. To learn more or to get involved in these processes, please visit: www.blueplanetproject.net.

Tell us what you're doing

If you have an article you'd like to see in the next IYPF newsletter about a project or event you're involved with, e-mail Nicole Randall on nicolerandall@jypf.org before July 20. You can also share opportunities or resources with us.

MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Youth & MDG project update

Since the launch of the Youth & MDGs report in April 2005 (see www.iypf.org/IYPF-projects.htm#YMDGs for more information), the IYPF has continued to be involved in planning next steps, disseminating the report, and mobilising its own resources towards the contribution of young professionals to the MDGs.

An important step has been the ad-hoc taskforce handing responsibility for next steps to follow up the report back to the Commission for Sustainable Development Youth Caucus - a key vehicle for the participation of the Youth Major Group in the United Nations. The CSD Youth Caucus is a global network of young people working towards sustainable development, and it was through the intervention of Youth Caucus members at a UN meeting in April 2004 that the opportunity to write the Youth & MDGs report was created. More information on the CSD Youth Caucus is available from groups.takingitglobal.org/WSSD-YouthCaucus.

With this handover, the role of the ad hoc taskforce has changed dramatically. Over the last two months the taskforce has discussed various recommendations to make to the CSD Youth Caucus about following up the report. Ideas to date generally fall in to either Advocacy and Dissemination, or Implementation. More work needs to be done on finalising recommendations and plotting out future directions and activities.

In terms of Advocacy and Dissemination, the final report was sent to all contributors, including the hundreds who provided feedback on the interim report, along with encouragement to use the report as a tool for planning their own work, understanding how they can contribute to youth participation in the MDGs, and as an advocacy tool to lobby national governments and regional and global forums for youth participation or youth-specific initiatives.

In Australia, the IYPF, through one of its Directors, Alan Wu, send detail on the report to all the Australian state and territory organisations that are the peak bodies for youth affairs and lead the development of youth policy.

The IYPF has also been facilitating input from young professionals to preparations for the M+5 Summit, the big UN meeting to be held in September that will review progress on the MDGs and seek to further mobilise and get commitments from national governments. Information on this is available from the following URL:

updates.takingitglobal.org/read-comments?UpdateID=25365

We have also been working to set up an online community for young professionals interested in learning and contributing more to the MDGs. This community is now live! For information, go to projects.takingitglobal.org/ypmdg. To join the corresponding e-mail discussion and information-sharing group, go to groups.takingitglobal.org/ypmdg.

The goals of the YP and MDG community of the IYPF are:

- to network individual young professionals and their organisations who are or want to work towards achieving the MDGs
- to provide a repository of useful information on resources and events related to the MDGs or relevance to YPs
- to communicate to the world how YPs are contributing to achieving the MDGs
- to facilitate discussion and debate about achieving the MDGs and sustainable development beyond 2015

Finally, pictures from the launch of the Youth and the Millennium Development Goals report at the Commission for Sustainable Development meeting in New York in April 2005 are available at www.takingitglobal.org/opps/event-album.html?EventID=7043

MDG Resources and Articles

IYPF Patron Dato Lee Yee Chong gave a keynote address at the UNESCO Workshop on Engineering and Technology for Poverty Reduction, Emergencies, and Sustainable Development in connection with Engineers Without Borders – International Network Meeting in May. He is the Co-Chair of the UN Millennium Project Task Force “Science, Technology and Innovation”, and his speech on the Millennium Project can be downloaded at www.iypf.org/Downloads/UNESCO_Workshop_DLYC_Address-13-05-05.pdf

Dumisani Nyoni, a member of Pioneers of Change, has written an article *MDGs Not Enough to End Poverty* that provides a critical analysis of the MDGs and their chances of success. To read the article, click the link in the “project documents” section at projects.takingitglobal.org/ypmdg

A wrap-up newsletter is available from the UNESCO International Youth Leadership Event, ‘Young People Taking the Lead on Social Change’, which was held in Adelaide, Australia, from March 1 to 4, 2005. Cameron Neil, Sai Awn and other IYPF members attended the event.

To download the newsletter visit www.iyps.org/downloads/IYLE-Mar05-Youth-Newsletter-FINAL.pdf

See resources from past events at www.iyps.org/Other%20Events/other_events_home.html

FEATURE ARTICLE

An Environmental Agenda for the 21st Century

By Atiyah Curmally

Earth day celebrated its 35th anniversary earlier this year. Environment day was celebrated on June 5 for the 33rd time across the world, from Benin to the UAE. Yet, in spite of this, the world remains on a trajectory of rising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increasingly we find that addressing global climate change will be the paramount challenge of the 21st century.

Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, the main heat-trapping GHG, have risen 35%. This increase is primarily man-made – as a result of burning fossil fuels and from deforestation. If current trends in GHG emissions growth are not altered, global temperatures are expected to rise between 1.4 and 5.8° C (2.5 to 10.4° F) by 2100, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Such temperature changes are likely to have enormously detrimental impacts on agricultural production, water supply, forest cover, and overall human health and development.

A report by the World Bank identified critical linkages between climate impacts and poverty, and noted that if carbon dioxide concentrations were to double (from pre-industrial levels) developing countries would suffer economic costs of 5 to 9 percent of GDP, several times higher than industrialized countries, and that the poor in these countries would be at the greatest disadvantage. Further, the United Nation's recently-released Millennium Ecosystem Assessment – an effort of more than 1,360 experts worldwide to assess the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being – has also affirmed that it is the world's poorest people who will suffer the most from environmental damage wreaked by climate change.

Effectively addressing climate change will require cooperation and leadership, particularly from Europe and the United States. To prevent atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations from exceeding a level of 450 parts per million by volume – which still represents a 60% increase compared to pre-industrial levels – global emissions would have to decrease dramatically during this century perhaps on the order of 60 to 80 percent below 1990 levels. However, country governments continue to squabble over undertaking commitments to reduce national GHG emissions. The United States for instance has repeatedly shied away from undertaking any commitments to reduce GHGs, citing economic hardship as the primary reason and requiring commitments by large developing countries like Brazil, China and India as a requisite.

To tackle climate change it is imperative that the present generation take this challenge to environmental sustainability head on. Experience around the world has demonstrated the importance of good governance in promoting environmentally sustainable development. For instance, the disclosure of information about pollution and health effects has been found to empower informal regulation and has catalyzed affected communities into taking actions in their interest. Public participation in decision-making has led to the adoption of environmentally friendly alternatives. From advocating for national-level climate change regulation to biking to work – there are hundreds of ways in which citizens can reduce GHG emissions. What is essential however is for an increase in awareness of the magnitude of the problem. After all, an interested and motivated citizenry has always been the greatest ally of any environmental cause.

Atiyah Curmally works with the World Resources Institute, an environment think tank in Washington DC. Please note the views expressed in the article are entirely her own.

UNEP Book Shows A Birds-eye View of Environmental Change

UNEP has published an atlas of satellite photographs showing the damage created by the growing human population. The images show deforestation, retreating icecaps, dried seas, sprawling cities and pollution.

According to UNEP, the book *One Planet, Many People* clearly illustrates how major environmental changes develop gradually without being immediately noticed on the ground. Published to coincide with World Environment Day, it contains satellite images supplied by NASA that show the Arctic icecaps shrinking, and solid green virgin Amazonian rainforest in Brazil in 1975 stripped by logging 25 years later.

But it's not all bad news - these images also show human capability to repair environmental damage. One example is the industrial city of Copsa Mica, which UNEP claimed to be "one of the sickliest in the world" - a black smear on the Romanian countryside in 1986, it was green again in images taken from space last year.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Education Sans Values?

By Arjun Raghavendra

"Do values hold any value for me and you", I asked my friend a couple of days back. This popcorn culture I'm living in is all about education, status, power and success. The defining moments come when achievements lead to happiness. In between all this hype and pandemonium, as I stand and stare at the process of what goes into my life, I can feel hiccups-externally. Yes it's about the lack of values in education.

The greater task of education is not to teach us the sciences, maths and economics which have been existing times immemorial and which are being presented to us with modifications and advancements, but to make us learn, **the art of living**. Living - what do I mean? It's not about existing (without values) but **living** (with values)!

Education must make sure that we do not miss the greater pleasure of small things while we head towards our goal. The god of small things is always present, seldom do we notice it. Education gives us strength through its values. This strength is an indomitable will and not physical capacity.

The earliest form of education was known as the Gurukul system, dating back to 5000 B.C. The first few years of a student's life were spent learning ethics, values, philosophy, religion and the artistic (and aesthetic) nuances. Today, things sound strange and awkward. There is no space for morality and integrity.

I recall the words of Plato, "man is bringing planets together; but is moving away from his neighbourhood". This holds a great fact for our generation. Don't we have to realise that this is the time for retrospection. Education holds the key – for a better world and a greater future. Let us not forget, education is not something we learn in schools and universities; education is packaged as series of lessons – we learn these lessons throughout our life. Yes true education is never complete. We learn throughout our life – not just from books, but from experience.

Comments and feedback welcome at arjunraghavendra@gmail.com

Interested in Education?

Join the discussion by sending a blank e-mail to IYPF-Education-Community-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Find more information on the TIG project page at projects.takingitglobal.org/iypf-education

TNEP Leads the Way

The Natural Edge Project (TNEP), a team of young Australians facilitating a whole of society approach to the delivery of sustainable solutions, was announced the winner of the 2005 Banksia Award for Environmental Leadership Education and Training on June 4 in Adelaide.

The Banksia Awards, dubbed the most prestigious in the nation, aim to recognise and reward individuals, community groups, businesses and government organisations for environmental excellence and innovation. The theme for this year's awards was 'Transformation through Education', to mark the beginning of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

The Natural Advantage of Nations publication is unique in that it engaged a variety of sectors ranging from the private sector to government departments and NGOs and educational institutions to community groups. With more than 30 international contributors The Natural Advantage of Nations highlights that economic growth and development does not have to be at the expense of the environmental and social responsibilities. Coupled with an online companion (www.thenaturaladvantage.info), the publication is currently sixth bestseller on the Earthscan Publishing list and dubbed 'the most comprehensive book on sustainability to date'.

A sustainable literacy program especially designed for engineers entitled, *The Engineering Sustainable Solutions Program* (ESSP) has been a result of the TNEP publication and it allows engineers to understand the basics of a range of emerging sustainable solutions across all disciplines. Further modules of the ESSP are currently being developed with support from UNESCO and Engineers Australia. The Introductory Module of the ESSP was developed with a grant from Engineers Australia and is currently in trial with 14 universities and Technical Colleges nationally.

The TNEP team are young Australians delivering big outcomes from humble beginnings. Together the team seeks to deliver tangible tools and methodologies for sustainable development in developed and developing countries, by bringing together and learning from key mentors who are experts in various fields of sustainable development, economic growth and business competitiveness.

For more information on TNEP and its award-winning initiatives, visit www.naturaledgeproject.net/2005BanksiaAwards.aspx.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION – MDG2

Education for All – Youth Action

The following is an edited excerpt from the Youth and the MDGs: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation paper presented to the United Nations on April 19. The complete document can be found at www.iypf.org/Downloads/MDGYouthPaper_Final_apr2105.pdf.

Ensuring primary education for all people is the key to unlocking the potential of all societies. Education enables people to take care of themselves and their families, to take control of their futures, and most importantly, to raise themselves out of poverty. Furthermore, achieving target 3 of the MDGs will help achieve targets for other MDGs; it will combat poverty, promote gender equality, create awareness of HIV/AIDS and maternal health, and promote environmental sustainability.

Young people are already helping to achieve the target of universal primary education by encouraging school participation, acting as teachers to other young people, and contributing to the development of curriculums.

More than 113 million children are denied access to primary education and more than 150 million people have never completed it. Girls are particularly excluded from primary education. In addition, approximately 250 million children from ages 5-14 in the developing world cannot go to school because they are subject to child labor. Despite several declarations, such as the World Declaration on Education for All and the Dakar Framework for Action adopted by the World Education Forum (both documents can be downloaded at www.unicef.org/sowc04/sowc04_education_for_all.html), primary education for all children is still not the norm in many countries.

According to a World Bank study, only 37 of 155 developing countries analyzed have successfully achieved universal primary education. Based on trends of the 1990s, another 32 are likely to achieve this goal, but 70 countries are at risk of not reaching the goal unless progress is significantly accelerated. In several countries, completion rates have stagnated or even fallen in recent years. This is a bleak representation of the priorities that are given to children and primary education.

To allow all people to benefit from primary education, all governments must ensure that it is free of charge, compulsory and accessible to all people.

The contribution of young people to achieving universal primary education can be scaled up by national governments. National governments should promote and support the concept of 'young people for young people' in their own countries. This will ensure those young people attending school understand that many young people do not have the resources to attend school and assist them in fostering a sense of community amongst young people, which will lead to youth-initiated progress not only in the achievement of universal education, but also the other MDGs.

In many areas young people have demonstrated their desire and commitment to help each other by initiating and leading peer-to-peer education projects in their spare time. By working together on community level projects, young people have shown repeatedly that they are effective teachers and that they can often interest and motivate each other when older teachers and parents cannot. Furthermore, young people have proven to be good mentors for younger students in school, helping them with their studies and counseling them in other areas.

Young people can make important contributions to the development of youth-relevant curriculums for schools. Providing young people with the opportunity to participate in school councils enhances young peoples' understanding of the education system, promotes a sense of ownership over the school curriculum and helps to ensure that curriculum development is informed by the opinion of young people. Curriculums should focus on student interaction with their local communities and present involvement and interaction as a means of both developing basic skills and practicing higher-order thinking.

Young people are already helping to achieve the target of universal primary education. When empowered and enabled, young people are effective at encouraging participation in education, teaching other young people and developing youth-relevant curriculums.

Options for Action:

- *Make volunteer tutoring of primary school aged children part of the secondary school curriculum.*
- *Projects where young people take initiative to enhance education and teach other young people should be showcased and funding made available to replicate them in other communities.*
- *Ensure young people have the opportunity to contribute to their own curriculum through the creation of student school councils.*

FOCUS ON EDUCATION – MDG2

Inspiration – Barefoot College

www.barefootcollege.org

The Barefoot College in India is a place of learning and unlearning. It's a place where the teacher is the learner and the learner is the teacher. It's a place where no degrees and certificates are given because in development there are no experts – only resource persons. It's a place where people are encouraged to make mistakes so that they can learn humility, curiosity, the courage to take risks, to innovate, to improvise and to constantly experiment. It's a place where all are treated as equals and there is no hierarchy.

The Barefoot College began in 1972 with the conviction that solutions to rural problems lie within the community. It addresses problems of drinking water, girl education, health and sanitation, rural unemployment, income generation, electricity and power, as well as social awareness and the conservation of ecological systems in rural communities. It benefits the poorest of the poor who have no alternatives and encourages practical knowledge and skills rather than paper qualifications through a 'learning by doing' process of education.

How do you develop a Barefoot College:

- First, by having faith in the capacity and competence of any poor rural community anywhere in the world that the community has members who have the knowledge, the skills, the wisdom and the faith to identify and solve their own problems.
- Second, by creating an environment and a situation where these skills and knowledge can be applied for the community's own development.
- Third, by informal, non-structured, on-the-job practical training until such time as the person has acquired the confidence, the competence and the capacity to provide the service without any help from outside.
- Fourth, by choosing a remote, inaccessible and very difficult to reach area so that there is peace, mental space and non-interference from so-called experts who are dying to make sure that you fail.

On Education and the Digital Divide

"There have always been disparities in this world - the digital divide is just the latest manifestation. I think we need to take a few steps back from the digital hype and first try to bridge the 'Analog Divide' that has for so long affected the less endowed communities and countries.

"A computer in every classroom is a noble goal - provided there is a physical classroom in the first place. A multimedia computer with Internet connectivity is of little use in a school with leaking roofs - or with no roof at all. The top priorities in such cases are to have the basic infrastructure and adequate teachers."

Sir Arthur C Clarke

Taken from a 2003 interview for OneWorld South Asia <http://southasia.oneworld.net>

Resources

Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2005 - The Quality Imperative

portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=35939&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Quality is at the heart of education. It influences what students learn, how well they learn and what benefits they draw from their education.

This Report reviews research evidence on the multiple factors that determine quality, and maps out key policies for improving the teaching and learning process, especially in low-income countries. It monitors international assistance to education and progress towards the six goals of Education for All, to which over 160 countries committed themselves in 2000, at the World Education Forum.

Make Poverty History

www.makepovertyhistory.org

The first Global White Band Day is happening on July 1. The white band represents the international MDG campaigns, and you can show your support by wearing a white band. By wearing one you are part of a unique worldwide effort in 2005 to end extreme poverty - you're saying that it's time to stop the deaths of more than 200,000 people every single week from preventable diseases. You can download the Make Poverty History Manifesto at www.makepovertyhistory.org/docs/manifesto.pdf.

If you have organised or taken part in a White Band Day event, let us know by e-mailing nicolerandall@iypf.org and talk about it in our July newsletter.

OPPORTUNITIES

Training in Togo

www.t-j-c.fr.tc

Terre de la Jeunesse Culturelle / Earth of Cultural Youth Organization (TJC/ECYO), a volunteer organisation that focuses on education, culture, health, and environment issues, is inviting participants to two educational activities in Togo in the following months:

Education for All (EFA) is a training course for poor students living in Kpadafe, Togo to be held from August 2 to 30, 2005. Hosted in partnership with MERF, the event aims to gather professors, teachers, and national and international students to transmit their knowledge through summer schools organized by the TJC/ECYO. The event will enable young volunteers and teachers from around the world to explore the cultural diversity of the country and to gain valuable experience in sustainable development projects. Application deadline is July 10, 2005.

The Cultural Activity Pagouda (CAP) is a training course in batik, dance, pottery, and wood handicraft from August 15 to September 4, 2005. The activity includes a tour of Binah and Kara in the northern region of Togo, and interactions with other youth organisations to learn more about each other's work. The tours will be capped by the construction launch of the Binah Cultural Centre. Application deadline is July 15, 2005.

The fee for each course is 200 euros per person, which includes new membership, continental breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the four weeks. Application forms are available from www.t-j-c.fr.tc under the "fiche d'inscription" section. Completed forms may be faxed to +228 220 68 21 or scanned and emailed to v_tjc@yahoo.fr or drekelly@voila.fr.

Courageous Conversations on Sustainability

www.gondwanacentre.org.au

Australia's first, non-profit ecological adult learning center, the Gondwana Centre, is hosting a five day multidisciplinary forum called "Sustainable Futures and Resilient Communities: Courageous Conversation Between Policy, Industry and Community". The program, held from August 22 to 26 in Queensland (Australia) will involve key policy makers, government representatives, industry players, activists, and emerging leaders.

The Gondwana Centre extends a challenge to participants to create more holistic visions of sustainability that are socially equitable and ecologically sustainable, particularly in the face of global warming, climate destabilisation and oil scarcity.

For information contact Sally MacKinnon on safehaven@austarnet.com.au.

Multidimensional Poverty

www.undp-povertycentre.org/md-poverty

The International Poverty Centre is holding an international conference on Multidimensional Poverty in Brasilia, Brazil from August 29 to 31, 2005. It will gather more than 50 well-known specialists in poverty and inequality across most disciplines as well as policy practitioners and development stakeholders to discuss analytical, theoretical and empirical issues.

Building a More Ethical Society Awards

www.changemakers.net

Changemakers.net, with Ashoka's Innovative Learning Initiative and The Institute for Global Ethics, is searching for the best strategies for how young people and adults can work together to build a more ethical and empathetic society. The Changemakers Innovation Award for Ethics awards \$5000 to the top three entries as voted by the Changemakers community of readers. Changemakers may also introduce awardees to other innovators to discuss ideas and consider collaboration. Criteria and application forms are available online and entries close August 7 2005.

Managing Micro-Finance

www.ediindia.org/itec.asp

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India is launching a six-week training programme on Managing Micro-Enterprise And Micro-Finance sponsored by Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on November 7, 2005.

The course is for senior and middle level professionals of NGOs who manage micro-enterprise and micro-finance development. It is designed to strengthen their knowledge and develop their skills, attitudes and behavioural attributes for initiating, planning and implementing micro-enterprise and micro-finance projects effectively. Apply by November 1, 2005.

UNDP Leadership Development Programme

www.undp.org/ohr/lead

UNDP is looking for young development professionals who have a passion to make a difference to the worlds poor. The program is open to those under 35 years old with a Masters degree or equivalent. More details are available on the website.

ABOUT IYPF

What is the IYPF?

The International Young Professionals Foundation (IYPF) is a not-for-profit public company working in the fields of human rights, poverty eradication, environment, and social capital, within the broad context of sustainability.

It utilises and promotes the resources, skills, and knowledge that Young Professionals can bring to this arena in order to create a better world for current and future generations.

The Foundation intends to be a premier avenue through which Young Professionals from all countries can promote and participate in projects that work towards a sustainable future for the world. We see the term 'young professionals' as inclusive of a wide variety of people, but particularly those who are at the beginning of their careers.

The IYPF is governed by an international board of outstanding young professionals and is growing an impressive list of patrons on its Advisory Council including the President of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations, the Chair of the Commonwealth Engineering Council, the Executive Director of the Youth Employment Summit, and the Director of Friends of the Earth (Hong Kong). The company is staffed by a dynamic volunteer team of talented and dedicated young professionals.

Specifically, the objects of the Foundation outlined in its constitution are:

- To promote and encourage the work done by young professionals in effecting positive global change.
- To facilitate the implementation of projects developed by members to address the issues of concern in the global community, which are consistent with the objects of the company, including the raising of funds where necessary.
- To further the networks formed during the International Young Professionals Summit 2001 and provide an ongoing platform for organisation and convening of future events and Summits and projects.
- To promote recognition of, mobilise and enhance the capacity of Young Professionals internationally to provide leadership and take action on global issues
- To undertake research and advocacy in regards to issues identified by members as vital to the creation of a preferred global future.

How You Can Help

Join our team

www.iypf.org/employment.htm

If you are interested in developing yourself professionally through volunteering your time to assist the IYPF achieve its vision, contact IYPF's Human Resources Officer, Britt Jacobsen, on brittjacobsen@iypf.org.

Become a member

www.iypf.org/membership.htm

Become an ordinary member and help IYPF develop a worldwide network of young professionals who catalyse positive change in their lives, communities, organisations, and ultimately the world.

Spread the word

All IYPF members should have – or soon will have – a CD from the IYPF, which includes a Powerpoint presentation on the IYPF and IYPF membership application forms and information. Use these to encourage others to become members.

Help others become members

www.iypf.org/payments.htm#donations

The IYPF maintains a Membership Donations Trust fund to assist young professionals who wish to be IYPF members but who cannot afford the full fees.

Share opportunities and resources

www.iypf.org/IYPF-campaigns.htm

Join your regional online community and share development opportunities, sustainability, and social change resources with other young professionals. You can also join (or start) topical communities on sustainability and social change issues, including globalisation, fresh water, poverty eradication and ICTs.

Support

www.iypf.org/member-projects.htm

IYPF has a number of endorsed projects and supports its members to turn their ideas into successful projects and ventures. The IYPF regularly receives new project proposals and there are always opportunities for young professionals to get involved.

Contribute to the IYPF Newsletter

To contribute your events, resources, articles and stories relevant to young professionals creating a better world for current and future generations, send your content to nicolerandall@iypf.org