

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SUMMIT 2001 RESOLUTIONS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHO WE ARE

We are 120 International Young Professionals from Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and Oceania who share a vision and commitment to effect positive change through our professions. We bring enthusiasm, passion, skills and the willingness and desire to be the champions of change.

OUR DREAM

We dream of a world:

... without poverty

... where citizens are empowered in their communities through education and good governance, and where all people, whether working in government, industry or civil society, take responsibility for their public and private actions

... where basic and essential services, and a good standard of living, is provided for all people, including equal and fair access to employment

... where cultural diversity is celebrated and maintained, and culturally appropriate solutions to local and global challenges are developed

... that cherishes its environment and distributes and consumes its resources equitably and sustainably

... that recognises, values and actively develops its human and social capital

This is the world we intend to create.

ISSUES

For our dreams to be realised, we believe action must be taken on the following issues:

- ⇒ enabling of poor people's access to resources through responsible aid and trade.
- ⇒ provision of incentives for the adoption of appropriate technology, enabling communities to direct their own solutions.
- ⇒ promotion of sustainable lifestyles through responsible consumption and efficient use of resources.
- ⇒ empowerment of people and communities through education, capacity building, developing community networks and creating enabling tools including communication, credit and employment opportunities.
- ⇒ realisation of universal rights to basic services in water supply and sanitation, health, shelter, nutrition and mobility.
- ⇒ promotion of and respect for cultural and ecological diversity through their preservation and development.
- ⇒ striving for good governance – government that is accountable, transparent, and pursues a balance of short-term goals and long term vision in the formulation and implementation of sustainable development policies.

ACTIONS

In working to address these issues and achieve our dreams, we commit ourselves to the following actions:

In Asia

- **Firefly Brigade**

The Firefly Brigade is a citizen's action group formed in 1999 to work for clean air and a habitable, people-friendly environment in our cities. The fireflies have fled the region because of air pollution. The IYPS fireflies project will establish a tour of the fireflies, including a citizen's bike ride toward liveable cities and good governance to be held every April. This will be accompanied by a scheme entitled "Recycle-a-bicycle", where donated bikes and bike parts are given to poor youths.

- **Youth Radio Asia**

The project involves the acquisition of 'wind-up' radios and taking them into local communities in a given Asian state. This project will increase community understanding of issues through broadcasts. Students practiced in radio maintenance will travel to a region to train youths and their teachers to broadcast radio transmissions, and to maintain the working quality of the machine.

In The Americas

- **Green Light – A Media Mentoring Program**

The mission of Green Light is to inspire, educate and empower a new generation of media professionals dedicated to using communications media -- all genres, formats and platforms -- to advance environmental and social issues. The program is based on a mentoring and peer educational structure bringing together established and aspiring professionals working in "green" media.

- **Product and Service EcoProfiles**

This project entails actively advocating consistent, accurate and mandatory ecoprofile labels on products and services, to provide consumers with the basic information about the materials and energy inputs of what they purchase to allow for more informed choices. Assistance will be solicited from existing rating and labelling systems to establish parameters for a uniform ecolabel, and to actively advocate for its mandatory inclusion on all consumer products sold in the US.

- **National Volunteer Bureau**

The National Volunteer Bureau will be established to encourage, facilitate and promote volunteering in Trinidad and Tobago with a vision of developing a central hub for all parties, especially young professional willing to share their skills, who are directly or indirectly associated with volunteer activity.

- **Citizen's Toolkit**

This project is the building of an on-line citizen's toolkit. The toolkit will provide a library of local laws and ordinances, building codes, and other legal regulations, by geographic area. A list of the public bodies governing each regulation will be provided as well, along with any available list of their meeting and voting calendars.

In Oceania

- **'Fred' the travelling health and well-being bus: Fostering Regional Education & Development**

It is proposed that a mobile service incorporating the skills of a multidisciplinary team of professionals, educators, workers and other relevant people will enable community development programmes to be implemented in rural and remote areas. The bus will travel between rural and remote communities, allowing knowledge to be shared between the communities.

- **A Sustainable Future through Education**

To educate primary school children on sustainability issues, Oceania delegates will develop partnerships with schools. Delegates will assist schools to incorporate sustainability programs into their curricular. In the short-term, pilot studies will take place in 3 states around Australia. These studies, along with the experiences of similar programs (OZGreen), will be drawn on for the implementation of programs throughout all of Oceania's curricula.

- **Truth for Youth - Mentoring Program**

A youth network will be established to facilitate young people's involvement in communities, support new

ideas in sustainability developed by young people and provide personal support. Mentors will be drawn from IYPS delegates. Young people at school and in universities will be able to access mentors. The network will not be traditional. Mentors will volunteer their skills and experiences through a mentor bank. Young leaders will be able to access the database and contact mentors on an as required basis.

In Oceania and Africa

- **Youth Entrepreneurship Support Network**

To provide developing country youths with entrepreneurial skills necessarily to encourage business acumen within the community, young professionals from Africa and Oceania have joined together to form a Youth Entrepreneur Support Network. The network will share skills between young people in Oceania and Africa with an e-mail network and web site. The network will facilitate locally grown and owned youth ventures in Oceania and Africa that will generate economic benefit in a socially and environmentally sustainable way.

In Africa

- **Trade Workshops**

Will work from a ground level up to help solve some of the social issues relevant to the African culture. The project hopes to alleviate problems associated with food storage while creating activities for the male population to engage in. By creating trade workshops accessible to a group of families work can be created for the men, in the form of building silos and water storage tanks. In the building of the silos and tanks the population will gain skills of a trade that they can extend upon to further improve their situation.

- **The Optimal Entrepreneurship Development Project**

This project is aimed at bridging the gap between needs identified and the skills acquired through academics by introducing entrepreneurial appreciation courses in the universities and colleges so that whatever faculty students may be in they at least are exposed to enterprise development. This would extend to those entrepreneurs already engaged in the enterprise development process.

In Europe

- **Development of a sustainable enterprise**

The European delegates have proposed to organise a competition amongst young people. The competition will be premised by an overview of sustainable development, the Earth Charter and other guiding principles. The objective is for the competitors to develop plans for an environmentally sustainable product that also realises an economic benefit. The final product will be produced and distributed by a mobile factory used to help alleviate poverty in deprived areas.

- **A programme of papers/ conferences/ media releases to educate and promote sustainable development**

In Europe, we recognise that there have been several successful social and environmental initiatives, particularly within the EU. We see a need to build on this by implementing further schemes and setting examples of good practice. Further political and economic initiatives should not be limited to the EU nations, non-EU countries should be incorporated in pan-European strategies for environmental and social improvement. This will not only improve the environment but will work towards reducing the 'quality of life' gap that exists across Europe and is currently causing unrest and increased migration on our continent. Using both existing and new networks of contacts, the European delegates propose to disseminate their own knowledge and the experience of their professional associations and institutions as widely as possible to help to begin the job of educating to bring change.

Together, the delegates, organisers and partners of the International Young Professionals Summit 2001 have formed the **International Young Professionals Foundation**. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide a formal structure and framework for the achievement of Summit outcomes and the successful implementation of the actions to which we have committed ourselves. In addition to the above projects, as members of the IYP Foundation we commit ourselves to:

- promoting international sustainable development through the work done by young professionals.
- furthering the network formed during the International Young Professionals Summit 2001 and providing an ongoing platform for organisation and convening of future Summits and idea generation activities.
- promoting recognition of, mobilising and enhancing the capacity of young professionals internationally to provide leadership and take action on global issues.
- undertaking research and advocacy in areas of sustainable development.

PETITION

As a group of international young professionals, we have made our commitment towards the world we envisage, but with the realisation of the necessity and value of supportive networks, we ask for assistance in return:

From business and media

We recognise that businesses and media organisations have extensive spheres of influence and have central roles in the shaping of our world. The business sector is a key driver of enterprise, innovation, and employment. Information and values communicated through the media are central to our understanding of the world around us.

In light of this we ask:

- ... that businesses give more opportunities for young people to make a difference in their community, and that businesses recognise they have a role to play in building social capital.
- ... that organisations realise that making profits does not need to come at the expense of the environment or society, and that they practice and promote triple bottom line accounting.
- ... that the media undertake ethical practices, and that they recognise the positive role that young people can and do play in finding solutions to local, national and global problems.
- ... that business and media organisations identify opportunities in the actions we have committed ourselves to for promotion, resource provision and support and consider partnerships with the International Young Professionals Foundation.

From government

We recognise that governments at all levels are key drivers of social, cultural and community change through policy, legislation and resource provision.

In light of this we ask:

- ... that governments and all agencies in the United Nations strengthen and coordinate their youth programs, and develop strategies for enhancing the participation of young people.
- ... that governments give real and sufficient funding to youth activities by contributing significant amounts to the United Nations Youth Fund, as well as continuing and strengthening youth initiatives locally.
- ... that governments support us in implementing the projects we describe above, by working with us and helping to make the results of these projects available to people and organisations who might otherwise not have access to them.
- ... that regional bodies, and national and local governments, fulfil their commitment to Agenda 21, Chapter 25, by empowering young people and including them in the decision making process at all levels, as well as including a young person on every delegation to the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development.

From civil society

We recognise that non-government and non-profit organisations are vital avenues through which people dedicated to the future of our society can work together cohesively.

In light of this we ask:

- ... that you identify within your networks opportunities for synergy between your organisations.
- ... that you continue to develop strategies to enhance the standard of living while promoting a sustainable and eco-friendly future.
- ... that you model the governance and audit practices in your organisations that you wish government and business organisations to implement, e.g. participatory democracy, triple bottom line accounting.
- ... that you support, recognise and promote our vision of the world and the actions we are taking towards them.

Adopted on this day 2nd November 2001 by the Delegates, Organisers and Facilitators of the International Young Professionals Summit, Gold Coast, Australia.