



YES Alexandria 2007

Alexandria, Egypt
August 26-30, 2007

"After the final no there comes a yes and on that YES the future of the world hangs."

Wallace Stevens (1879-1955)

BACKGROUND...

Half the world's population is under the age of 25 years. One billion young people, 15-24 years, 85 percent in developing countries, are in the labor market with few skills, and even fewer opportunities for productive work. They are entering different sectors of the society in large numbers, putting an immense pressure on governments around the world to wake up and face new challenges, including an increased need for jobs, livelihood, health care and education, and increased stress on the environment.

On the other hand, the social and economic disparities continue to grow. Today, 1.3 billion people survive on less than a dollar a day and another 3 billion on less than \$2 a day. High levels of unemployment and rapidly deteriorating standards of living are resulting in destructive social unrest and dangerous levels of tension.

Ironically, all of these challenges are exploding at a time when humanity is more prosperous than it has ever been. The knowledge base and connectivity to create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods for the world's youth are available. The challenge is to raise awareness and build an adequate understanding of the issues we face and collaborate in promoting youth employment. It is essential that knowledge is disseminated, capacities are built, and the will generated to resolve this crisis, and create opportunities for youth employment.

THE YES CAMPAIGN...

Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign is a youth-led response to this enormous global challenge of youth unemployment. In September 2002, thousands of youth from 120 countries launched a decade long campaign under the co-chair of former President Bill Clinton and the First Lady Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak. Young leaders in 85 countries, through the infrastructure of YES Country Networks are bringing together diverse stakeholders and taking actions resulting in productive and sustainable employment for youth.

Forging partnerships at all levels, YES works to develop and deploy effective interventions targeted at realizing the following goals:

- ❑ Develop capacity of youth to lead in-country youth employment initiatives;
- ❑ Promote (in-country) youth employment to address key development challenges; and
- ❑ Build in-country coalitions to develop national strategies addressing youth unemployment.

It took the YES team four years and 40 global consultations to formulate goals, foster commitments, build alliances, prepare thematic documents launch the Campaign. An iterative campaign, where the process is not cast in black and white, its main strengths are learning by doing, flexibility and nimbleness and a quick action response, as and when needed.

KEY MILESTONES...

- ❑ **2002, Alexandria Egypt:** Launch of the decade-long YES Campaign with the goal to work on youth employment issues as one of the most compelling problems the world was facing.
- ❑ **2003, Hyderabad India:** Campaign progressed to its next level of identifying sectors for employment namely renewable energy, water and sanitation, ICT, rural development, and HIV/AIDS.

- ❑ **2004, Veracruz Mexico:** Campaign showcased the work of 70 country networks juxtaposed with that of others, featuring "Action" and moving beyond rhetoric.
- ❑ **2006, Nairobi Kenya:** Call for "Creating Markets, Unleashing Entrepreneurship" focusing on tapping markets at the "Bottom of the Pyramid".

WHAT NEXT? ...THE YES ALEXANDRIA 2007

The YES Alexandria 2007 is a mid-Campaign event organized primarily for the leaders and members of the over 80 YES country networks and other key stakeholders from across the world. It seeks to bring together a (relatively) small group of around 150 delegates, build their capacities and support them to develop strategy and programs the sectors identified are: Information and Communication Technology (ICT), integrated rural businesses, and youth employment in infrastructure development through Public-Private Partnerships.

When and where?

The Forum will be organized on 26-30 August, 2007 at the Library of Alexandria, Egypt.

Why?

The purpose of bringing together the young leaders and other key stakeholders from across the world to:

- ❑ build the capacity of YES Networks to participate in the YES Fund initiative;
- ❑ share the strategic goals of YES Inc.;
- ❑ train and develop capacities of youth leaders in the three strategic areas identified by YES Inc. (namely ICT, integrated rural businesses and tourism) and develop viable proposals for entrepreneurship development;
- ❑ strengthen the YES Networks by building leadership of the YES Coordinators to work with policy-makers in their respective countries and fulfill the Campaign goals; and
- ❑ build and strengthen institutional capacity by fostering linkages and synergies between the YES Coordinators and the YES Inc.

How?

The Forum is structured in a workshop mode. To realize the stated objectives, intensive track workshops on each of the identified areas would be conducted. Delegates are required to select any one of the three tracks for the entire duration of the Forum and complete the development of viable proposals. Experts and donors will be invited to participate and contribute.

What to expect?

The agenda broadly includes:

- ❑ **Plenary Sessions**, broadly covering YES Global Fund for Youth Entrepreneurship in ICT; Enterprise development in integrated rural businesses; and Enterprise development in infrastructure development through Public-Private Partnerships.
- ❑ **Plenary Workshops on Strengthening the YES Networks** to build the leadership of the YES Coordinators; and **Institutional Capacity-Building** to develop linkages and synergies between YES Coordinators and the YES Inc.
- ❑ **Capacity-Building Workshops**, held in parallel sessions, on:
 - **Enterprise Development and ICT** with the focus on enterprise development in ICT in-line with the YES Fund Pilot Project focused on building IT enterprises. This intensive track workshop will share how the YES Networks can participate in developing partnerships and participate in the YES Fund project, specifically focusing on IT.
 - **Enterprise Development and Integrated Rural Development** with the focus on the YES Network programming in the rural areas. This intensive track will prepare the delegates to develop proposals for integrated rural businesses.
 - **Enterprise Development and Job Creation in Infrastructure Projects** with clear focus on the development and long-term maintenance of infrastructure as well as growth of industry and services on account of good infrastructure. The focus would be on the role of public-private partnerships

For further information, email dacil@yesweb.org and visit www.yesweb.org