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# Youth Scan

April 2007 -- Special Edition

From the National Youth Council

"Developing a Vibrant, Highly-Connected, and

Self-Sustaining Youth Sector and Nurturing World-Ready Youth"

Bringing you snippets of youth trends and issues compiled from

diverse sources such as news reports, journals and press releases,

Youth Scan aims to help you stay in touch with the constantly evolving youth scene.

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Special Edition on Youth Development in ASEAN

In conjunction with the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) V, we highlight youth development trends and challenges in ASEAN member countries in this issue:

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1. [Youth Focal Point Brunei](#)

Youth Division Department of Youth and Sports

Brunei Darussalam has a youthful population. There are 214,200 young people aged under 35 years, representing just over 70% of the total population. A 'Youth Branch' was first created within the Department of State Social Welfare in 1964. Ten years later, in 1974, the Department became known as the Department of Welfare, Youth and Sports. Within the Department, a Youth and Sports section was established. In 1993, the Department of Welfare, Youth and Sports became the Department, of Youth and Sports, within which separate sections were established to deal with Youth (Youth Section) and Sports (Sports Section). Responsibility for Welfare was transferred to the Social Affairs Services Unit within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. There is also an Arts and Handicraft Centre, under the purview of the Brunei Museums Department which provides training to youth in traditional craft skills.

From 1995, two new programmes were established which report directly to the Ministry. These are Outward Bound Brunei Darussalam, which became operational that year at its base in Temburong District, having been built with the aid of funds provided by Brunei Shell; and the Youth Development Centre (Pusat Pembangunan Belia) which was built with funds provided under the Sixth National Development Plan.

Outside the government, a number of non-governmental youth associations exist. At the national level these include the Scouts, Girls Guide and Red Crescent. Youth associations have also been established at the local level, which are represented on District Youth Councils in each of the four districts. In turn, these councils are represented on the Brunei Youth Council, which was established in 1959.

(Source: Youth@ASEAN, Accessed on 19 March 2007, <http://www.aseanyouth.org/>)

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## 2. Youth Discuss the Hope of a Better Future at Open Space Workshops The World Bank Group

More than 280 young people participated in two separate open-space workshops in Phnom Penh last month to discuss a better future – the issues and opportunities. The workshops were organized by Pour un Sourire d'Enfant (PSE), and Khmer Youth Association with support by the World Bank. The open-space workshops provided unique opportunities for participants to raise issues and to discuss the main concerns affecting youth development and development of Cambodia.

The first open-space workshop was held over two days at PSE, an International NGO, one of whose activities is helping children who live and work in the Phnom Penh garbage dump. Around 160 students, most of whom depend for the livelihood on the garbage dump, attended.

Of 157 topics proposed under the theme of the Better Future for Us – Issues and Opportunities, 95 were chosen for discussion and 10 of those became the focus for detailed discussion and development of an action plan.

The ten topics were: eliminating corruption, poverty reduction, how I should define my goals for success in life, human resources development, what products Cambodia should export, how to eliminate thieves, strategy for development, wishing Cambodia to have peace and keeping neighboring countries from encroaching on Cambodia, solutions for emigrants, and benefits of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal.

The Second Open-Space Workshop held in Phnom Penh was organised by the Khmer Youth Association. Around 120 young people from the most 10 active youth organisations attended. There were 190 topics proposed, 95 discussed and 10 of them singled out for detailed discussion and action plans. Some of the ten topics were similar to those discussed in the first workshop. They were corruption, youth and drugs, youth and culture promotion, what to do to have a good future after finishing school, promoting domestic agriculture products, violence, the immigration issue, youth and education and employment opportunities, youth and army obligation, and the low level of education and rural development.

Participants in the open-space workshop showed their enjoyment by freely exploring ideas and the issues they are facing, getting involved in problem-solving, and expressing their excitement at the new methodology of the workshop. Moreover, the participants said they were being given opportunities to speak out, to share their experiences, to learn how to be leading groups and planning, to make new friends, and to build strong networks.

(Source: The World Bank, Accessed on 24 March 2007  
<http://go.worldbank.org/T199WJ8MT0>)

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### 3. Indonesia Youth Employment Plan The World Bank Group

Indonesia was one of the first nations to volunteer to be a lead country in the UN Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network (YEN), created to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work. The Network is a partnership between UN, the World Bank and the ILO to bring together leaders of industry, youth and civil society representatives, and policy makers to explore imaginative approaches to the challenge of youth employment.

The Indonesian Youth Employment Network Action Plan (IYEAP) was developed to promote youth employment, raise awareness and mobilise partners for action. The objectives of the Plan are:

- Identify the key issues and challenges faced by young men and women in their transition through education to the workplace;
- Acknowledge that many policies, programmes and activities already exist and provide a platform for the sharing of information and knowledge at national, provincial and district levels, that will enrich the various initiatives already being undertaken;
- Set priorities for action by policymakers and other stakeholders;
- Demonstrate the needs for, and benefits of, an integrated approach to addressing the youth employment challenge;
- Provide a set of policy recommendations that can contribute to the creation of quality jobs thereby reducing unemployment, under-employment and the numbers of young people living and working in poverty;

- Stimulate action by individuals and groups of stakeholders to involve themselves in processes and programmes that directly and indirectly contributes to the generation of more and better jobs for young men and women;
- Urge provincial and district level governments to weave youth employment issues into economic and social policies, strategies and programmes at the provincial and district levels;
- Encourage youth to participate in dialogue and collective action as a necessary pre-requisite for an accurate and effective response.

Policy recommendations were organised into four pillars:

- Preparing Youth for Work by ensuring quality basic education for all youth and developing a demand-driven vocational and technical education system.
- Creating Quality Jobs for Young Men and Women by focusing on the generation of formal sector jobs, but not forgetting the needs of the poor and disadvantaged youth.
- Fostering Entrepreneurship by empowering youth and facilitating their entry into businesses, and the gradual transformation of the informal economy to formal sector activities to create more and better jobs for youth.
- Ensuring Equal Opportunities by giving young women the opportunities as young men.

(Source: The World Bank, Accessed on 24 March 2007  
<http://go.worldbank.org/WC4CNX9P30>)

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#### 4. Youth Open Space Action in Lao PDR The World Bank Group

160 youths from different communities, who have limited opportunity and access to basic services as well as those who live their lives as street youth around Vientiane Capital, participated in a two day Open Space Forum in September 2006.

The Open Space Forum was a joint initiative of Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare through Peuan Mit Project (a project in collaboration between the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and Friends-International Street Children Network) and the World Bank.

Under the guiding theme "Creating a Better Future for us: Issues and Opportunities", young people from 10 villages in Vientiane Capital and Vientiane Province created their own agenda for the two-day forum including suggested issues, concerns, interests and challenges for discussion as well as proposed solutions.

This forum was not only a stage for young people to share their issues, but also a stage of which all agencies learnt more about many emerging challenges that this group of people faced. The main concerns surfaced by the youth include:

- Access to education for all groups
- Access to vocational training
- Need for more libraries especially mobile ones

All participants felt that having a good education was important for upward social mobility. Younger participants (ages from 12-16) thought that the school curriculum should also include activities such as singing and dancing. They felt that such activities would play an important role in preserving the traditional Laotian culture and also enable youths to understand their heritage and cultural identity. At the same time, such activities could also steer youths away from high risk behaviours such as drugs taking and others.

The older group of youth participants (ages 17-25) felt that it was important to have a good job and earn lucrative salaries. Many expressed that vocational training schools would help to attain their goals as they can study the field that they are most interested in and be specialized in that arena. Youth participants also indicated that they would like to see more vocational training schools that provide wide range of courses at low cost or no costs to students.

Participants also felt that there was a lack of available information. Mobile libraries were suggested by the participants as such libraries would be able to travel to communities where information would be most required. They also felt that reading should be promoted and encouraged through interesting and fun activities.

Lastly, all participants believed that agencies, including private, non-government and international organisations should integrate and work together to address the above issues.

(Source: The World Bank, Accessed on 24 March 2007  
<http://go.worldbank.org/MK34BQNEI0>)

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##### 5. Six New Felda Programmes to Transform Felda Youths Bernama.com, Malaysian News Agency

Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, said the government is carrying out six new programmes in Felda (Federal Land Development Authority) schemes which are capable of transforming the new generation at the land schemes. The six initiatives are to:

- Turn the Felda Youth Awards and Convention into an annual affair
- Get the settlers' children involved in the Felda Entrepreneurship Incentive Scheme
- Build settlers' houses
- Construct multi-purpose halls and community sports complexes
- Hold courses
- Form a Felda United soccer team

The programme would be arranged not only to resolve social problems among Felda youths but also to realise the five main missions of the land scheme. In his speech Datuk Seri Najib said RM2 million is allocated yearly for the Felda Youth Awards and Convention and RM100 million yearly for the Felda Entrepreneurship Incentive Scheme's loan without interest and collateral for which RM 58.5 million had been disbursed so far for 3,900 settlers.

As part of the Felda Settlers Housing Project which entails construction of low cost houses priced at RM35,000 and medium cost houses (RM60,000), four projects would take off the ground namely in Felda Chini (732 units), Felda Pasak, Kota Tinggi (880

units), Felda Jengka 19, Maran (334 units), and Felda Laka Selatan, Kubang Pasu. These projects were being processed by district councils.

For more information on Felda and Felda land schemes, please see <http://www.felda.net.my> for more information.

(Source: Bernama.com, Malaysian News Agency, Accessed on 11 March 2007 [http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v3/news\\_lite.php?id=235722](http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v3/news_lite.php?id=235722))

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6. Government spends over K 97, 699 million for border areas development project from 1989 to date  
Myanmar Digest

The government has been giving priority to youth resources development of border areas that can improve the living standard by effectively using government-built infrastructures, and natural resources.

The Ministry of Education built 852 primary schools, 90 middle schools and 92 high schools in the basic education sector. International organizations are also providing exercise books for those schools. Food for education project being implemented in cooperation with the UNFPA has been provided to children and students of the families who have already abandoned the practice of growing poppy for opium. It is encouraging to see the number of students reached over 100,000 in border areas from only 1000 in the past.

The significant success is the rise in the education qualifications of the youths of border areas that helps strengthen national peace and stability and accelerate progress. As the educated youths know more about the ill effects of poppy growing, the evil legacy of the colonialists, they are cooperating more with the local people to wipe of opium.

The Education Ministry and international organizations are making cooperative efforts for the development of the qualifications of young men and women of border areas. The PBANRDA Ministry has also opened its Education and Training Department.

Twenty-seven youth development training schools have been opened in the border areas for youths of the needy families and youths who have less education opportunities. The schools are disseminating knowledge to the youths free of charge.

The government has also opened one Nationalities Youths Resources Development Degree College each in Yangon and Mandalay. Now, 574 youths who have graduated from the degree colleges are discharging development and administrative duties of their native places. Some of them are attending master's degree courses. A total of 708 students are attending classes at the two colleges this year. Priority has been given to the youths discharging duties in the education and health sectors to attend classes at the University for Development of National Races, University of Nurses and nurses training schools.

(Source: Myanmar Digest, Accessed on 12 March 2007 [http://www.myanmardigest.com/eng\\_md/Jan21.html](http://www.myanmardigest.com/eng_md/Jan21.html))

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## 7. National Pathways Youth Conference Slated Manila Bulletin Online

On 19-21 April 2007, over a hundred youth volunteers from the country's top colleges and universities nationwide converged at the Ateneo de Manila University campus for the fourth Pathways Youth Conference. Billed "PYC 4@5: Forging Ties @ Five Years", the event coincides with Pathways' fifth anniversary celebration.

educaTHON will cap the celebration as a fund- and awareness-raising walk for the various youth groups that Pathways formed nationwide with other education and youth NGOs.

Pathways wanted to raise more awareness among youth of the mission and vision which entails more opportunities for bright but marginalised high school students to go to college. Students can take part in this initiative through replicating the movement and becoming pathways in their own communities.

One example is Alay ni Ignacio (ANI), an Ateneo-based mini-school that is run by student volunteers that seeks to fill in knowledge gaps among high school students through conducting summer classes to increase their chances of admission to colleges and universities. Pathway Youth Groups (PYGs) are expected to reproduce the objective by holding academic tutoring sessions, workshops, depending on the needs of students in their areas.

The theme for this year conference was for youth to realise the need to engage the wider community and forge ties with stakeholders to achieve better results. Some of the programmes that participants took part in include effective human resource and volunteer management, impact assessment, project evaluation among others.

Pathways have 15 partner schools in Metro Manila and 36 others in different regions. Aside from tertiary institutions, Pathways has also partnered with various government organizations such as the Commission on Higher Education and others.

For more information on Pathways, please see  
<http://www.pathwaystocollege.net/aboutus/index.html>

(Source: Manila Bulletin, Accessed on April 13 2007  
<http://www.mb.com.ph/issues/2007/04/17/SCAU2007041791934.html>)

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## 8. Investing in Young People is Critical for Thailand's Social and Economic Development The World Bank Group

The World Bank Office Bangkok presented the "World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation" to the Thai audience as part of a series of dissemination events organised in East Asia to engage various Government representatives, students and youth leaders in discussions on why more effective investment in youth is critical for social and economic development. The session discussed key transition points during which investments are needed, and explained

how governments can develop "youth-friendly" policies to accelerate development in their countries.

Three sets of strategic policies were highlighted in the World Development Report: (1) expanding opportunities, (2) improving capabilities and (3) offering second chances for young people. These sets of policies would be needed to address the five transitions faced by youths - (1) getting an education, (2) finding work, (3) staying healthy, (4) forming families and (5) exercising citizenship.

The WDR framework was applied to the Thailand context and a draft report of the World Bank's "2007 Thailand Social Monitor: Youth" was presented. According to the World Bank, "the report focuses on the opportunities and risks confronting youth in Thailand today, and looks into the important transitions from growing up healthy, learning for work and life, and moving from school to work. Building on the World Bank's Thailand Social Monitor on secondary education, issued in 2006, the new Monitor will examine factors influencing decisions by the young people of Thailand to stay or abandon school... It will also analyse factors that make youth vulnerable to health risks, review current trends in youth employment, and examine youth-related Government policies as well as institutions."

"Too many young people in Thailand do not have an active role in political participation, nor do they engage enough in decision-making and leadership activities. Furthermore, in terms of our education system, society seems to only focus on classic educational activities and place importance on a student's grade or educational attainments. More should be done to encourage youth and students to think outside of the box, and participate in social activities. This would give them the chance to engage more in critical thinking, apply skills they learn in the classroom, and obtain more hands-on experience," noted Ms. Chalongkwan Tavarayuth, Representative of the Youth, Development, and Peace Network Steering Committee.

(Source: The World Bank, Accessed on 22 March 2007, <http://go.worldbank.org/BO6DZ52QC0>)

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## 9. Vietnamese Youth: Managing Prosperity The World Bank Group

(Extracted from The World Bank Group, World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation)

Fueling Vietnam's high economic growth and poverty reduction over the past decade was a disciplined, hard-working, and fast-learning young population. More than half of its 83 million people are under 25 years old, and 27 percent are between 12 and 24.

Youth in Vietnam today are more educated, healthier, and more optimistic than ever before. The lower secondary school completion rate increased from 25 percent in 1992 to 62 percent in 2002. Although disparities remain, the improvements have been widely shared, with females, rural youth, ethnic minorities, and the poor benefiting proportionally more. The first Survey Assessment of Vietnamese Youth – conducted in 2003 and consisting of a household-based sample of 7,584 youth (ages 14-25) shows that most Vietnamese youth are hopeful about the future, believing that they have more opportunities and a brighter future than their parents.

Young people are increasingly seen as an instrumental force for driving the country's future, but cultural perspectives that view this group as immature and needing guidance and control, persist. This has implications for youth policies, which are often problem oriented. Some positive changes in youth policy are under way. The National Youth Development Strategy by 2010 and the first Law on Youth have recently been adopted, and a Master Plan for Youth Health is currently being developed. And some youth have been consulted on these other government plans.

(Source: The World Bank Development Report, Accessed on 25 March 2007  
<http://go.worldbank.org/AR3D4L0E40>)

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#### About the AMMY

Since the establishment of ASEAN, various committees were set up to look into all aspects of development in ASEAN. Out of which, the Committee for Social Development (COSD) was set up to look into the social development in ASEAN. As part of its efforts to promote social co-operation through COSD, a forum for Youth Development Affairs was established in the ASEAN structural framework. The ASEAN Youth Forum was later restructured to become the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Youth (ASY). The ASY was later elevated to the Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) in 2002. The SOMY meets annually to coordinate and implement youth development programmes for ASEAN member countries.

Issues and concerns in fostering the fuller development of young people in the region, as well as promoting closer understanding and friendship among each other, are co-ordinated by the SOMY. The SOMY focuses not only on promoting ASEAN awareness among its young people, but also to prepare them for an active role in the society in the era of globalization and trade liberalization.

The SOMY comprises senior officials on youth affairs from ASEAN member countries with the committee for ASEAN Youth Co-operation (CAYC) as an Observer. CAYC's status was later upgraded to Observer with Speaking Rights.

Due to the importance of youths in social and leadership development, it was decided that the role of youths was to be further highlighted to greater prominence. The first ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY I) was structured to act as the higher level body to resolve the common social problems among the youths of ASEAN member countries. AMMY I was held at ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta in August 1992. The 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY II), hosted by Malaysia was held in November 1997. AMMY III was hosted by Myanmar in 2000. The 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMMY IV) was held in the Philippines. Singapore is hosting AMMY V, themed "Youth: Creating Our Future" from 24-26 April 2007.

In conjunction with the AMMY I, the 8th of August was also commemorated as the ASEAN Youth Day (AYD). Since then, the commemoration of AYD has been held in each of the member countries every year by rotation.

AMMY is now part of the ASEAN institutional framework reporting to the ASEAN Heads of Government Meeting through the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.

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