

THE USAU YOUTH



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Youth and the OAU 50th Anniversary Celebration

The African Union Commission (AUC) set a comprehensive agenda for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and, in accordance with article 4 (c) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU), the Commission hosted several activities, many led by youth themselves. These events included the pre-deployment training of the 4th batch of the African Union Youth Volunteers Corps (AUYVC), the African Youth Forum, and the Intergenerational Dialogue with African Heads of State and Government.

Octavio Diogo

Pre-deployment Training for the 4th Batch of AUYVC Volunteers

May 10-21, 2013



In line with the Malabo Summit decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government that "(iv) The Commission should organize on the margins of every June/July Summit a training programme for the Youth Volunteers," about 55 youth from 19 AU Member States and the Diaspora attended the 4th batch training of the AU

Youth Volunteer Corps held in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia. The training aimed to establish a minimum level of skills and competency for the new batch of volunteers, to include general knowledge aptitude and improved job performance readiness. The participants also learned coping mechanisms and skills for handling personal social interactions and general life skills in their placement countries. This year, North Africa was better represented with volunteers from both Tunisia and Algeria. Somalia also had a representative. Hopefully, countries like Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Lesotho, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Libya, Mauritania, and the Saharawi Republic will send representatives for participation in an upcoming batch!

Myriam Dieye, the Senegalese representative, gave her impression of the course, stating that "it is the first time in my life that I have a chance to be engaged on Africa's real issues, and that makes sense for me!" The AUYVC batch training was supported by USAID through the U.S. Mission to the African Union (USAU).

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Welcome to the USAU Youth Newsletter for May and June! In this edition we bring you information on the different events hosted in Addis Ababa by the African Union Commission and its partners, throughout the month of May, in Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). These events included the Pre-deployment Training for the 4th Batch of AUYVC and the Intergenerational Dialogue; learn more on pages 1 and 3. On page 4, you will find remarks given by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry during his "Youth Connect" event with African youth on the margins of his official visit to the AU Summit. On page 8, African youth share their individual visions of the "Africa they want to see in 2063!" Under the "Spotlight On" section on page 7, you will have chance to discover the Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN), a worldwide movement of young entrepreneurs that operates in 19+ countries in Africa. We had chance to interview GYIN Chairman Pape Samb following his recent visit to Africa. In our "Word to the Wise" section, Pape Samb discussed the state of youth in Africa, as well as his vision for the continent and his optimism about the future. Find out more on page 9.

As always, please share your thoughts with us on Twitter and our new "USAU Youth Corner" on Facebook! Here, you can chime in on this edition's "Did You Know" section, which will focus on how much our generation has to give in addressing the challenges Africa is currently facing.

Happy Reading!

It is important to recall that the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AUYVC) is a continental development program that recruits youth volunteers to work in each of the AU Member States as well as diplomatic missions and partner organizations.

The AUYVC promotes volunteering as a means to deepening the status of young people in Africa as key participants in continental efforts to meet Africa's human development targets and goals. The AUYVC brings people together to share skills, knowledge, and creativity in order to build a more integrated continent, strengthening Africa's relevance in the globalized world. The AUYVC was officially launched on December 3, 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria, with a stated objective to work in line with the African Youth Charter (AYC), to ensure effective youth participation across the continent. Moreover, the AUYVC aims to, (1) Involve African youth through concrete actions in all socio-economic aspects of the continent; (2) Improve effective and useful participation of young people in Africa's development efforts; (3) Develop and strengthen the "Spirit of Service" in Africa and among the youth; and (4) Promote Africa's "Shared Values and Pan-Africanism" through exchange.

Octavio Diogo

USAU Youth Corner on Facebook

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Engage with us on subjects or topics that matter to you!

Join together in addressing the continent's challenges!

Stay linked with us on the Facebook page:

"USAU Youth Corner"

USAU Youth Library



Article: Educating the Next Wave of Entrepreneurs: Unlocking Entrepreneurial Capabilities to meet the Global Challenges of the 21st Century.

Author: The *World Economic Forum (WEF)*

Abstract:

"Most of what you hear about entrepreneurship is all wrong. It's not magic; it's not mysterious; and it has nothing to do with genes. It's a discipline and, like any discipline, it can be learned."- Peter F. Drucker

"Entrepreneurship is a process that results in creativity, innovation and growth. Innovative entrepreneurs come in all shapes and forms; the benefits are not limited to start-ups, innovative ventures or new jobs."

"Entrepreneurship refers to an individual's ability to turn ideas into action. It includes creativity, innovation and taking calculated risk, as well as the ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve objectives. This supports everyone in day-to-day life at home and in society; makes employees more aware of the context of their work and better able to seize opportunities, and provides a foundation for entrepreneurs establishing a social or commercial activity."- European Commission, 2008

Download the full article [here](#):

The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world by engaging leaders in partnerships to shape global, regional and industry agendas. Incorporated as a foundation in 1971, and based in Geneva, Switzerland, WEF is impartial and not-for-profit; it is not tied to any political, partisan or national interests.

Learn more about WEF [here](#).



The Intergenerational Dialogue, May 24, 2013

Jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union Commission, UNECA's Africa Hall hosted an Intergenerational Dialogue between youth and several Heads of State and Government, to include Liberian President

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Senegalese President Macky Sall, Zambian President Michael Sata, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, and Botswanan Vice President Mompoti Merafhe. Also attending were former President of Zambia and OAU Founding Father Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, AUC Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Executive Secretary of the UNECA Mr. Carlos Lopes, and UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova. The dialogue served as an opportunity for all participants to express their views about Africa's development, raising specific concerns related to youth development and participation. The event was moderated by BBC's Zeinab Badawi.

Several of the presidents commented on the role of youth within their countries. Kenyan President Kenyatta stated that, although his government has not created a ministry of youth, his government will operate with a mandate to mainstream youth across every existing ministry, citing that **"youth are today and the future belongs to children."** When a youth participant demanded that the AU release a single African passport by 2014, President Kenyatta declared that the construction of continental unity is going according to the pace of each individual country, but offered that there was a benefit to allow youth to circulate from Dakar to Djibouti. On the same issue, Zambian President Sata expressed concerns about security, citing that "the criminals will be dancing if a single passport is issued." Andy Roland Nziengui, Vice President of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU), pleaded for resources from the Member States in order for the PYU to more fully carry out its mandate at the continental, regional, and national levels in order to increase youth political participation at all arenas of decision making.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Desalegn stated that **"youth should be part of the development process,"** with AUC Chairperson Dlamini Zuma emphasizing that **"youth are not the future they are the present,"** in reference to **urging youth to encourage their Member States to ratify and implement all instruments of the AU.** Further, she pledged to allocate resources for an "African Youth Parliament" through the AUC and to work to possibly create a "Youth Desk" in the Office of the AUC Chairperson — all final decisions on the creation of these two entities would be made by the AU Assembly of Heads of State of Government. UNECA Executive Secretary Lopes offered support to the African Youth Parliament, giving UNECA's commitment to making youth voices heard.

Octavio Diogo



TIP OF THE MONTH:

How to make wise career decisions + How to internationalize your CV.

Each of us wants to obtain the best job possible in order to ensure we earn more and eventually become wealthy. However, making a decision on which career is the best for us is often the most difficult and tricky decision of our lives!

Check out some expert advice [here](#). When you're finished, learn how to internationalize your CV [here](#):



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meets with African Youth during “Youth Connect: Addis Ababa” event

May 26 2013

On Sunday, May 26, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with 150 youth from across Africa for a Youth Connect event at Addis Ababa University. The event was jointly hosted by the U.S. Mission to the AU and U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa, and featured BBC HARDtalk host Zeinab Badawi as moderator. Secretary Kerry answered questions directly raised by audience members as well as questions posted on Twitter from around the globe. Here is a little about what Secretary Kerry had to say to youth living and working on the African continent:

On education and development -

“...what I see in Africa, what I see around the world, are explosive numbers of young people. In Africa, you will have 100 million young people who need to go to school in the next 12 years. That is a huge challenge. And over the next 35 years, Africa will become 40 percent of the entire world's workforce. We need to provide jobs. We need to develop.” “Now, don't look at this and say, Oh, my gosh, we can't do this. There is a world of things to do out there, houses to build, hospitals to build, health care to deliver, transportation systems to create, other people to educate, universities to build. There is work to be done. The question is, are leaders, are governments going to put that work in front of people, and make the right choices for where the money goes and how they educate and how they build the structure for the future. That's what's being discussed at the African Union, it's really what's being discussed everywhere.”

On empowering “Young African Leaders:”

“I mean, obviously, President Obama wants to focus on youth leadership. He has created the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). And Michelle Obama and President Obama have reached out to young people to help mobilize them in these efforts. But the real objective is to build capacity, to build capacity for governing, capacity for health care, capacity for education, so that we can address these needs. And the United States is, first and foremost, trying to establish stability in places. You can't do this without stability.” In response to the question on his “legacy for Africa,” Secretary Kerry responded that “I'm not trying to declare doctrines or get into legacies. It's not my legacy. It's a question of your legacy. What's your legacy for Africa? I'm here to try to help. President Obama wants to try to help. And maybe our legacy will be what we do to try to help”..... “I think what we've done with PEPFAR – I was proud. I wrote that legislation. I wrote the first AIDS legislation back in the '90s with Senator Bill Frist. It was bipartisan. And that became PEPFAR, and now we've saved millions of lives and we have a generation of people that will be free from AIDS because of it. That's a legacy for everybody.” “And what we need to do is continue to do these things. I hope it will be that President Obama and his Administration stepped up our efforts in Africa, that we helped to educate and provide job opportunities for young people, that we worked with young people so the next generation will feel the United States of America helped to define the future of Africa. But you are the ones who will make it happen.”

The Secretary's full remarks are [here](#).

President Obama and his administration are working to expand the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), which will directly impact thousands of African youth across all sectors of society, as well as develop lasting partnerships and international networks. More details on YALI will be included in upcoming editions of the USAU Youth newsletter.

Some information has been sourced from the U.S. State Department website.

USAU Public Diplomacy Team

Assembly of Heads of State adopt AUC 2014-2017 Strategy

On May 27, the AUC's Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 was adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government during the 21st AU Summit. The decision to adopt the AUC 2014-2017 Strategic Plan should also be seen as a path toward advancing the common condition of youth in Africa. The strategy seeks to “*facilitate the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation, as well as design, promote and implement policies and programs that scale-up implementation of the Youth Decade Plan of Action, and institutionalize the AUYVC as a flagship program.*”

Octavio Diogo



Hubert Humphrey Fellowships in the U.S. for International Students

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program provides a year of professional enrichment in the United States for experienced professionals from designated countries throughout the world. Fellows are selected based on their potential for leadership and their commitment to public service in either the public or private sector.

The Humphrey Program is a **non-degree-granting program**. Participants may complete academic coursework at their host university in order to update their academic and professional knowledge in their field, but, they do not receive an academic degree as a result of their participation in the program.

Approximately 160-190 applicants are awarded the fellowship each year.

Deadline: September 2013 (all around the word)

Please contact the Public Affairs Section of your nearest U.S. Embassy about applying and click [here](#) for more information.

USA Fulbright Scholarships for International Students

The Fulbright Program awards scholarships in the U.S. for international students who want to pursue a Master's or PhD degree. The scholarships can also be awarded for non-degree postgraduate studies. The program is administered through bi-national Fulbright Commissions or U.S. Embassies. Approximately 1,800 student grants are awarded for study in the United States annually.

Deadline: varies, between February and October 2013 for courses beginning in 2014.

Please contact the Public Affairs Section of your nearest U.S. Embassy about applying and click [here](#) for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Preparing Global Leaders Summit is a 7-day (July 29-Aug 4) premiere leadership program designed specifically for young professionals with relevant experience and the intention of broadening their skill set and understanding of global issues. The Summit also provides useful networking opportunities for future cooperation.

Applications are currently open.

Information and applications can be found [here](#). Or, visit the Facebook page [here](#):

DID YOU KNOW ... LET'S DISCUSS ON FACEBOOK:

The Rights and Duties of African Youth in the African Youth Charter

DID YOU KNOW that in the African Youth Charter (AYC), the responsibilities of youth in their communities, countries, and across the continent are clearly described. To date, 33 countries have ratified the AYC, therefore, youth in these countries must serve as examples to the rest of the continent on how youth should fulfill the duties expected of them while also advocating for the rights they have been given in the AYC. (See list of countries that have ratified the AYC [here](#)).

Below are direct quotes from the AYC which detail the role of youth and their expected duties:

Rights for African Youth

Article II, Section 2: Youth Participation

"States Parties shall facilitate the creation or strengthening of platforms for youth participation in decision-making at local, national, regional, and continental levels of governance."

Duties Expected of African Youth

Article 13 Sections A and B: Education and Skills Development

"Youth are determined to transform the continent in the fields of science and technology; therefore they are committed to promoting and using science and technology in Africa and conducting research towards science and technology."

Article 26 Sections F, L and M: Responsibilities of the Youth

"Youth shall have the duty to contribute to the promotion of the economic development of States Parties and Africa by placing their physical and intellectual abilities at its service;" "Promote patriotism towards unity and cohesion of Africa;" "Promote, preserve and respect African traditions and cultural heritage and pass on this legacy to future generations."

Article 28: Duties of the African Union Commission

"The African Union Commission shall ensure that States Parties respect the commitments made and fulfill the duties outlined in the present Charter by;

- a) Collaborating with governmental, non-governmental institutions and developmental partners to identify best practices on youth policy formulation and implementation and encouraging the adaptation of principles and experiences among States Parties;
- b) Inviting States Parties to include youth representatives as part of their delegations to the ordinary sessions of the African Union and other relevant meetings of the policy organs to broaden the channels of communication and enhance the discussion of youth-related issues;
- c) Instituting measures to create awareness of its activities and make information on its activities more readily available and accessible to youth; and
- d) Facilitating exchange and co-operation between youth organizations across national borders in order to develop regional youth solidarity, political consciousness and democratic participation in collaboration with development partners."

The full Charter is available [here](#).

LET'S DISCUSS:

As we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the OAU (now African Union), do you think our generation has more to give when it comes to addressing the current challenges facing the continent of Africa?

Share your point of view online on Facebook: (page name) USAU Youth Corner



SPOTLIGHT ON: Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN) *Empowering Young Innovators as Agents of Change*

The Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN) has established an effective networking, mentorship, knowledge sharing, and collaboration platform for urban and rural young entrepreneurs. Further, the network seeks to develop evidence-based, sustainable, scalable, and cost-effective agribusiness, entrepreneurship, and leadership programs and policies that address the root causes of youth unemployment while increasing the opportunities young people have to obtain a decent job or start a successful business.

GYIN's founding came after discussions between representatives of Phelps Stokes and the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at a global youth workshop in Cartagena, Colombia in November 2010. To complement and consolidate the youth initiative started in Cartagena and amplified in Rome in February 2011, and recognizing the need to strengthen rural youth South-South cooperation, IFAD provided substantial financial contributions to organize a youth innovation event with Phelps Stokes in Africa focusing on youth entrepreneurship. By capitalizing on this innovative idea and taking into account the wishes and desires of many rural young women and men, the two institutions recognized the need to provide a continuous "space" by establishing a platform called the **Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN)**. The network was inaugurated in Cotonou, Benin on October 10-13, 2011. GYIN is a Phelps Stokes program, operated with support from the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and governed jointly with the Youth Advisory Group (YAG). The YAG consists of 12 members and 1 coordinator, chosen from among the youth who make up the network. They act as the core network of youth representatives with oversight in the functioning, operation and overall management of the GYIN. The YAG ensures GYIN acts and operates fully as a youth-led and driven initiative. The aim is to establish a truly global network of young entrepreneurs, leaders and innovators. It will work through its members to create an environment that is conducive to the sharing of skills, knowledge and experiences. It will also actively support young entrepreneurs in the implementation of projects aimed at developing their local communities through self-sustaining socio-economic and cultural opportunities based on practical success stories that can guarantee a decent life for the next generation.

GYIN Strategy and Approach

In order to invest in youth and help create businesses for them, Phelps Stokes proposes an integrated approach to promoting food security, environmental sustainability and economic opportunity. To ensure that this Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN) truly impacts the targeted youth, the GYIN project will be implemented within three innovative thematic areas such as Inno-Leadership, Inno-Entrepreneurship, and Inno-Agribusiness constituted of six programs: (1) Advocacy, Linkages, Partnership, Knowledge Management, and Communication; (2) Market and Business Services; (3) Entrepreneurship, Education & Training; (4) Role Modeling, Mentorship and Coaching; (5) Resources Mobilization and Sustainability; and (6) Capacity Building and Access to Capital. These programs have been identified as a means to provide youth with a global network, professional skills and competencies.

GYIN Membership

GYIN has over 5000 members in over 80 countries in North and South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, with a special focus in West and Central Africa. GYIN's highlight activity is its "*I Am a GYINer*" National Campaign, which currently runs in 41 countries across the globe. Any young person between 18-35 years old, who has completed the GYIN Network online or hard copy registration process can become part of the network.

More information about GYIN can be found [here](#). For more on Phelps Stokes click [here](#). For IFAD click [here](#).

The Africa Youth Want to see in 2063

On the margins of the AU Summit/OAU Golden Jubilee, the USAU Youth team asked youth in town for the festivities to explain their visions for the Africa they want to see in 2063...

Mr. Meka Alfred Anicet (Cameroon):

In 2063, I would like to see an Africa free of boundaries, where people can move without visas and with a common passport. A more developed continent, at peace without war – a united Africa. African leaders need to jointly manage their collective natural resources and promote cross-border cooperation and initiatives.

Miss Temalangeni Dlamini (Swaziland):

My dream for Africa is a united, integrated, peaceful and economically stable continent. I dream of an Africa that does not have to rely on aid from the outside, an Africa where there is free movement of goods and services and no technical barriers to trade. I dream of an Africa where there is free movement of people at the borders, with the use of one passport. My dream is for Africa to use its resources to the benefit of its people instead of letting these resources be exploited by the Western World. I dream of an Africa where young people are at the forefront, using their skills or qualifications for the betterment of Africa as a whole.



Mrs. Fété Bertin Dakouo (Mali):

In 50 years, according to my analysis, more than 20 African countries will reach a developed economic status. These economies will be based on 3 pillars — the management of natural resources, IT (the most developed sector), and access to good education. With this increased economic status, I also see an increased middle class and lower rates of poverty.

Mr. Yared Beyene (Ethiopia) :

In 50 years from now, I want to see an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena and the full realization of Pan-Africanism and African integration in economic, political and social spheres.

Mrs. Hlalefang Gloria Jaase-Nkundanyirazo (Lesotho):

In most African countries, the societal structures have crippled economic growth. Most people in Africa, especially women and girls, are poor, destitute, illiterate and dying from treatable diseases. These vulnerable groups within our societies, if given an opportunity, can contribute to growth, however; we must address the culprit -gender inequality. By 2063, I would like to see more African women in positions of power. Consequently, it is fundamental that in the years between now and 2063, the number of African girls enrolled in formal education institutions must be increased. Above all things, I am dreaming of an Africa where women will have access to their rights, especially education and reproductive health.

Miss Mercy Mwongeli (Kenya):

In 2063, I yearn for a sustainable Africa. A paradigm shift from a top-bottom to a bottom-up approach to issues is the key to attaining this goal, given that 70% of Africa's population is comprised of youth. Active involvement and participation in Africa's development agenda is crucial for the betterment of the continent. I desire to see highly-trained African youth actively creating and generating employment and not relying on our governments to provide these opportunities.

A WORD TO THE WISE :

Pape Samb

Chairman of the Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN)



Pape Samb is the Chairman of the Global Youth Innovation Network, a global initiative operating in 19+ countries across Africa. In addition, Mr. Samb is the youngest and first non-American President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Phelps Stokes, America's oldest, continuously-operating foundation. Following a recent trip across central and eastern Africa, Pape spoke with the USAU Youth team about some of the challenges facing GYIN as well as his outlook on advancing the condition of youth in Africa.

USAU Youth: Thank you for taking the time to speak with our staff. As a friend of USAU, we really value your insight and thank you for your time.

Pape Samb: My pleasure and thank you also for the good work so far.

We would like to get to know you a little better; can you briefly tell us about your personal and professional backgrounds - focusing on your involvement in youth-led organizations thus far? Moreover, what lessons have you learned from your time in the U.S. and working with the African Diaspora?

I am originally from Senegal and the Gambia, West Africa, and I have been living in Washington, DC for 9 years. I have been involved in international development for 17 years, working on youth entrepreneurship, women economic development, venture creation, advocating for self-sustainable, training and facilitation, and community-led development. As far as my educational background, I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management, a Diploma in Business Management, Accounting and Entrepreneurship and a Masters of Public Administration in Executive Leadership from American University in Washington, D.C. I have received several awards including Leadership in Excellence, Good Heart, and Next Generation of Leaders.

In 2011, I had the honor to be one of the founders of the Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN) after realizing that youth around the world didn't have a say in designing and developing programs that benefit them. My colleagues and I decided to create a youth-led organization where young farmers, leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators would take the lead in identifying their needs and proposing adequate solutions. Led entirely by youth, GYIN now has programs in approximately 100 countries. The mission of GYIN is to develop evidence-based, sustainable, scalable, and cost-effective agribusiness, entrepreneurship, and leadership programs and policies that address the root causes of youth unemployment, while increasing the opportunities young people have to obtain a decent job or start a successful business. To achieve its mission, GYIN has developed partnerships with governments, prestigious universities, corporations, and international institutions. Some of these partners include the UN, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Columbia Business School at Columbia University, Coady International Institute, Phelps Stokes, Agribusiness, Palmares, Activos Culturales Afro (ACUA), Africa Agribusiness, Centre for Entrepreneurship, Education and Development (CEED) and many others. Since its inception, youth have been able to create their own businesses, expand their markets, acquire new skills, expand their networks and increase their revenues. Throughout my time in the U.S. and working with the African Diaspora, I have learned that Africans have the skills, knowledge and resources needed to change the face of Africa. Africans are very entrepreneurial and very educated. The main challenge we are facing is the lack of a good entrepreneurial ecosystem that attracts talent, encourages investments, and stimulates youth innovations. To create such an ecosystem, African governments, businesses, and educational and training institutions need to see youth as assets not as threats. Youth can become agents of economic growth if just the minimum amount of support and mentoring is provided to them. The success of the GYIN approach is a testimony of this point.

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A WORD TO THE WISE

As we recently celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), how do you think the African Union can use this time of celebration to advance the conditions of African youth?

With youth unemployment rates at over 70%, I don't think the OAU has much to celebrate. I think that we should use this time of celebration to rethink our strategies to create youth employment. The resources and time allocated to the celebration should be channeled toward creating more adequate technical and vocational training centers for youth. Overall, African institutions are not addressing the needs of youth, and without urgent action to modernize their economies, African countries risk wasting the tremendous potential offered by their young people. Instead, the African Union (AU) should discuss how to maximize the impact of a stronger private sector and increase economic growth through youth employment.

What are your views about young people in Africa today? We've asked others to share their vision for "The Africa they want to see in 2063." Can you tell us about your vision for the continent?

Young people are hardworking. Often we find lower rates of poverty among youth, even in the poorest communities, because many youth cannot afford not to work. Many of them must work to support themselves and their families and cannot go without income, even while searching for better job opportunities. For these reasons, young people can benefit from specific programs that support their entrepreneurial activities. Support for young entrepreneurs ranges from measures that provide job seekers with financial and technical assistance to create their own businesses, including microcredits and entrepreneurship training and mentoring, to measures that improve their chances to expand upon their ideas. Although a vigorous private sector is the most important vehicle for creating jobs for young people in Africa, self-employment programs are relatively cheap and can create permanent and value-added jobs.

My vision for Africa is the creation of good jobs that translate into economic growth and material well-being. The concern with adequate employment stems primarily from a concern for the material well-being of young people. The assumption behind calling for jobs for Africa's youth is that jobs allow young people to make a living and provide for their family, while also building a stable foundation for professional growth. Presently, however, very few jobs in Africa meet this criterion.

Through your work with the Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN), you are striving to empower young people in Africa to embrace entrepreneurship. Could you briefly talk a bit about the GYIN initiative, specifically, the organization's primary goals and some of the challenges you have encountered?

Through GYIN, we create jobs for youth using a two-pronged strategy: 1) removing barriers to small and micro-enterprises, enabling them to grow and fill the missing middle; and 2) supporting young people to be entrepreneurs and create their own jobs. At GYIN, we try to develop comprehensive youth-led programs. We create an entrepreneurship ecosystem in which youth can start their own business, acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to run an enterprise, and ensure they have access to capital. We do entrepreneurship training, providing young people with the skills they need to create and manage a sustainable business likely to generate jobs. We also use mentoring and business incubators as valuable tools to convey these skills. We believe that to be efficient, training has to mix technical skills, such as written and oral communication, with organizational and business management skills, such as planning, decision making, marketing and accounting. In addition, teaching personal entrepreneurial skills such as self-discipline, risk taking and innovation are also important. One challenge we face is that youth believe that only funding solves their problems – however, without appropriate targeting, support programs are likely to fail and even do harm, especially when providing finance. Where firms and young entrepreneurs are not chosen carefully, based on their skill, drive and business plans, providing credit can be wasteful and harmful. Another challenge is inadequate education and the mismatching of skills.

Continued on Page 11

A WORD TO THE WISE

Education is not the biggest bottleneck to youth employment, but it is a major one. High vacancy rates in the presence of large scale unemployment confirm the existence of skill mismatches and are especially substantial in middle income countries.

We like to end each of our interviews with a “Word to the Wise,” or an opportunity for you, as the interviewee, to offer a word of wisdom on those who are wise enough to hear it. So, what has inspired you?

What has served as my inspiration is the fact that I grew up in a traditional, religious community where young people and women had no education or employment opportunities. After witnessing my mother work 20 hour days for years and years to feed me and my siblings, while also taking care of my dad’s needs, I felt obligated to do something. I rallied friends and mobilized resources to start a daycare, women’s vocational training centers, and training programs for youth. Through this process, I have learned that we always need to find and build “synergies” with others. As individuals, we don’t have it all nor do we know it all but, if efforts are community-led, the result becomes about us, collectively. Finally, we should not assume but always ask questions because we each hold different values, beliefs, and expectations, which inform our decision making and interactions with others.

Interviewed by Octavio Diogo



Internship at the Pan-African Parliament (in South Africa)

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant must be a citizen of an African Union Member State;
- Applicant must be fluent in, at least, one of the following languages: English, French, Arabic or Portuguese.
- Applicant must be enrolled in a Bachelor/Master/Doctorate level degree program OR recent graduates who have completed their studies less than a year prior to date of application;
- Applicant must provide a letter from their school confirming their enrollment OR proof of the last degree obtained;
- Applicant must provide a letter from their school’s administration stating whether they receive any financial support or scholarship for this internship; and
- Applicants can address all inquiries regarding the internship program to:

Human Resources Division, Pan-African Parliament
Gallagher Estate, Private Bag XI6 Midrand 1685
Johannesburg, South Africa
Tel: +27 11 545 5000 / Fax: +27 11 545 5136
Email: internship@panafricanparliament.org

Terms of the Internship: The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) may provide financial aid to interns who do not receive any financial support. A return ticket to and from Johannesburg, South Africa will be provided by PAP to successful interns in order to facilitate their participation in the internship. Interns will be responsible for the cost of their visa, if needed. The intern will also be responsible for securing appropriate life insurance arrangements.

Learn more about the internship [here](#).

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SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO:



Burkinabes Gerard Niyondiko and Moctar Dembele for having discovered an anti-malaria soap, a soap designed to fight against malaria, one of the most severe public health problems worldwide, and a leading cause of death in Africa. This invention resulted in Gerard and Moctar being awarded the Grand Prize at this year's Global Social Venture Competition (GSVC), the only international competition of social business plans dedicated to students, young graduates and entrepreneurs with high social and/or environmental startups.

You make us proud and show us to the power of youth in Africa!

The USAU Youth is always interested to hear from you!

Please send your articles, announcements, and/or information on any subject matter you would like to see in subsequent editions of the newsletter to USAUyouth@state.gov, and please don't miss out on our monthly discussions on Facebook. Thank you.



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