



IYPF NEWS

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

Welcome to the August 2005 edition of the IYPF newsletter, our 7th of the year

Dear friends and colleagues, its hard for me to comprehend that it has been a whole month since I last wrote a welcome to our newsletter. But here we are again! Everything moves so fast, time flies by... Time poverty is one of our biggest challenges!

There is so much pressure to achieve, to do, to suck every last drop out of life... and there is always so much to do, especially if your work is seeking to make the world a better place for all. So many are living in poverty, afflicted by war, famine, poor access to basic sanitation and clean water. In this context, it's very easy for one to be continually working – and to forget about personal sustainability, about looking after yourself, relationships, the local community where you live.

This month we feature a number of articles on 'downshifting' – a growing global movement that represents a desire to live differently, to make available more time for the things that are important to us, including social change and sustainability work. It's about balance though, not just shifting obsessive round the clock work hours from more traditional areas to saving the world... it's about living more simply, valuing time with friends and family, etc.

And while this movement is often associated with wealthy middle and upper class members of the Western world, there is much of it relevant to challenging what 'developed world living' looks like, which offers hope for a different approach as many in developing countries begin to experience wealth and Western-style lifestyles. In the context of sustainability, sustainable development and sustainable consumption, 'downshifting' to a more eco-friendly and pro-social way of life is another ray of hope that a better world for all is possible.

The newsletter also features some reflections on the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings that ended the Second World War – horrific events that demand we remember the past to ensure we don't make the same mistakes in the future. Regular info on the MDGs, various opportunities and a range of information to inform, inspire and equip you on your journey are also included.

I look forward to your feedback on this newsletter. I trust you find it useful and it helps you in your work. Please keep your contributions coming in, introduce others to the IYPF, and be courageous in doing good!

See you again next month.

Cameron Neil
IYPF CEO
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IYPF ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

Board News

I write this from the island of Gizo, the Solomon Islands, where I am currently working. The Solomon Islands, as well as being filled with spectacular natural beauty, generous people and a strong 'kastom' tradition, is politically charged.

As many of you will have read or seen on the news, there was a coup here a few years ago. Presently the country is peaceful, but the tension of the recent past is not forgotten. The issues of corruption and cronyism are debated often and with passion among locals, expatriates and everyone in between.

Solomon Islanders are politically engaged. The local newspaper is filled with letters from residents, replies to recent letters and rants from political leaders and opposition leaders alike. Through the newspaper very active public debate is occurring, it's healthy and it's an important part of democracy.

Too often those of us who live in stable democracies take that fact for granted. We become apathetic, we forget it is not just our right but also our responsibility to be an active part of the political process. That means participation!

So I leave those of you who feel they may not be living up to your political responsibilities, including myself, to make an effort to speak out and to get active! If there is an issue you are passionate about, talk about it – and do it publicly! Send a letter to your local newspaper, call your radio station or write a piece for this newsletter.

Lets be active and stimulate debate amongst our communities and ourselves!

We on the IYPF Board of Director's are currently preparing a planning process to produce a five-year strategic plan for IYPF. This is a great chance for members to get active and use your skills and ideas to make IYPF a better organisation. Look out for more detailed information in the next newsletter and participate in this process.

Melanie Ashton
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Representation

During August, IYPF CEO Cameron Neil was invited to present a lecture and run two tutorials for students at the University of Canberra studying Sustainable Communities.

Cameron's lecture focused on 'big picture' issues that impact on, and even constrain, the sustainability of local communities, such as trade, global politics, consumerism and dominant paradigms and memes of profits over people.

As response to these global challenges, Cameron introduced those present to the emergence of sustainable consumption, including ethical consumerism, fair trade, culture jamming and creating demand for sustainable production and goods and services.

In the tutorials, Cameron explored in more detail the IYPF's Youth and Sustainable Consumption project, inviting participants to get involved in activities planned for the ACT and the Australian working group. He also discussed fair trade and the opportunities for local and personal activism to support sustainable development and poverty eradication in developing country communities.

The Powerpoint presentation for Cameron's lecture is available from the IYPF website:
www.iypf.org/Downloads/Sust-Comms-lecture180805.ppt

Support an IYPF Member's Project

www.changemakers.net/journal/300506/displayethics.cfm?ID=54

Kris Dev from India is establishing a model for communication and collaboration between individuals in organisations through e-Administration, so that the absence or inaction of an individual does not reflect on the organisation's performance.

Kris is just one of the entrants in the Changemakers Innovation Awards Competitions: "How to Build a More Ethical Society". There are 78 entries to view, and you can vote for three to be the winners. Voting closes September 8.

MDG Resources

For more see <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/yppmdg> and www.iypf.org/IYPF-projects.htm#YMDGs

The MDG+5 UN World Summit to review MDG progress and set the agenda for the next 10 years will happen in New York from September from 14 to 16. To get informed, go to www.un.org/ga/59/hl60_plenarymeeting.html.

See what is happening in the Task Force on HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB, and Access to Essential Medicines, Working Group on Access to Essential Medicines at www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/essentialmedecines.htm.

IYPF ACTIVITIES

Topical Communities: Another Chance to Follow Your Passions

www.iypf.org/IYPF-campaigns.htm

by Gabrielle Trenbath

Did you know that the IYPF has several online topical communities for members to get involved in? Topics range from AIDS and HIV to Poverty Eradication, and Freshwater and Sustainable Livelihoods to Globalisation and Young Professionals and the MDGs.

As Young Professionals, it is important to use our knowledge and skills to try and make the world a better place and as many of us are passionate about seeing this happen, getting involved in the IYPF's topical communities is a good place to start. One of the major benefits of the Internet is that it allows people to join new specific virtual communities and have contact with many other people without having to go overseas.

These communities are designed to provide an opportunity to share information, knowledge, and research on topical issues. Solutions and relevant new projects in these areas are discussed and have the opportunity to be "workshopped".

While the main ideas of sharing information, knowledge, and possible solutions are central themes that run through all the communities, each one looks at a variety of separate issues. Examples of recent issues that have been discussed are:

Ethical water has been an interesting discussion in the **Freshwater Community**. This discussion surrounds a UK company that has recently started producing bottled water in biodegradable bottles as well as supporting water projects in developing countries such as India and West Africa. Managing director and Belu co-founder Reed Paget wants to combine capitalist ideology with the need to help those at risk. If you have any views of the balance between the capitalism and creating a sustainable future in the context of water, this would be the community to join.

Poverty eradication is fundamentally about increasing growth in poor areas. The puzzle is

what helps spread "best practices" such as saving, investment, education, resources, and new technology - all are needed and fairly easy to obtain. Hard to obtain are the institutions that allow these factors of production to be combined and translated into productive job creation.

Another topical issue is **Globalisation**. An aspect of this phenomenon is Jeffery Sachs' response to the war in Iraq and its impact on development. Sachs compared this to the cost of health care interventions identified in a WHO study to address health problems in the poorest countries. The interventions, he said, would save 20,000 lives a day or about eight million a year. The cost of the war would cover six years of the program, saving tens of millions of lives, he said.

The topical community surrounding **HIV & AIDS** has caught the attention of many in the international community. As a result there are a variety of different views, ranging from the view shared by Bill Clinton, who blames the lack of adequate health infrastructure on the World Health Organisation, and those who believe the high cost of the relevant medication and the lack of opportunities to use generic drugs is the cause of insufficient healthcare in developing countries.

While the HIV & AIDS community is currently the most popular one, the other communities are equally as interesting and organisers are keen for people to join existing discussions and spark new ones.

These communities are a great way to not only share information and solutions to the world's major issues but the success of the IYPF depends on participation of all its members to keep these issues in the forefront of minds of the business, political and community leaders. Young professionals are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but increasingly the leaders of today and therefore it's vital to start to get used to discussing the issues facing our planet.

Cast Your Vote in the World Challenge

www.theworldchallenge.co.uk

The World Challenge website features 12 finalists, and you are invited to help decide the winner. The winning project and award them the grant of US\$20,000 from Shell. Consider the projects carefully, as voting is limited to one vote per person. Voting is open until October 16. The winning project will be announced on November 17. Get inspired by projects like ethical weddings, roof tiles made of recycled plastic and reef rehabilitation in Vanuatu.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Youth, Dreams and Employment

by Martha Lee

"What do you do?" We so often ask this question when we meet someone for the first time. Occasionally you get an embarrassed reply, "I'm not working at the moment", or "I'm between jobs". Why does this have to be awkward?

It is as though we define ourselves and each other by what we do rather than who we are. In fact, one book equates the extent of grief or reaction of losing one's job to the emotional importance of a lost person to the bereaved.

At Youth Employment (Singapore), we recognize the importance in getting youth to think about their future. Without a plan, one often does not get anywhere. Our flagship project, *40 Hours*, was an essay writing competition asking students to consider their career options and conduct basic research on their ideal profession. In turn, we hoped they would have better clarity, a sense of direction and perhaps be one step closer to fulfilling their dreams.

We received 460 entries from 27 secondary schools and 20 institutes of higher learning. Seventeen percent of all entries cited desired jobs in the medical field ranging from nurses to a neurosurgeon. 'Teacher' (8.5%) was the most frequently listed occupation. Of the top ten occupation choices, there is a clear female preference for the jobs of 'Teacher', 'Counselor', and 'Writer'. Boys want to be 'Soccer Players' and 'Pilots'; these being exclusively male choices.

Some youths opted for non-traditional jobs, such as being an Archaeologist, Oceanographer, Medical doctor cum Astronaut or something even more challenging like Minister of Education! Eight students eventually went on to shadowing their intended role models in their essays.

In today's world, one out of every six persons is between the age of 15 and 24 – this translates to a figure of 1 billion young people. About 85% of these young people live in developing countries, with about 60% in Asia. World youth unemployment has increased from 11.7% in 1993 to 14.4% in 2003. This translates to 88 million unemployed youth, accounting for 47% of the 186 million unemployed globally. When we look at Asia, in some countries youth unemployment has been as high as 30%!

There is no denying that decent work is what many people are desperately searching for. 'Decent' means your work pays enough to live on without constant financial worries. It means work that can be done with dignity in healthy and safe conditions. Yet for millions, decent work is a luxury they simply cannot afford. They are forced to work in degrading conditions just to survive.

As young professionals, we are privileged and have a responsibility. Youth employment is one of the critical issues of our time with half of the world's unemployed under 24 years old. Through continually listening to young people we can develop our own programmes and influence national policies to give young people real chances of decent work. When you next come across somebody looking for a job, see if you can help whether offering encouragement or a referral. Their dreams of a better life are as important as ours.

Martha Lee is President of IYPF (www.iypf.org) and Youth Employment (Singapore) (www.yes.org.sg).

Chasing the Dream - Youth Faces of the Millenium Development Goals

www.chasingdream.org

In 2000, all 191 member-states of the United Nations agreed to help the world's poorest nations make significant and measurable progress towards a better life for their people by the year 2015. The Millenium Development Goals set targets for this progress.

Chasing the Dream profiles the lives of eight young people in Brazil, Cambodia, India, Jamaica, Morocco, Uganda and the Ukraine. It explores their difficult living situations and their intense desire to lead better lives.

Each story, like that of Anna who was forced into sexual slavery after the death of her father in the Ukraine, illustrates the importance of helping developing countries achieve the MDGs. It's an inspiring site illustrated by the lives and dreams of those who are living in countries that most need the vision and passion of youth to help achieve these goals.

FOCUS TOPIC: DOWNSHIFTING

Downshifting Network

Time for change?

by Cameron Neil

I was excited when I heard that my long time colleague and mentor, David Wyatt, was organising a conference on downshifting. There had been quite a passionate and long discussion at the first International Young Professionals Summit in 2001 about the need for us as young professionals to free up time to work on social change. I have known many YPs since to have taken this step - nine day fortnights, four day weeks, pursuing part time jobs.

In the lead up to IYPS 2001, and ever since, I have worked part-time so I would have the opportunity to work on the IYPF and other projects. I have been very fortunate to find paid work in the social change and sustainability field alongside this. While on this journey, I have come to recognise how much of a challenge it is for many to balance their desire to contribute to a better world, their paid jobs, and their relationships. Downshifting puts a name to what people are looking for, and the Downshifting movement - launched here in Australia with the Downshifting Downunder conference and organisation - provides a framework and support network for those who have or want to make time for change in their lives.

Because of this, I did not hesitate in getting IYPF involved in the conference. Alexandra Meldrum, one of those YPs who came to IYPS 2001 and who

is a volunteer staff member of IYPF and a recent 'downshifter', represented IYPF on the organising team. I went along to the event, learnt a great deal, met some great people, participated in the launch of something that I think is important and potentially very powerful, heard some inspiring stories and had the opportunity to reflect on downshifting, the movement and what it represents.

There are many reasons why downshifting is important, many issues it helps address, many thoughts on opinions on how and why to do it. Some of the other articles and thoughts in this newsletter explore those. However, I think the main issue for us YPs is that with everything going on in our lives, it is often difficult to find time for us, to create space to participate in and contribute to social change projects, to put the things we know are the most important - our health, relationships, happiness - first.

With this in mind, we are inviting you to join a new IYPF network, to slowly, thoughtfully, share and discuss with other YPs interested in downshifting how to do it, how to 'survive' once you have done it, inspire each other, support each other. If you are asking yourself "what is the purpose of my life? What am I here for?" and thinking you might need to 'do less to do more', sign up and introduce yourself. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/yp-downshifters> or send a blank e-mail to yp-downshifters-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Downshifting Resources

- The website for the Downshifting Downunder conference contains articles and pictures from the event. <http://downshifting.net.au>
- The UK's second National Downshifting Week will be celebrated from Saturday April 22 to Friday April 28, 2006, and founder Tracey Smith invites everyone to participate and spread the word around the world. Visit www.downshiftingweek.com.
- Teach your children about recycling and environmental issues with www.ollierecycles.com.
- The Green Consumer Guide at www.GreenConsumerGuide.com can help you make wise decisions when shopping for a car. It discusses options such as LPG, hybrid and more.
- Downshifter Richard Cannon spent 34 years in advertising, marketing and retail management, before choosing to change his life. He shares his personal insights about the downshifter's journey at www.downthelane.net.
- The site www.downsizer.net aims to help people live an ethical and sustainable future. Topics range from ethical consumption to building an eco-house.
- Anyone who would like to know how to become more self-sufficient should check out www.selfsufficientish.com - it's packed with helpful tips on how to be more self-sufficient in an urban environment.
- The Centre for Alternative Technology is a solutions driven organisation based in the UK. It offers practical solutions to environmental problems. www.cat.org.uk

FOCUS TOPIC: DOWNSHIFTING

Gritty Shunt: A Story of Involuntary Downshifters

By: *Salwa M. AbdulTawab*

The name is Gritty Shunt; a woman or a man. I wasn't really keen to know. The essence of the story was indisputably more important. It had been related so many times, recurred in so many places.

Every version of the story started with he or she cracking under the financial pressures and the social stress of maintaining an executive lifestyle. The media usually starts the story with Gritty sitting in the office, burnt-out. They recall a conversation with their spouse earlier: "You are ignoring me and the children", "No, I am supporting you", "Give us some attention", "We need money", "We need you".

The secretary enters with more files, or the manager calls with more tasks. A monologue starts inside Gritty. "I miss my family. I didn't take a vacation for two years. They should understand I am not a machine. There should be a way out".

Sometimes this happens on two sides of the Gritty family; as usually the two modern spouses are working. After reading an article, talking to a friend, or watching a public service commercial, the Gritty family decide to downshift. They are voluntarily choosing simplicity. They want a sustainable, ecologically sensitive alternative to western consumerism. They decided to act consciously to reduce their purchased services and goods. The Grittys will do many things for themselves now, such as gardening, cooking, sewing, and constructing or maintaining a home (DIY).

My version of the story is different. The Gritty family this time is an Arabian family from Egypt. They struggle just to cover their monthly expenses. Their community labels them as 'middle class', while in international standards they are 'low class'.

MDG Reports - issued by the UNDP in Egypt in 2002 and 2004 - show that poverty especially affects female-headed households, which count for 20% of total households. And while overall incomes in Egypt have increased from US\$639/yr in 1990 to \$US1390/yr in 1999, 40% of the poor only receive 22% of nation's wealth.

The 2004 MDG Report notes the impact of the implementation of the floating exchange rate system in January 2003. Prices increased rapidly leaving a negative effect on the purchasing power and consumption of the household. It is estimated that the poverty line increased by 7% during the period between January and November 2003. The World Bank commented that Egypt needed to achieve a sustained real GDP growth rate of at least 7% annually for unemployment to decline to more manageable levels.

As an Egyptian I believe that Egyptian families are downshifting already, but not voluntarily. The raise in their incomes is eaten by price increases. They have to act consciously to reduce their purchased services and goods whether they like it or not.

In developed rich countries families may downshift by going to a less expensive city than the capital. In Egypt the capital is the way out of poverty. The fact is there are worrying gaps in income levels and living standards between Lower and Upper Egypt. While poverty in urban areas of Lower Egypt is expected to go down to 6%, the urban poor of Upper Egypt are actually expected to rise to 39% by 2015. The figures are just as stark for rural areas of the country - with poverty disappearing from the rural governorates of Lower Egypt but increasing to 38% in Upper Egypt in 2015.

The problem is not only in low incomes and disparity between different cities in Upper and Lower Egypt. There is no fixed minimum or maximum salary rate! You can say for example that an engineer earns between three and four digits, but you cannot conclude an exact minimum per hour for any worker. This causes big imbalances between the salaries of different employees. While a few earn more than they need, the majority are hardly surviving.

The city is inaptly designed to suit sustainable development of humans. Apartments instead of houses, ownership instead of rent, narrow streets and very few green landscapes, in addition to over population and pollution problems. The wilderness around the city is desert. For the modern citizen it is hard to live. Yet some youth dared to try.

The government offered to give any graduate five acres in the desert on an instalment plan. They asked them to plant those acres and pay from their profit. With problems of irrigation, shortage of funds, lack of technology, and long time required to transfer a desert into greenery, the projects turned into nightmares. Financial obligations strangled the young enterprisers.

Thoreau said that a very few - as heroes, patriots, martyrs, reformers in the great sense, and men - serve the state with their consciences. He said also that government is best which governs not at all, and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have.

Now Egypt is reforming - wishfully in the great sense. Elections will take place on September 9. Candidates are debating their agendas and plans. People are looking forward warily to what will follow. Will the Egyptian Gritty family have a voluntary downshifting experience?

FOCUS TOPIC: DOWNSHIFTING

Culture Shifting: Young People Adhering to the Downshifter's Ethic

This is an edited extract of a longer article by Daniel Donahoo, which can be found at www.iypf.org/Downloads/Culture-shifting-full-article-aug05.pdf

Recently I heard Pru Goward speaking about her paper *Striking the Balance*. She indicated that our future society could not afford the quality of aged care and health services that she anticipated the baby boomers demanding without sacrificing the quality of life of younger generations.

Yet she suggested that their voting power by sheer numbers alone meant they may actually force policy in that direction. I'm not interested in furthering the generation battles but I appreciated the dilemma. When will those who have to put up with the future start getting a say in what it looks like?

This has only served to reinforce my belief in the importance of bottom up community development and the significance of some of the decisions I have made in my life.

I want to share these decisions because I'll assume if you are receiving this newsletter you are interested in change. And, not simply the change associated with reducing stress and pursuing a life that downshifting, in its various guises, offers. But, change that means the world we create for our children and ourselves is one that is sustainable, equitable and a better one than which we have entered.

Decision 2: The simple life

Voluntary simplicity is more than downshifting. Downshifting can be an 80-hour a week, \$150K a year banker turning to consultancy from home and reducing her hours, but still earning a bucket load. Voluntary simplicity means taking back control over the systems that govern your life. It means reducing everything in your world to as basic a unit as possible – that works for you. It doesn't mean rejecting technology, or living without. It is about enhancing the quality of the experience of life.

My wife and I were both writing and interested in the power of activism. We began to consider the potential of all those protesters growing their own food and massively reducing their spending on the fodder of the corporations – cigarettes, processed food and branded clothing. We committed ourselves to start engaging with our consumption.

I learnt to bake bread and in the space of three years we were growing a majority of our vegetables, making our own soap and washing liquids, making yoghurt, soymilk and tofu. We have substantially reduced our meat consumption with an aim to raise and eat our own chooks. We mend clothes, op-shop and garage sale. My wife spins her own wool and knits, restores furniture and makes shelving. We catch public transport, walk and ride around our local community. We purchase food in bulk, buy organic and find ways to limit our choices. We are continually refining and changing our lifestyle, which is the most crucial aspect of voluntary simplicity – to observe the way you interact with the world and think about ways you can make it simpler.

For a while there we were most passionate about cloth nappies.

Decision 1: Only ever work part-time

When I finished my BA in Creative Writing I chose to accept creativity as a vocation and go and get a job doing something else. But I made a commitment to only work part-time - before I'd even heard of downshifting. I knew there was more to life than 50 hours a week working in a paid job. I made that commitment for not just for a few years, but for my entire working life. The ratio of five days to two days didn't leave me enough time to write, to engage with my community, to continue to build upon the breadth and depth of experiences I wanted to have.

In the current system it does limit my work options to a degree, but how am I going to contribute to changing the culture of work if I simply choose to do what everyone else does? And if I hadn't been in part-time work I would not have been able to build on my writing portfolio and make the most of opportunities offered to me like guest lecturing at universities, presenting at conferences and making links with peers and other like-minded individuals on the same journey as me.

The decision means my family have become prudent managers of our domestic economy – but that fits with our ethic of voluntary simplicity.

Decision 3: Having children

It wasn't a planned event, but when you are 23 and your girlfriend gets pregnant there are plenty of people who choose otherwise. We had only known each other for five months, but decided to take fates hand. Felix was born when I was 24 and Kolya when I was 26.

They introduced us to the cloth nappy versus disposable nappy debate, and a fierce one. Disposable nappies probably best sum up the state of the world's consumption – you don't have to deal with the mess, you can fold the nappy over and leave someone else to deal with the crap.

But what our kids really introduced us to was the grittiness of ordinary life and the joys of domestication. A family unit grounds you, gives you a sense of belonging and value that consumerism tries in vain to fill. They have given me more smiles, laughter and happiness than I had in the decade leading up to their arrival.

Having children at a relatively young age - the average age of first time dad's in Australia is 33.5 years - has been the best aspect of our simple lifestyle. I have found having children young has only enhanced my experience of life, my understanding of the world and given me a deeper level of humility and appreciation for what really matters.

Ultimately though – the greatest challenge is raising children to be engaged citizens and community members. We do this in many ways. It is never too early to start talking to children about advertising techniques, where their food comes from and getting them to think about their relationships with family and friends.

I'm encouraged by the work of IYPF. It is another valuable contribution to the making of a world that we and our children can be excited by - a world that will sustain us, if we work towards sustaining it. There is room for IYPF to start further discussions about young people and the culture shifts needed to make this even more of a reality.

Daniel Donahoo is a fellow at OzProspect, a non-partisan, public policy think tank. His work and contact details can be found at www.danieldonahoo.com

FEATURE ARTICLE

60 Years On – The Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

by Arjun Muralidharan

It's been 60 years since the "little boy" was dropped in the big cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Death was calling. The day remains marked in red letters in the annals of history, August 6 and 9, when violence unsurpassed in the pages of time unfolded, brutally, cruelly and in the most inhumane fashion possible.

At 8:15 am on August 6 1945 United States of America's Colonel Paul Tibbets, the pilot of the B-29 aircraft Enola Gay, dropped the nuclear bomb, "little boy", over the heart of Hiroshima. Hiroshima began to collapse like a house of cards, crushing millions of hopes. Human loss was immeasurable. At a time when the world was not connected as it is today, it took a while before people realised the magnitude of the disaster. It took Tokyo almost 16 hours to realise what had happened. Newspaper reports were incomplete, but the message was loud and clear – "the war is over".

Exactly three days after the first bomb was dropped, "Fat man", a plutonium bomb was dropped in Nagasaki killing more than 1,20,000 instantaneously. Conservative estimates state that more than 100,000 people were choked to death in Hiroshima. Though arguments flow, stating the hypothetical thought of Japanese invasion and the millions of deaths it must have caused, no argument can ever justify the atomic bombing viciousness.

We need to understand that violence begets violence and blood is no resulting for any struggle whatever it may be. A visibly anguished and emotionally shaken Mayor of Nagasaki, addressing the crowds - many of whom were aged survivors of the massacre - at the bombsite to mark the anniversary, argued that America's testing of nuclear weapons was going to take the world nowhere and proposed that only peace could create a global home, weapons could only make graveyards.

The mayor of Hiroshima urged the United Nations to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020 to create a threat free world. He vociferously criticized nuclear aspirant, North Korea and other "selfish states" for trying to carry out acts that threatened the basis of human survival. He urged the countries to reconsider their stands on nuclear weapons and pointed out that USA, the UK, Russia, France, India, Pakistan and few other nations did not appreciate the desire of and decisions of majority of people, and stuck to the dogma that "might is right". These countries believed the possession of nuclear weapons gave them the credible status of being a powerful nation.

UN conventions on the Laws and Customs of War on Land clearly states that "the right of belligerents to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited", and "besides prohibitions provided by special

conventions, it specially prohibits, the employment of poison or poisoned arms or arms, projectiles or material of any nature that may cause superfluous injury, to kill or wound treacherously individuals belonging to the hostile nation or army, to wound or a lay to death an enemy, who having laid down arms, or having no longer means of defence, has surrendered to discretion".

Most important of all is the passage "the attack or bombardment of towns, villages, habitations or buildings which are not defended, is prohibited". Are these laws and ratifications just to be violated? The after-math of the bombing haunts the people even today. Many thousands of people died due to radiation effects and the most shocking reality is that there are almost 300,000 "Hibakushas" – a term which literally means "people affected by the bomb" – living in Japan.

On August 8 America addressed the people of Japan by dropping leaflets, which read: *America asks that you take immediate heed of what we say on this leaflet. We are in possession of the most destructive explosive ever devised by man. A single one of our newly developed atomic bombs is actually the equivalent in explosive power to what 2,000 of our giant B-29s can carry on a single mission. This awful fact is one for you to ponder and we solemnly assure you it is grimly accurate. We have just begun to use this weapon against your homeland. If you still have any doubt, make inquiry as to what happened to Hiroshima when just one atomic bomb fell on that city.*

The world could have never been crueller! Let us hope that the darkest hour is always before the dawn. The seeds of humanity need to be sown for harvesting a better world, a greater global community and above all for ensuring the better placement of humanity. As the philosopher, Rabindranath Tagore rightly quoted decades back: "Where the mind is without fear and where the world has not been broken into fragments by narrow domestic walls into that heaven of freedom my father let my country awake".

Comments, feedback and criticism invited:
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Read first-hand accounts of the bombing of Hiroshima by a survivor and Colonel Paul Tibbets at
www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/hiroshima.htm and
www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/vohiroshima.htm

INSPIRATION

Ethical Bottled Water?

www.belu.org

Many people may feel guilty about drinking bottled water, but socially responsible British company Belu Spring Water can take away some of that guilt.

The company formed two years ago after a group of people were inspired by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's message to use capitalism to improve the planet. Now it aims to put all its profits into clean water projects in developing countries, and has created an environmentally friendly bottle out of biodegradable plastic.

Managing director and Belu co-founder Reed Paget told CNN the idea was to use water to create water in areas where it was not widely available.

"We thought why don't we start a company that addresses this possibility of using capitalism as an aggressive way to solve the glaring problem of water pollution," he said.

"A quarter of the population on Earth don't have access to a clean water supply, so a simple way to address that was to create a company that does just that."

Belu water is now making a "bio bottle" made out of a plastic made from cornstarch that can decompose in eight to 10 weeks.

Despite being a new company (and not having made any profits as yet), it has already set aside money from sales to fund water projects including one in a village of 10,000 people in the Tamil Nadu region of India. Paget says Belu provides a clean water source for drinking but water for washing hands and education about the importance of hygiene.

Information sourced from

<http://edition.cnn.com/2005/TECH/08/09/spark.belu/index.html>

Ethos Water

www.ethoswater.com

Another socially responsible water company, Ethos Water, was founded in the USA in 2002. The company contributes five cents for each bottle of water purchased, with a goal of \$10 million over 5 years.

Founders Peter Thum and Jonathan Greenblatt saw Ethos as a great way to use their business experience to build a lasting force for positive change. They they have championed projects in places like India, Honduras and Bangladesh. Through their Walk For Water project in America, they have raised awareness of the plight of millions of women and children in developing countries who must walk miles every day to retrieve water for their families.

Latin American Encounter on Youth Employment

www.stp.gov.py/redyespy (Site in Spanish)

The Latin American Encounter on Youth Employment: Achievement the Millenium Development Goals aims to gather the key 200 main stakeholders on the Latin American region from civil society, governments, companies and international organisations.

IYPF Partner YES Latin America has joined with the Paraguay government and YES Paraguay to put together the Encounter in Asunción, Paraguay from September 19 to 21.

The Encounter will present, analyse and evaluate the advancement, challenges and pending issues in terms of youth employment, entrepreneurship and labour inclusion, with an aim to get a commitment for the co-responsibility of all the sectors to coordinate actions and resources for achieving the MDGs in the region.



IYPF Latin America and YES Latin America have been given the opportunity to present a Blueprint Latin American Introduction Workshop, presented by IYPF member Ursula Carrascal and Mariana Ballesteros. This workshop will allow potential partners and YES Networks in the region to become involved in IYPF's Blueprint project.

The Second White Band Day

www.makepovertyhistory.org

The second Global White Band Day is happening on September 10, ahead of the MDG +5 Summit. Show your support by wearing a white band, which represents the international MDG campaigns.

Get online and find out what White Band Day activities are happening near you!

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty has put together a mobilisation guide at http://www.whiteband.org/specialissues/UNP5/unp54/whitebandday2_mobilisation_guide_english.pdf to help you organise a White Band Day event.

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

OPPORTUNITIES

Professeurs pour la Liberté is looking for Recruiting Partners

www.mypppl.org/RPInterest/rp_interest.asp

Professeurs pour la Liberté / Teachers for Freedom (PPL) is looking for Recruiting Partners to help enlist enthusiastic students in a grassroots youth movement that promises to change the face of Africa. PPL is a Canada-based initiative supported by hundreds of educational institutions worldwide that taps educational materials and technology from developed nations to build a critical mass of educated people in Africa.

PPL has been supported by many prominent leaders and social entrepreneurs from around the globe, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former US President Bill Clinton, and former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. Students who have submitted successful applications can look forward to study and work in Toronto, Canada. Upon completion of the scholarship program of their choice, beneficiaries will gain valuable volunteer experience while working with PPL at the grassroots level in Africa.

ADB seeks applicants for Young Professionals Program

www.adb.org/Employment/ypp.asp

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is looking for motivated individuals 32 years old and below from any ADB-member country to submit applications for the 2006 Young Professionals Program. Applicants must have at least a Master's degree with advanced training in economics and finance, or a PhD in economics, to qualify. Submissions and inquiries may be sent to yp-info@adb.org no later than August 31, 2005.

Youth ICT Awards

www.globalknowledge.org/youthawards/

The Youth and ICT Awards will recognise six young social entrepreneurs, aged between 17 and 30, from different regions of the world who have transformed social development opportunities into a sustainable social enterprise through innovative use of ICTs. The awards will highlight successful young social entrepreneurs who can envision social enterprise through innovative use of ICTs. Applications close on September 15.

Conference on Cultural Expansion in Puerto Rico

www.conahec.org/conahec/Conferences/SONA2005/english/en_Conference2005.htm

The Student Organization of North America (SONA) is inviting participants to its fifth annual conference to be

held in Puerto Rico this October under the title, "Cultural Expansion: The Key to Success for Future Leaders in a Global Society." To learn more about SONA, visit www.conahec.org/sona.

International Cyberspace Education Conference in Germany, 2006

www.kib-bielefeld.de/tagung/engl/index.htm

The Centre of Competence for Informal Education (CCIE) of the University of Bielefeld, Germany is holding an international conference entitled "Cyberworld Unlimited? Digital Inequality and New Spaces of Informal Education for Young People" from February 9 to 11, 2006. The participation fee, sans hotel accommodation, is 100 euros; with accommodation, 200 euros. The event is sponsored by the German Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women, and Youth.

Deep Democracy

www.pioneersofchange.net/communities/london/events

You are invited to a three-day intensive course in Deep Democracy in Johannesburg (September 5 to 7), Copenhagen (September 23 to 25) or London (September 29 to October 1). Deep Democracy involves collective decision-making and conflict resolution, and is designed to provide insight into your role in facilitating decision-making processes in dynamic group situations, understanding of conflict and practical conflict resolution, and unique facilitation tools.

Policy Researcher on International Economic Justice

www.i-grasp.com/fe/tpl_oxfam.asp?newms=jj&id=19503

A paid position is available as part of Oxfam's high-performing research team in Oxford, UK. The position involves conducting and commissioning research, both quantitative and qualitative, sometimes working with staff on the ground in developing countries. It's an ideal job for someone excited by ideas and development debates, and who want to get to the bottom of complex policy issues. A Masters level degree in economics or social science (including a strong economics component) is required. Applications close September 23.

"Focussed action makes the impossible merely improbable, and causes the improbable to happen."

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 a paid or associate member and help IYPF develop a worldwide network of young professionals who catalyse positive change in their lives, communities, organisations, and ultimately the world. Review the information online for benefits and how to join.

Spread the word

Use information from our website, including introductory Powerpoint presentations on the IYPF, IYPF membership application forms and information, and this and past newsletters, to encourage others to become members. Get people to sign up to receive the newsletter for free each month through the website.

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 topical communities on sustainability and social change issues, including globalisation, fresh water, poverty eradication, HIV & AIDS, Downshifting, Education 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