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Y-PEER News Bulletin

Dear Y-PEERers,

We are glad to present this new edition of the YNB, principally developed with the input of many members in the network. A new generation of 35 Y-PEER trainers coming from 31 countries joined the Network after successfully completing the Seventh Advanced Training of Trainers, held in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina. We would like to dedicate this YNB to them; to congratulate them for their efforts and to inspire them to get involved with the same energy and enthusiasm they started at the training.

Please continue to provide us with your valuable feedback and input at info@y-peer.org

Thanks & enjoy the YNB 4th Edition.

Y-PEER Team

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What is Y-PEER?

Y-PEER, or Youth Peer Education Network, is a groundbreaking, comprehensive youth-to-youth peer education initiative pioneered by UNFPA. Y-PEER is a network of organizations and institutions consisting of thousands of young people working in the broad areas of adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

Who is Y-PEER?

Members of Y-PEER are young people, active peer educators, trainers of trainers and youth advocates for adolescent sexual and reproductive health. They contribute to and benefit from the resource materials, tools, training programmes and campaigns through the Y-PEER network's web site, electronic communications and face-to-face meetings.

Where is Y-PEER?

The network was launched in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in 2000. Now it has spread to the Arab States (Middle East and North Africa) and some countries in East Africa (Tanzania and Kenya). To date, Y-PEER links more than 3.000 members from 39 countries in these regions.

1) Y-PEER Advanced Training of Trainers - Seventh Edition, Neum (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



Thirty-five participants representing 31 countries from Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Arab Countries and East Africa (Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tajikistan, Sudan, Yemen, Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Russia, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Kenya, Romania, Azerbaijan, Somalia, Oman, Kyrgyzstan, Djibouti, Croatia, Georgia, and Syria) came together for a nine day, advanced training of trainers in peer education.

Among other topics, the training covered many subjects related to peer education such as the differences between peer counseling and peer education, experiential learning, information sharing and theatre based techniques, monitoring and evaluation, behavioral change theories, codes of ethics, recruitment and retention of peer educators, focal points' responsibilities and working with most-at-risk adolescents.

Aside from the challenging agenda, participants were able to enjoy the beautiful Adriatic Sea and utilize evening hours to celebrate their cultures and traditions and to learn about each other's youth programmes.

http://www.youthpeer.net/site/posts.php?page_id=4§ion_id=4&post_id=151

2) Me! Campaign Launched



In Partnership with the Y-PEER Network, MTV International and its Staying Alive Campaign launched the regional Me! Campaign. When they say, "Me," they actually mean you! That's why this campaign helps young people learn more about themselves, because it relates common issues about sexual and reproductive health, along with many others, to individuals like me and you.

The web site is an open world where one can learn, laugh, have fun and meet new friends. It features funny videos, an educational and interactive video game, an online store to purchase promotional materials, and a link to the Y-PEER forum

where young people can meet their peers and discuss topics of their interest.

It's only a click away:

http://www.youthpeer.net/site/posts.php?page_id=3§ion_id=3&post_id=203 See you there!

3) Nessryne Jelalia from Y-PEER Tunisia at the "Maghreb Idol" TV Show!!!



The Y-PEER Network in Tunisia, in collaboration with the Star Academy Maghreb, organized HIV/AIDS prevention and stigma reduction day to air on the show, Maghreb Idol, a TV programme broadcasted throughout the entire Maghreb region (North Africa) on Nessma TV. When interviewed after the show, candidates aged 20-29 from Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Libya stated they were very happy and excited to talk about HIV/AIDS prevention and stigma reduction to disseminate the right messages among youth in this region.

Y-PEER Tunisia Focal Point, Ms. Nessryne Jelalia, facilitated a discussion on HIV/AIDS perception within the Maghreb region, focusing on the existence of taboos as an obstacle for information dissemination, and ignorant/judgmental behavior as a strong contributor to the discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS.

After the discussion, the academy theatre teacher, Ms. Hichem Messbeh, and Y-PEER Focal Point facilitated the Freeze Frame activity to the candidates to improvise a situation of an HIV+ person disclosing their status to a friend. Each wearing a Y-PEER t-shirt, the role play reflected different reactions that one can have, ranging from rejection to compassion and tolerance.

The whole activity was spiced up by the presence of the group GARBY'S, Tunisian celebrities who took part in the discussion after the performance of their famous songs. They talked about their experiences and their commitment to educating young people about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and how they use music as a bridge to reach them.

For more information about the activities of the whole day visit: <http://www.staracademy-maghreb.com/Star/Lang/fr/a/News/Article/501>

1) Y-PEER will celebrate the International Youth Day August 12th, 2007 with a photo contest:



Topic: BE SEEN BE HEARD – YOUTH PARTICIPATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Photo contest: Speak with your heart!

The purpose of this contest is to see and hear numerous young people who are working voluntarily in their communities to change their and the life of others. Now is the time to take your **digital cameras** and **speak with your heart!** Make the camera lenses reveal what are your fears and dreams!

The photos are not just a piece of art; it is **your way to tell the story!** Therefore, you don't have to be a professional photographer. Think of a story that you want to share, a message you want the world to hear about, take the camera, make as many pictures as you want, write down a brief paragraph of what you want to tell the world and send it to us! No stories will be left unappreciated.

This can be a team exercise, so feel free to **involve your friend** in the deal. One can be a photographer, others will be the "models", and someone could finish the photo session with a magnificent written piece. You are encouraged to involve as many friends as possible.

So what your stories should be focusing on?

For more information follow the link:

http://www.youthpeer.net/site/posts.php?page_id=3§ion_id=3&post_id=204

Great prizes are prepared for the winners. The biggest prize of all is that you, your team and your photo will be well known among your peers worldwide!

2) Y-PEER National Activities



We are glad to announce that Y-PEER Network was officially launched in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on June 12, 2007. It was the great step for Y-PEER Tajikistan since they have been working hard in collaboration with international and governmental organizations, as well as with NGOs on HIV/AIDS, STI and Drug Abuse prevention among youth through peer education. All these partners were present at the launch. The agenda highlighted Y-PEER partners, as well as covered information about Y-PEER Network activities and their

achievements. Furthermore, it touched on certain challenges and weaknesses within the network and defined priorities for 2007.

The launch aimed to get support from organizations to introduce Y-PEER standards in their peer- to-peer education programmes, and thus to create a stronger national network.

The next step is to adapt the standards on local level.

- Y-PEER Egypt ToT will gather 25 participants from 10 governorates in Novotel Air port Hotel, to update their peer education techniques and learn how to use it as an effective and youth friendly approach to deliver the sensitive educational messages to their peers.

Y-PEER Egypt team will introduce the standards of peer education to the participants in addition to four sessions on MDGs, MCH, women's rights and gender equality, and working with FBOs.

Nogom FM, a popular radio channel among youth, will provide full coverage from the ToT within its programme sponsored by Coca Cola. *Written Media*, the youth magazine will also feature the ToT in its edition.

Participants will develop their action plan which will be reviewed by the Y-PEER core team.

Please send an email to hassan@y-peer.org and malah@y-peer.org for more information on the training.

- YPEER Morocco and Scouts Summer School: Y-PEER Morocco will organize peer education training for Al Kachfiya Al hassania, the oldest scouting organization in Morocco. The aim of this training is to empower the scouts with general life skills. Furthermore, peer education sessions will be conducted for 600 adolescents from the ages of 13 to 15 years at the scouts' summer school. The training will take place from the 24th of July to the 2nd of August in the region of Ifran.

The Y-PEER Trainers that are going to be in Ifran are: Imane, Hamza, Abdelfatah, and Anssar. They will start their workshop by training ten peer scout officers. In addition to that, the Scout Officers are planning to include peer education as a tool within the scouts' summer school programs and games. Both Y-PEERs and the Scouts will have the chance to live together for a couple of days and discuss youth issues. It will be such a great experience!

1) International Peer Education Training - IPET 3



International Peer Education Training - IPET 3 will take place during the General Assembly of the International Federation of Medical Student's Association IFMSA, to be held in Canterbury, UK. After two successful IPETs (Serbia August 2006, Australia March 2007), the IFMSA is organizing a new one in collaboration with Y-PEER/UNFPA. IPET is comprehensive and intensive training that provides peer trainers with knowledge and skills on how to further strengthen peer education programmes and lead to behavior change among youth. For more information, please contact Ms. Silva Rukavina at srukavin@student.mef.hr or you can visit their website at: http://www.ukam2007.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=89&Itemid=166

2) 21st World Scout Jamboree, 27th July – August 8th in UK

Join over 40,000 people from nearly every country in the world at the biggest ever

World Scout Jamboree! The activity programme is at the heart of the World Scout Jamboree. During the Jamboree, participants will experience a wide range of activities which will in turn inspire them, challenge them, and thrill them.

<http://eng.thejamboree.org/>

3) GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH AND ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT



Youth and ICT as Agents for Change - Geneva, Switzerland 24-26 September 2007

The Global Forum will provide a platform for youth representatives from all over the world to meet with civil society, as well as their peers, policy-makers, and representatives from the private sector, to explore ways to empower their communities and to participate more fully in society through the appropriate and responsible use of information and communication technologies (ICT).

Related web site:

<http://www.un-gaid.org/gfyouth>

Y-PEER Announcements »

1) We are glad to announce the new Peer of the Month!



Razan Alkorde from Jordan is our new peer-of-the-month! **Congratulations Razan!**

Throughout her work at the National Center for Culture & Performing Arts (PAC) of King Hussein Foundation – Jordan as a member of the National Interactive Theater Troupe, Razan learned that theater in education

methodology is very effective and has a great impact on audience especially when it deals with sensitive issues related to sexuality, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and risky behavior. She likes the opportunity of live interaction between the audience and the actors which engages the audience in live discussions and provokes them to think and reflect upon the topics presented in the play. For more information, visit:

http://www.youthpeer.net/site/posts.php?page_id=2§ion_id=2&post_id=202

2) Call for articles for Y-PEER Newsletter

It's that time again: we are preparing the next issue of the Y-PEER newsletter. As you already know, each issue revolves around a certain topic. This issue will focus on **Youth Pop Culture, Media and HIV/AIDS**.

To submit your article please contact Aleksandar Skundric at skundric@unfpa.org and Fatma Hacıoglu at fatmahoglu@gmail.com

There is no need to explain why the existence and function of Youth Advisory Panel is crucial in strategic planning and everyday work of UNFPA. In Belarus such YAP was created in May 2007. 17 young people aged 16 – 25 from different NGOs, government organizations and institutes formed UNFPA YAP in Belarus. Since the planning period when the purpose of having the Panel was being determined, UNFPA worked with young people in identifying the best ways to better address young peoples' needs/interests/specific living conditions and what is takes to meet those needs. It was a process of mutual questions, expectations, suggestions, and deliberations both from the side of YAP members as well as from the side of UNFPA staff.

On 28-29 June 2007 YAP held its regular meeting. The agenda included development of 2007-2008 work plan, YAP statute

elaboration and adoption, determination of mechanisms and time constraints of YAP members' rotation, deliberation on the current UNFPA activities, national Y-PEER network stirring up. For the first time the whole meeting was coordinated by participants themselves and not by YAP Coordinator. They took minutes, conducted energizers, facilitated brainstorming and discussions, appointed responsible people for different tasks, prepared reports and so on. As a result, the following have been decided and agreed upon: YAP Statute was elaborated and adopted, work plan and mechanism of rotation were developed, and national strategy on Y-PEER network launching was identified. Young participants actively participated in the process and they acknowledged that "adults" from UNFPA were interested in their opinions and contributions.

Did You Know? »

* United Nations Population Funds UNFPA published its annual state of the world population. For the first time in the history, more than half its human population, 3.3 billion people, will be living in urban areas... For more information please visit:

<http://www.unfpa.org/swp/index.html>

* National HIV and Syphilis Prevalence Survey in South Africa: This new report, based on antenatal surveys conducted in all nine provinces in South Africa, finds national HIV prevalence among pregnant women was 29.1% in 2006, down from 30.2% in 2005.

<http://www.doh.gov.za/docs/hivsummary-f.html>

* Oral HIV test: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says the oral HIV test is 99 percent accurate, furnishes results in about 20 minutes, by detecting antibodies produced by the subject in reaction to an infection by one of the two strains of the virus that causes AIDS. More info at:

<http://www.aegis.com/news/afp/2004/AF0403C1.html>