

Be Seen Be Heard: International Youth Day 2007

By Jamie S. Alvis

On August 12, 2007, the United Nations (UN) commemorated the eighth **International Youth Day**, giving the world the opportunity once again to celebrate the achievements of youth and their contributions to development. In 1999, the General Assembly at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth declared August 12 International Youth Day in order to promote public awareness of the UN World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

Over the last seven years, the themes of International Youth Day have varied on issues that affect development around the world and specifically the way youth are involved. The themes are oriented around the ten priorities for the World Programme of Action for Youth, ranging from education, employment and poverty to health, the environment and drug abuse. Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated at the first session, "Let us ensure that the leaders of today listen carefully to the leaders of tomorrow." That is what the International Youth Day seeks to achieve.



Nepali youth celebrate International Youth Day
Photo courtesy pokharacity.com

Continued on page 3

Profile: US Public Service Academy

By Robin Taylor, ICP Staff

The US Public Service Academy, the brainchild of Teach for America veterans Chris Myers Asch and Shawn Raymond, has found itself in the media spotlight recently, propelled by Senator Hillary Clinton's support of the Academy during recent Democratic Party presidential debates. The recent media attention has "been fantastic," said Asch in an interview with ICP. The resulting snowball effect has seen the Academy and its founders featured in diverse outlets such as Minnesota Public Radio, Federal News Radio, National Public Radio, Houston's ABC and CBS affiliates, "Time" magazine, and the *Washington Post*.



Senator Clinton announces the
introduction of legislation to create the
US Public Service Academy

While the media attention has certainly raised the profile of the Academy, it has been attracting attention on Capitol Hill since 2006. The legislation to support the Academy is currently in subcommittee and has attracted wide bi-partisan support, including Senator Clinton. With the return of Congress from summer recess, Asch anticipates increasing the number of co-sponsors, currently 12 in the Senate and 66 in the House. This fall, Asch and Raymond hope to have subcommittee hearings in both chambers on the legislation and continue to push the Academy dream towards a reality.

The driving principle behind the Academy is to develop young Americans dedicated to public service. With the

Continued on page 2

INSIDE . . .

IANYS News and Updates	2
Resources	3
Upcoming Events	3
ICP News and Happenings	4
Service News Headlines	4

TIME Shines the Spotlight on National Service

The September 10, 2007 issue of TIME magazine highlighted national service, profiling some of the most innovative and groundbreaking service programs in the United States. **The Summer of Service legislation, which ICP developed, is one such program.**

Sept. 10 issue of TIME:

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/0,9263,7601070910,00.html>

To learn more about ICP's Summer of Service proposal, visit:

<http://www.iccp.org/index.php?tg=articles&topics=385&new=0&nawc=0>





IANYS: Member Update

Michael Boampong, Executive Director, Young People We Care

IANYS member Michael Boampong, recently attended the Civil Society Day of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Brussels, Belgium.

His full report can be found here: [http://www.icicp.org/index.php?](http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&inl=1&id=17&gr=Y&path=&file=NEWS+RELEASE_GFMD_YPWC.pdf)

http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&inl=1&id=17&gr=Y&path=&file=NEWS+RELEASE_GFMD_YPWC.pdf

Ghana was represented at the recently concluded Civil Society Day of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Brussels, Belgium by youth delegate Michael Boampong from Young People We Care, which is a youth led organization that works to inspire youth to become involved in issues that affect them.

Prior to the Civil Society Day, an online multilingual consultative discussion forum was organized by the King Baudouin Foundation and the Global Youth Action Network, a youth led organization. The goal of Civil Society Day was to provide input for the agenda-setting process and to offer expert advice to contribute directly to the debates of the day.

Michael emphasizes, "The Final report of the online discussions and the Civil Society Day documents represents a voice of today's global youth and addresses how youth led



IANYS member Michael Boampong at Civil Society Day, Brussels

US Public Service Academy Continued from page 1

United States facing shortages of trained professionals in critical fields such as emergency management and response, medicine, foreign affairs, and education, the Academy would be focused on building civilian leaders that will confront future challenges. "There is a tremendous pool of young people who want to serve their country in a civilian capacity," says Asch. Though modeled on the successful US military service academies, the US Public Service Academy would be exclusively civilian-oriented, making it unique among US service academies.

Central to the Academy is its focus on service-learning. In addition to a traditional college education, Academy students would be deeply involved in service. Students would be required to take classes with service-learning components, devote time to service projects, complete service internships, and serve as leaders during service orientation for incoming students. After graduation, students would be required to spend five years in service to the nation, filling critical roles in law enforcement, education, public infrastructure, and other fields.

The Academy has received widespread support, Asch says, because he and Raymond have "built a strong coalition of advisors from different fields," including higher education, the military, non-profits, and the government. According to Asch, "the broad power of the idea" has been instrumental in bringing together such diverse support for a civilian college focused on developing the next generation of leaders through service-learning.

To learn more about the US Public Service Academy, please visit:

<http://uspublicserviceacademy.org/>

IANYS News and Updates Submissions

Are you an member of IANYS? Share your stories with other IANYS members and *Service News Worldwide's* readers! Please submit content for this section to Robin Taylor at taylor@icicp.org.

2008 Presidential Candidates National Service Proposals

With the primaries just four months away, National Service is gaining traction as an important campaign issue among Democratic hopefuls. To gear up for the 2008 race, ICP will be profiling several of the candidates positions on national service over the next few months.

Bill Richardson: His scheme consists of forgiving a portion of student loans if graduates perform a year of national service. "I want to specifically link amounts and loan structure to national service."

Chris Dodd: His plan includes elevating the Corporation for National Service to cabinet-level status and expanding AmeriCorps from its current level of 70,000 corps members a year to 1 million (with the help of a bigger college-tuition grant) by 2016.

Hilary Clinton: She publicly endorsed the idea of National Youth Service both in the Senate and on the Campaign trail. In a June address to college Democrats, Clinton said "I'm going to be asking a new generation to serve."

*Read more about presidential candidates' national service proposals online at www.icicp.org, and in the October issue of *Service News Worldwide*.*

-Alex Etra,
ICP Service Fellow

International Youth Day Continued from page 1

This year's theme, **Be Seen, Be Heard: Youth Participation for Development**, aimed to highlight the ways in which youth are valuable and key contributors to development efforts, both around the world and in their own communities. *Participation* not only means having a seat at the table, but also playing an active role by directly contributing skills and energy. The UN suggested various ways that countries and organizations could celebrate the day. They asked people to *team up* and rally the support of non-governmental organizations, government officials, academic institutions, businesses, and young people alike for the World Programme of Action for Youth. People could also *organize* and hold forums, discussions, and meetings that focused on the ways that young people focus on youth issues. They further suggested that people hold events to *celebrate* the achievements of youth and *take practical action* by alerting the media of the various events planned.

To read the full article, please visit

<http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&inl=1&id=17&gr=Y&path=&file=Be+Seen++Be+Heard.pdf>

For more information, please visit the Youth at the United Nations website:

<http://www.un.org/youth>

Resources

Youth Service America Awarding \$1,000 Grants to Youth and Teachers to Support Service-Learning

With the generous support of the State Farm Companies Foundation, Youth Service America is offering the annual State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grant for youth across the United States and Canada (select provinces). These grants support youth, teachers, or school-based service-learning coordinators in implementing service-learning projects for Global Youth Service Day 2008. To learn more, download an application and grant guidelines at www.YSA.org/awards or email Goodneighbor@ysa.org. Deadline: October 16, 2008.

Recognize Outstanding Youth and Youth-Serving Organizations with the 2008 Harris Wofford Award

Youth Service America is pleased to announce a call for nominations for the prestigious 2008 Harris Wofford Awards. The Awards recognize extraordinary achievements in three categories: Youth (ages 12-25), Organization (nonprofit, corporate, foundation), and Media (organization or individual) for actively contributing towards, "making service and service-learning the common expectation and common experience of every young person."

Award winners will be honored and presented with an award of recognition at the 19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference in Minneapolis, MN. The deadline to apply is October 19. To learn more, visit <http://www.YSA.org/awards>

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Accepting Applications

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honor young people in grades 5 through 12 who have demonstrated exemplary voluntary service to their communities. Students in grades 5-12 who have conducted a volunteer service activity within the past year are eligible to apply. The deadline is October 31. To learn more, visit <http://www.prudential.com/view/page/public/12846>

Portland State University announces online Certificate in Service-Learning

This Fall PSU launches the certificate with a course "Service-Learning Design and Practice" taught by Kate McPherson, a national expert on service-learning. This course offers teachers, administrators, and nonprofit staff a strong theoretical and practical foundation for implementing service-learning in the classroom or community. More information on the certificate program can be found at <http://www.ceed.pdx.edu/service-learning>

Upcoming Events

National Learn & Serve Challenge: Be A Solution. September 17-23, designed to raise awareness and public support for service-learning and Learn & Serve America. visit

<http://www.learnandservicechallenge.org/>

Leaders for Every Sector: National Service as a Strategy for Leadership and Workforce Development. September 18, 2007; Washington DC. For more information, please visit

<http://www.americanprogress.org/events/2007/09/service.html>.

Global Forum on Youth and ICT for Development: Youth and ICT as Agents of Change:

September 24-26, 2007; Geneva, Switzerland. For more information, please visit <http://www.un-gaid.org/>.

League of Arab States Youth Forum: November 19-22, 2007; Ein Soukhna, Egypt. For more information please visit

<http://www.lasyouthforum.org/en/index.php>.

Youth Service Institute: "Surfing the Wave of Change": hosted by Youth Service America in San Diego. December 12-14, 2007. <http://ysa.org/institute>

19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference: Youth for a Change. April 9-12, 2008; Minneapolis, MN.

<https://programs.regweb.com/metro/NYLC2008/index.cfm>

Global Youth Service Day: events take place around the world, April 25-27, 2008.

<http://www.YSA.org/NYSD>

ICP News and Happenings

ICP welcomes two new staff members!

ICP welcomes Alex Etra and Paula Fortner as 2007-2008 Service Fellows! The Service Fellows Program is a one-year, post-graduate professional commitment aimed at developing recent college graduates' professional skills in the nonprofit arena

Alex graduated from Lewis and Clark College in 2006 with a BA in International Affairs. He was Reagan-Fascell intern at National Endowment for Democracy in 2004. In the spring of 2007, Alex held a visiting research fellowship at the SAPRA India Foundation, a New Delhi-based Indian think-tank that focuses on

South Asian regional security. Alex will be working on a variety of ICP projects.

As the Talloires Network Service Fellow, Paula is assisting in project support, research, writing, and communications for the Talloires Network. She has a BA in International Relations from Tufts University, and studied abroad in Dakar, Senegal. Paula has worked as an intern for the International Institute of Boston, an agency which resettles refugees in the Boston area. Additionally, during the summers of 2005 and 2006, she worked for the Tufts University European Center in Talloires, France.

Service News Headlines

More Than 1.1 Million Volunteers Have Responded to Katrina; More Are Needed

More than 1.1 million Americans have volunteered in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, giving vital help to millions of Gulf Coast residents, and more volunteers continue to be needed to sustain the long haul rebuilding effort, said top federal officials at a ribbon cutting for a volunteer camp outside New Orleans today. Altogether these 1.1 million volunteers have provided more than 14 million hours of service in what is the largest volunteer response to a disaster in the nation's history. To learn more, go to:

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/08-20-2007/0004648442&EDATE=>

Study Release on the Interests and Needs of Community-based and Faith-based Youth Workers.

The National Collaboration for Youth and Search Institute in partnership with American Camp Association has recently released a study titled, "Is There Common Ground: An Exploratory Study of the Interests and Needs of Community-Based and Faith-Based Youth Worker." The study examined the core competencies of youth workers in both sectors as well as their interests in and concerns about working together. The resulting report provides insights regarding priorities, professional development needs, perspectives on collaboration as well as recommendations

for next steps in building common ground. To download the report, visit:

<http://www.nydic.org/nydic/staffing/workforce/istherecommonground.html>

Germany Launches Weltwärts

The German government launched a voluntary service abroad program similar to the United States Peace Corps on September, 3, 2007. It allows young people to work with aid organizations in developing countries. In 2008 about 3,000 young adults are expected to take part in the new *Weltwärts* program. The German government was responding to demand from young people who want to participate in service programs in developing countries but don't know how to go about it or how to finance the time abroad. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2763919,00.html>

UNDP Launches Community Service Reconstruction Project in Congo.

Approximately 400 demobilised combatants were present on Monday 3 September 2007 in Bunia for the official launch of the community service reconstruction project (SRC). District representatives, the UE-PNDDR, MONUC, UNICEF and NGO partners took part in this event, organised by the UNDP office in Ituri district in northeastern DRC. To read more, please see:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200709060892.html>

Talloires Network

The Talloires Network works to promote the civic roles and social responsibilities of higher education.



ICP serves as its Secretariat. To learn more about this exciting global project visit our website at

<http://www.tufts.edu/talloiresnetwork/>

Service News Worldwide is produced by Innovations in Civic Participation. This monthly newsletter is intended to be a resource for current news and events related to service, country information, relevant publications and internet resources, in addition to in-depth discussions of different types of service and the issues that accompany them.

Comments and/or suggestions are welcomed, and we strongly encourage contributions for future issues.

Please direct enquiries to info@icicp.org