

INSPIRE!

The Newsletter of african youths!

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Network of African
Youths for Development

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NAYD NEWS

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**We are hundreds of young Africans impacting positive changes
in thousands of lives in Africa! Joins us!**

TOGETHER IS BETTER!

"One hand cannot tie a bundle"

Most African dialects have various versions of this same saying. They all converge on the fact that **two heads make a better decision than one at least in most cases**. That is the idea behind NAYD. My vast and diverse exchanges with people and



youths of other continent have made it clear to me that Africa for a long time, will never be like the other continents. It will have its problems that are very particular to it and will have its possible solutions that will always be very different from that of the rest of the world. And in all of these, the youths of Africa have more issues special to them than those of the rest of the world.

This first dawned on me in a group discussion with friends, once in England, after a youth conference. I was the only African of the lot, the rest being a good mixture from Asia, Europe, USA and South America. I noticed that while most youths talked high tech and how to get the government to pay their university bills, in my mind, I worried about extreme poverty that causes death and corruption. While they worried about guns and food labels, I had nightmares about children dying of hunger and a world full of illiterate people. Though we had so much in common such as musical taste and youthful exuberance, only a blind could miss the differences that existed in our priorities. We sure were not at fault for this, but I knew then that we, as African youths need to start addressing the problems we face on the continent by ourselves before allowing others to trace the way out for us.

That is how the idea for NAYD came about. Today, after going through that idea with many youths in Africa, I believe NAYD is the best thing that could happen to us, that is, if we succeed to make it work.

In my vision, I see this massive forum where young persons involved in development or worried about the fate of the continent can share information and resources, thus making their voices heard all over the continent.

I know you believe in a better Africa. We do. Join us and let's make that real.

Pochi TAMBA

NAYD Coordinator

Spotlight on the NAYD Summit!

In March 2007, precisely on the 27th and 28th, some thirty youths from different youth led programmes around Africa met in Cameroon to lay the ground work for the Network of African Youths for Development (NAYD). The idea behind NAYD is to form a forum where African youths involved in Development can share information and network for better efficiency in the achievement of development goals. The meeting held under the theme "Sustainable partnerships for development" among African youths. Some of the key moments of the meeting have been captured in the pictures below.



NAYD family picture !



Pochi Tamba, NAYD co-ordinator



Group discussions



Group discussions



Delegates chatting



Group discussions

What the youths at NAYD2007 decided! A New Network for African Youth Groups

King David's Square Hotel in Muea was the site recently of a conference to promote the Network of African Youths for Development [NAYD]. NAYD is a new organization which aims to encourage dialogue between different youth groups across the African continent, and to act as a facilitator for youth development projects.

Around 30 delegates from youth groups in Africa attended this conference on 27 and 28 March 2007. Delegates shared their experiences of dealing with diverse issues, such as Human Rights, HIV/AIDS awareness, and Environmental matters. The conference proved to be an excellent forum for voluntary workers to share their ideas with the NAYD representatives, who included Dr Ndein Peter, Asek Stephen and Pochi Tamba

The theme that came out of this conference was that youth development is a global, as well as a local, issue. Delegates gave an insight into the regional and cultural challenges that NAYD will face in coordinating youth development across Africa.

Delegates greatly welcomed the establishment of NAYD, recognizing that youth development, to be truly effective, requires co-ordination at national, regional and International levels. Participants stressed the importance of accountability, transparency, and effective communication in co-ordinating development work through a body like NAYD.

The NAYD representatives thanked delegates for their contributions and they emphasized that NAYD will be based on a consultative process, with the sharing of ideas from the grass roots up. Delegates were excited by the creation of NAYD, and they welcomed it as an opportunity to put youth issues at the forefront of development across Africa.

Wisdom from the NAYD Delegates!

- "Before getting into humanitarian projects, have first a humanitarian heart"
Simon Check, Bamenda
- "Development is not a project. It is a process".
Asek Stevens.
- "If you want change, know your rights and bear pain"
Nkem bellami
- "Change is contagious. You just need to start it".
Asek Stevens
- "Haste makes waste"
Christain Tabifor

HOW AFRICAN YOUTHS ARE CHANGING LIVES !

AHURTOD - DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMEROON



The Association of Human Rights and Torture Defenders [AHURTOD]

was set up in 2004 by Nkem Bellamin Fonkeng, a

graduate from the University of Buea and 14 other dynamic youths. AHURTOD has an office at Long Street, Buea, and it works to promote and defend Human Rights, Good Governance, and Peace in Cameroon.

As part of its good governance projects, on 17 March 2007 AHURTOD gave a presentation at the Cameroon Cultural Centre, Buea, to encourage women and youth to register for the upcoming elections and take a stand against electoral fraud and corruption. This conference was well received, and in the coming months AHURTOD will present further seminars on this issue in the town of Tiko and at the University of Buea.

AHURTOD is also working to improve educational and vocational opportunities for inmates at the Central Prison, Buea, where illiteracy is a problem and many detained persons are under the age of 25. There is currently one voluntary teacher in the prison, but she is desperately short of basic educational resources, such as a blackboard and chalk.

In the coming months, AHURTOD will also be organizing sensitization workshops on the new Criminal Procedure Code, to educate people about their rights, and to explain how the new Code should protect people against illegal detention, torture, and other Human Rights abuses.

In all its work, AHURTOD seeks to increase the awareness of Human Rights in Cameroon, and to work in partnership with other specialist agencies.

For more information about our projects and current activities, please feel free to visit www.ahurtod.org or email us with your question at ahurtod@ahurtod.org

THE PAN AFRICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT, UGANDA

The pan African youth movement Uganda chapter traces its roots from the 7th pan African congress that took place in 1994 in Kampala and among many attendants where NGOs, governments, student movements from Africa and Diaspora.

AS the result of this conference many resolutions were made which includes establishing a pan African secretariat in Kampala Uganda to help to coordinate the activities of the organization. In the same conference the resolution was passed of forming pan African youth chapters in deferent countries.

The pan African youth movement Uganda chapter was fully registered in 1998, under the motto "one struggle many fronts" with many objectives which includes:

1. To mobilize youth for development and empowerment.
2. To sensitize youth on pan African issues and agenda
3. To start small income generating projects that give youth income.
4. To introduce youth to the leadership challenges in African situations.
5. To continue the liberation struggles of our people, bearing in mind that, that was the time when Uganda was hosting many refugees from our neighbour states in the region which includes: Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, Congo, Rwanda, and many others

So those brothers were helped very much by our organization from basic needs to protection against all odds

The pan-African youth movement Uganda chapter was able to organize dialogue Among conflicting factions out of the state arrangements

The pan African youth movement has also managed to establish pan African clubs in the universities, colleges, secondary schools hence the youth are introduced to the challenges facing our continent.

All this has helped to liberate people mentally in which we call it mental slavery.

Some of the current projects include

- Friday discussions and group study programs
- Innovation of fuel free generator that is under assembling.
- Innovation of solar cell which will be developed to solar panel.

AMON BAGARUKAYO

MAYA INITIATIVES

Fighting Poverty in remote regions!

Maya Initiatives is a two years old project that created by Pochi Tamba of Cameroon and Alexa Gainsburry of Britain. We had met during a World Youth Conference in Scotland and thought we could contribute our bit to development by putting our efforts together. Initially, we were interested in the plight of orphans affected by extreme

poverty. In remote regions of Africa, many poor orphans increasingly fall prey to social ills due to the poverty they live in. We put together MI to support these children in any way possible. Today, we have expanded our objectives to include any children affected by severe poverty.

In that light, we work with orphanages to provide needs for their children and have succeeded to keep two very brilliant orphans from dropping out of school.

Maya Initiatives is currently working on a library project for a government Secondary school in Bambilang, Cameroon.

At MI we believe that **everyone can be an actor in development, just by helping your neighbour or cleaning**

Your neighbourhood and we try to pass belief through to the youths we work with.

Pochi Tamba

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Cameroon

Association for Creative Teaching for rural Youths and Women in Development abbreviated as ACTWID KONGADZEM

ACTWID KONGADZEM N.G.O. founded on September 1st 1989 has its head office in Bamenda. ACTWID has other branches of the NGO in nearby villages in the NWP like in Bali, Bafut, Baba I, Mankon, Mendankwe, Sop, Jakiri etc. We have a total of 160 youths registered.

Main Objective: Our main objective of forming this NGO is to **work for peace and development among Youths/Women from villages**. In this wise we organized as many workshops and seminars to train youths in Peace Tiles, living peace sharing Agape love with youths voluntarily by caring for orphans and the infected with HIV/AIDS/TB. We organize and train youths on Sexual and Reproductive Health. We basically do a lot of work on Care and Support to orphans and vulnerable street children and also the rural youths living with HIV/AIDS/TB in our town and villages. We organize peace matches on every 1st December which is World AIDS Day and on every 24th March which is World TB Day to create awareness on preventive and care of both disease. We train trainers who are youth's leaders from our village groups on how to live free and share love with other youth and community members.

Projects: We have a group medicinal garden where we grow a good variety of medicinal plants with ARTEMESIA herb which is the herb that treats Malaria. Other herbs for boosting the Immune System too in our garden are Echinacea, Stinging Nettle for coughs we grow Plantain 1 and 2, Red mint Clover, Dandelion. Other herbs are Camomile, yarrow, fennel, garlic, Rosemary, comfrey and carrot. We also do small scale animal rearing to balance nutrition but in all these we have no funding.

THE DREAM OF AN AFRICAN YOUTH!

Sometimes, when I think Africa, I ask myself



what's wrong with us. What's wrong with the mother continent? Why all the main wrongs exist in their majority here in my continent? Why can't Africa be the continent where we can live without fear of war, without hunger; the continent where we can stay and grow without

envying others?

This is the kind of continent I always dream of, a continent united with peace. Sometimes I thought that it would never be possible to live in such a continent. But now I'm sure that it is possible. Yes, because in this continent there is hope, there is future, there is YOUTH: 294 millions of persons have between 10 and 24 years in Africa i.e. 33% of the total population.¹

These youths (we) are obviously the future of our continent and the future of the world; it is the way of African development. But to achieve this goal, we, young Africans, have to leave our small selfish life and think about development in Africa. And the first step for that may consist in developing communication between us, to exchange in how we can contribute to develop our countries and our continent, and how we can make our ideas into practice. We have now the opportunity to meet, to talk and see everyone, everywhere in the world, at every moment with the lowest price. So let's take this chance to make our dream real. Because I'm sure that it is the dream of all young Africans to express themselves, to be proud of his continent, to live in a safe place and to build his own future the way he thinks it should be.

NAYD is making the first step; it creates the space for all of us to express how we think we have to lead our destiny for Africa. So to all young African, everywhere you are in the world, **"get up" and join networks like NAYD, create a network or join NAYD for Africa development...**

We don't have the right to stay behind again like our elders.

*Cheikh Mamina Diédhiou, Sénégal,
cheikhmamina@yahoo.fr*

WHAT AFRICAN YOUTHS AROUND THE CONTINENT THINK OF NAYD!

KONDWANI THINDWA (MALAWI)

It is really very nice for such a forum whereby more and more youths around Africa know they will be able to contact each other and share the developmental issues which can be more important in their community and country. ***I believe that through this network we will be able to support each other as youths and also work together*** in the issues of national development in respective countries. As you know we are going towards the 2015 the MDGs, our leaders are they moving with their promises they made in Washington. It is only when we can support each other as a network youths things will be just okay.

CHRISTIAN TABIFOR BAPESU, CAMEROON

"NEVER SETTLE FOR LESS THAN YOUR DREAMS SOMEWHERE, SOMETIME, SOMEDAY, SOMEHOW YOU'LL FIND THEM"

We all have to work meticulously for success to come. Success has a direction. SUCCESS IS THE ACCUMULATION OF A MILLION FOOTSTEPS. INDIVIDUALLY EACH STEP IS SMALL. THE DIRECTION OF EVERY ONE IS VITAL. So let us all work in making NAYD a real success.

My impression of the 2007 summit is that, there was a lot of verve, hard work and commitment on the part of the participants. In fact, the 2007 summit was a repository of resources, ideas, life dream and a sense of direction for African Youth activist who want to make their footprints towards contributing to Africa's development. My organisation (BAPESU) and I should have had a large vacuum if we did not participate. It is worth heeding for NAYD. I personally encourage all those that are still hesitant to be part of NAYD that they should, they will have no regrets. ***"Its time African Youths Unite to make their voices count in Africa's Development Agenda"***

ELUKESU KBOMBI TONTON ELTON D.E Young Professionals DRC-Network Democratic Republic of Congo

We are very pleased to express our wishes to make live this network and represent so our country the Democratic Republic Congo. ***Indeed, the situation of the young people in our country in particular and of Africa generally is very worrisome,*** we have the duty to work together for this challenge.

AHIMBISIBWE BAGARUKAYO UGANDA

We are capable of a lot but we need to team up as groups and then we share information, so that means we need a framework or organizational structure which can be used to coordinate all this and I hope nayds can do it.

I think it will be a big of a big contribution to our struggle. As a reminder NAYD needs to replace the former youth league of sixties.-

YUSUF SAED SOYDA DIRECTOR, SOMALILAND

Young human Rights Activist and the executive Director of Somaliland Youth Development Association (SOYDA) based in Somaliland (Somalia). ***I am highly appreciated to join the initiative.*** How can we participate in this Network of African Youths for Development?

About NAYD

What is NAYD?

NAYD is the Network of African youths for Development. It began in 2006 and today involves close to 40 youth-led projects in about 20 African countries.

How can you join NAYD?

You are welcome to join NAYD and support the activities of its members. Write to nayd2007@yahoo.com for more information.

Have something to say!

Great! Write to us at the above-mentioned email and we will put your article on the newsletter.

We invite you to tell the world through our INSPIRE: whatever you want to share on development. Are you part of an organization helping people to be positive, are you dreaming of a better Africa? Join us and make your voice heard! Send us a mail.

Specifically, the objectives NAYD as outlined in its constitution are:

- To promote and encourage the work done by young Africans in effecting positive change on the continent.
- To facilitate exchange between youths involved in development, by creating a network of exchange.
- To further the networks formed by and for young Africans for the development of the continent.
- To promote recognition of, mobilise and enhance the capacity of Young Africans internationally and provide them with leadership skills to take action against poverty.

To achieve its vision, NAYD works with associations and groups of youths across the African continent and beyond to educate, inform and inspire others to use their power, privilege, skills and abilities to create a better world for current and future generations.

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Next month in INSPIRE!

In the second edition of INSPIRE, watch out for more news on how African youths are impacting change on the continent

And discover the new offices of NAYD in countries across the continent. Alongside cute new slots for your fun and information.

For inquiries, please write to
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