



**Youth Employment Summit Campaign, Inc.**  
Employability • Employment Creation • Equity • Entrepreneurship  
• Environmental Sustainability • Empowerment

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*Let us be clear. Half-educated, unemployed youth, with no prospect of being integrated into a better future is a prescription for disaster. If young people do not have a stake in the existing social order and political order, if they do not feel there is a way for them, why should they sacrifice today for a better tomorrow? Why should they have an interest in protecting the stability and social safety of that system?*  
Ismail Serageldin Vice President, World Bank May 1999

**On September 11, 2002** under the Co-Chair of Mrs. Mubarak and President Clinton, the Youth Employment Summit Campaign (YES) was launched by over 1,600 delegates from 120 countries, including 45 ministers. Four years of global consultation culminated in five dynamic Summit days that led to the development of a concerted response to the problems faced by unemployed youth. In four years by the end of 2007 the Campaign had organized 3 Global Summits – Egypt, Mexico, Kenya and 2 Regional Forums – India and Paraguay; launched over 80 YES Country Networks, initiated more than 400 projects all over the world, and published more than 100 original publications.

**On January 1, 2007 the YES Inc.** was formed to serve the following objectives:

- (1) **Develop the YES Fund:** Global Fund for Youth Entrepreneurship (Clinton Global Initiative)
- (2) **Build Capacity of the 84 YES Country Networks** to develop and implement programs
- (3) **Organize the 3 remaining YES Summits** (2008, 2010, 2012)
- (4) **Develop YES Academies** - Regional Youth Employment Centers

**Our Challenge – consider this:**

- ⇒ World population has reached 6 billion. One billion are young people between the ages of 15 - 24 years, out of which 850 million are living in developing countries.
- ⇒ Estimates project that over the next three decades the global labor force between the ages of 15 - 24 will increase in sheer numbers by another 1.2 billion. Most of this growth will be in developing countries.
- ⇒ One of the greatest challenges facing the world is to generate productive work opportunities for the young people in developing countries and enhancing the skill level of youth in developed countries.
- ⇒ Out of 6 billion of us, 1.3 billion live on less than a \$1 a day, and 3 billion under \$2 a day.

**Our Design Principles:**

Three major principles underlie this mission.

**First**, the YES Campaign believes that every person is capable of leading and seeks to provide opportunities for youth to realize their leadership abilities. **Next**, the Campaign believes in the power of knowledge-sharing and is aware that many effective practices exist. The challenge is to identify these practices and to create opportunities for dissemination, replication, adaptation, and learning. **Third**, the YES Campaign strives to act as a catalyst that inspires fresh and innovative approaches to human development by connecting critical stakeholders in the private and public sectors. The Campaign focuses on youth, the creative change agents of today, to drive this effort.

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**1) Develop the YES Fund** – A Global Fund for Youth Entrepreneurship. In today’s world with burgeoning populations there are just not enough jobs in the private and public sectors. The YES fund will work to create markets and unleash entrepreneurship in developing countries by helping young people to identify business opportunities, prepare their business plans and compete for the best ideas. This fund will support young entrepreneurs to participate in the Business Plan competition and the winners will be provided small-scale risk capital, start-up funding, and innovative business development services to start their businesses.

**(2) Build the capacity of the 84 YES Country Networks.** To generate an in-country infrastructure of youth-led networks to disseminate information, develop programs, be advocates for innovative policies, and implement projects that promote youth employment and leadership. Currently there are over 80 YES Country Networks in various stages of development. They will be provided technical support through a YES Leadership Institute that will provide them with leadership and entrepreneurship training.

**(3) Organize the 3 remaining YES Summits (2008, 2010, 2012):** To continue to hold and maintain a burning focus on the issue of youth unemployment on the global agenda: we do this by convening stakeholders at our Global Summits which have been held in Egypt 2002, Mexico 2004 and Kenya 2006. The next one is scheduled for 2008 in Azerbaijan. At these Summits – the youth delegates meet with experts, donors, practitioners, and other stakeholders to develop program and policies that will help build in-country capacity to provide the education, training and other services needed by young people to find productive work.

**(4) YES Academies:** Without locally driven research and development activity we will not be able to do justice to local needs. Therefore it is essential Regional Youth Employment Centers be developed that contextualize and build capacity for promoting youth employment through research, training, curriculum, policy and program development. This would be achieved by exploring economically viable markets in the region and share those opportunities with the actors and policy makers on the ground.

*...All good ideas are pipe-dreams if not backed by committed leadership and investment – we are seeking yours. We have spent the last five years placing the issue of youth employment on the global agenda, making a call for action, building coalitions, and piloting good ideas. We need your help to move the Youth Employment Campaign to the next level to our shared passion for generating youth employment to the resources that can make it happen. We have uncovered bubbling youth leadership and drive; identified promising sectors for employment generation; enrolled world leaders; built partnerships; discovered quantifiable, innovative and practical solutions; and overseen the development of world-wide youth networks that provide the perfect vehicle for unleashing the talents and energies of youth to create sustainable livelihoods. With your active involvement we can make a world of difference in the lives of thousands of youth in developing countries around the globe.*

*We invite you to make a difference...*

“...After the final no there comes a yes and on that **YES** the future of the world hangs...”

~ Wallace Stevens (1879 – 1955)

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