



a look inside **TakingITGlobal**
JULY 2003

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Preparations for TakingITGlobal Youth Day 2003

TIG Youth Day 2003

This year, TakingITGlobal will celebrate its second annual Youth Day (TIGYD). Having been inspired by the success that last year's event enjoyed, we have decided to celebrate this year's event on the day TakingITGlobal was founded: September 15.

Keeping in mind the initial vision behind TIG Youth Day, this year's celebrations will involve various kinds of social, recreational, cultural, educational, as well as communal activities that enables many youth organizations to unite in celebrating their achievements in the previous year.

Vision:

To celebrate the founding of TakingITGlobal around the world, and to further expand the network of young people.

Mission:

The ultimate mission of TIGYD is that of reinforcing the central tenets of TakingITGlobal - to inspire, inform, and involve young people around the world - with the added element of celebrating both our organization and membership's achievements.



From Left: TakingITGlobal Youth Day meetings in Syria, Ghana, and Jordan

TIG Youth Day International Organizing Committee

The TIG Youth Day International Organizing Committee is responsible for coordinating various TIGYD youth celebrations in their respective communities. At the same time, they are tasked with monitoring and managing other events and activities related to TIGYD globally. The International Organizing Committee works closely with the TIGYD Coordinator based in Toronto.



IOC Members Include...

Rana Bilal Ahmad
Reginals Tawanda Chiris
Ahmed Ali Mire
Damien Profeta
Ezekiel Kevin Annan
Jennifer Corriero
Kristina Boje
Maitreyi Doshi

Mike Blanchard
Mike Newon
Nedal Zahran
Sylvanus S. Murry
Nwigwe Chibueze Jerry
Thomas Igeme
Titilayo O. Akinsanmi
Yara Kassem

TIGYD 2003 Timeframe:

July 15 - Establishment of the TIGYD Organizing Committee. See (<http://tyd.takingitglobal.org>)

July 21 - Deadline for TIGYD activity proposals

August 1 - Promoting TIGYD to membership

August 15 - Online chat session with the Organizing Committee



July 2003 Theme: Understanding Poverty

What is poverty? Is it the presence of hunger? Is it the lack of shelter? Is poverty not having a job or is it living one day at a time? Does Poverty represent powerlessness, lack of recognition and loss of freedom?

In the month of July, the TakingITGlobal online community tackled these issues and worked toward understanding the impact of poverty on everyday lives of those directly affected by it. The theme, 'Understanding Poverty' not only was aimed at exploring the perceptions we hold about poverty, but also how those directly afflicted by it confront the issue on a daily basis.

Objectives for this month's theme

- Get members to share their understanding of what Poverty means to them;
- Encourage members to engage in informed discussions that address the impact, reasons, and solutions to poverty;
- Hearing the opinions of those directly affected by poverty;
- Develop a clear understanding of how poverty could affect individuals, families, ethnic groups, and nation-states; and
- Understanding how people are surviving on that dollar a day.



Newsletter on Poverty

In the newsletter entitled, 'Can you live on a dollar a day?', members were offered a chance to reflect, imagine and think of what poverty meant to them. This feature gave the readers the opportunity to imagine what life is like for the less fortunate, and how they might live everyday. The newsletter also served to delineate and expand on the action plan for the month, the monthly theme mid-year report and the Hidden Realities Contest.

'Tell Ten Friends Contest'

This month also marked the first round of the 'Tell Ten Friends Contest.' TIG members who tell ten friends about benefits of membership on our website and sign them up would automatically qualify to enter a contest, possibly qualifying for a choice of an HP printer, scanner or digital camera!

July 2003 Contest Winner: With over eighty-five members entering the contest, Judith from Kenya, was the lucky winner of a new HP scanner!



Expression >>> The Global Gallery

The Revamp

The Global Gallery revamp has been a long time coming since the first proposal for a version 4 of the Global Gallery just over a year ago. The overhaul of the Gallery was done with a focus on customization for the artists and less dependence on Global Gallery administrators and volunteers to complete logistical tasks, such as the making of thumbnails and the creation of exhibits.

New Thumbnail Tool!

The most obvious change to the Gallery is the look. The design team created a wonderful layout. Also, we've implemented the use of the much anticipated larger thumbnails! Speaking of thumbnails...

By using the thumbnail tool members can now create their own thumbnails as part of the submission process. This will save volunteers and staff a lot of time and allows the artist to decide what his or her thumbnails look like.

'My Gallery'

With the creation of the 'My Gallery' section, each member of our site may now create their own exhibits and collections, as well as manage them. Having artists create their own exhibits not only saves us time, but also allows for a shorter delay between the submission and approval steps.

The introduction of collections allows for collaboration among our members and offers a new and interesting way for artists to interact with the Gallery and each other. Other new features include an advanced search tool, Global Gallery and Artist



July 2003 Contest Winner



July 2003 Contest 1st Runner-Up



July 2003 Contest 2nd Runner-Up



July 2003 Contest 3rd Runner-Up

stats, and an 'Of the Week' component, which showcases a new exhibit and collection each week.

A contest archive has also been added to the Gallery where you can find information on the premise of a contest, its winners (and all of the other artwork that was submitted), and the resulting postcard.

Global Gallery Contest: Hidden Realities

For July's theme of Understanding Poverty, the Global Gallery ran a contest entitled "Hidden Realities".

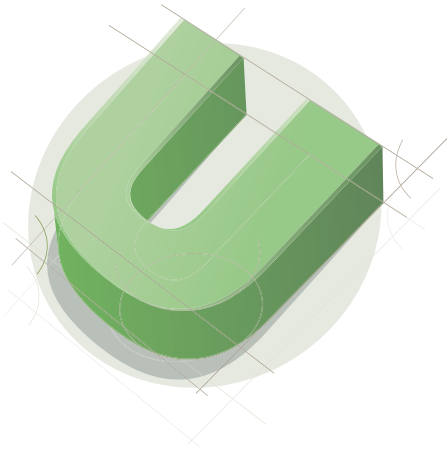
Every day millions of people run around the planet to go to school, drink a glass of water, eat at an exotic restaurant, read a newspaper, buy a book, kiss their partner, build a future, watch the news, find a job, discover a film, or just sit in a park and talk about the world, exchanging ideas and thoughts. And all of this is taken for granted.

Yet on Earth, the place that we all call home, there are many realities that are forgotten, hidden in the shadows of the shiny lights of this global village.

What does poverty look like in your area? What does prosperity look like? Come and share your artwork! Let's work to understand and bridge the gap between the poverty-stricken and the wealthy.

This contest ran from July 1 to July 22, 2003.

Understanding *the Issues...*



The development of the 'Understanding' section of the TIG site has been a long process riddled with new ideas, and compromises. An educational initiative, the section on 'Understanding' consists of informational units on ten major global issues, with concise background information, statistics, analysis, and links to organizations that are actively in dealing with these issues.

At this point in time the pages for the 'Understanding' section are almost complete. They have been developed using a template designed based on the information that our volunteer researchers gathered for this project. Each page includes a background paper on the issue at hand, a flash introduction, quotes, statistics, articles, websites, projects and events surrounding the issue.

Flash Introductions

With respect to the development of the Flash introductions; our team has been working steadily to complete them by our August 1st deadline. These introductions have been the birth child of many debates and discoveries at both a personal and a collaborative level.

Teacher Feedback

We have had some fantastic feedback from teachers who have acted and will continue to act as advisors for this particular project. Their input has helped create a working framework for the design and functionality of this section and what it needs to look like in order for it to be of use to educators, students and the broader TIG community.

These activities will be included in TIGed, a new and exciting education initiative aimed at transforming the secondary school experience for both students and educators. Selected activities are meant to serve as guidelines for teachers who wish to familiarize their students with various features of the 'Understanding' section.



Next Steps...

The development of TIGed will begin once Phase I of the project, meaning the launch and approval of the 'Understanding' section, is complete. This entails the development of a user-friendly system which would allow teachers to create personalized pages and set up projects

for their classes as well as manage their students' profiles and work.

They may also interact with other on-line classrooms and learn from what is being done elsewhere on the same or different subjects of study.

New Additions to Our Global Team

In July, TakingITGlobal welcomed five new young Canadians as members of the team. Four of the group, funded through the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade "Young Professionals International" program, are now posted on six month adventures working on TIG-related projects at our partners around the world, while one remains in Toronto to help coordinate the development of Thematic Initiatives.

The group includes:

In New York, USA, **Beenash Jafri** will be based at the Global Youth Action Network, helping to involve youth in global-decision making, including at UN Headquarters. Beenash just finished a BA (Hons.) degree in Environmental Studies at York University. Last year, she worked with YouthActionNetwork in Toronto to coordinate the development of "FireItUp" a guide to youth activism. She speaks English, French, Spanish and Urdu.

'I'm pretty new to the protocol of the UN and am looking forward to familiarizing myself even more to all its inner workings as I move around these circles – the networking and professionalism aspects of the internship are the key areas I would like and need to work on most for the next several months.'



In Geneva, Switzerland, **Alex Fielding** is based at the Secretariat of the upcoming United Nations World Summit on the Information Society, for which TIG coordinates youth involvement. Alex just graduated with a BA, majoring in Political Science, Music, and Development studies. He speaks English, French, and Spanish. He spent three months conducting research in rural Mexico.

'I learned the importance of networking, prioritizing and knowing your 1-minute sound byte inside and out ...'

In Brussels, Belgium, **Adam Jantunen** is at the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions working on youth employment and entrepreneurship issues. Adam just completed a double degree in History and Political Science at the University of Ottawa, where he was also founder of the campus Model United Nations club. He speaks English and French.

'There have been a lot of high points...going to the National Day celebrations last Monday, making travel plans, getting the best haircut of my life at a Turkish barber shop...'



In Sao Paolo, Brazil, **Melina Laboucan-Massimo** is based at the South American Regional Office of the Global Youth Action Network, helping to increase TIG's Latin American audience. Melina has been active as Aboriginal representative to the City of Edmonton Youth Council, while pursuing a BA degree majoring in Spanish. She speaks English and Spanish.

'I have met many interesting people at events I have attended outside of the office. People who work with other Indigenous organizations has been a highlight.'

In Toronto, Canada, **Huss Banai** joined our headquarters team, developing collaborative strategies to engage youth in global challenges. Huss has just completed a BA (Hons.) in Political Science at York University, and has also studied at Georgetown and Harvard Universities. He co-founded and was editor of a scholarly journal, "The Independent". He speaks English, Farsi, Arabic and French.

'Overall, it has been a smooth and productive two weeks so far. I haven't had any problems fitting in. Everyone is extremely kind and helpful; I feel as if I've been working here for ages.'



2003 DFAIT Internships Orientation Week

This year, TakingITGlobal was selected, along with the City of Toronto, as a new host organization for DFAIT's 'Young Professionals Program. Five selected interns began their 6-8 month placements with TakingITGlobal in July.



Interns at an orientation session on the history of development presented by Katia Berdichevsky

Prior to leaving Canada, the group came together in our Toronto office for a comprehensive 10-day briefing incorporating leadership development, background on international development, and skills training in areas such as project planning, fundraising, event-management, networking, public speaking, and communications. The orientation benefited from the participation of several TIG advisors and mentors, including Patty Chilton of Pollution Probe, Virginia Mantycki of Business Unusual, and Andy Burnside of the Resource Development Shop. The interns also received extensive training on the functionality of TakingITGlobal's online community, and one-on-one guidance on creating a detailed work-plan for their placements..



TakingITGlobal staff retreat at the Centre Island, Toronto, Canada

Orientation sessions also included discussions on the role of Information Communication Technologies for Development and the significance of TakingITGlobal as an organization dedicated to youth expression and action. Topics ranged from exploration of development from an historical perspective to practical sessions on workshop organizing, fundraising, and leadership. In addition to knowledge-based sessions specifically related to the interns' responsibilities, a number of informal gatherings - such as dinners and a staff retreat - were arranged in order to foster interaction between existing and new members of the staff, outside the working environment.



July saw continued development of the Youth Creating Digital Opportunities initiative (YCDO). In 2002, TakingITGlobal joined with the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) as founding members of the YCDO Coalition - dedicated to realizing the potential of young people to use information and communications technologies for the development of their communities, through support for youth involvement in technology policy, networking and learning, and support for youth-led projects. Within the framework of YCDO, TakingITGlobal is facilitating youth involvement in the UN World Summit on the Information Society taking place this December in Geneva.



A team of youth participated in a special "Intersessional Meeting" in Paris July 14-15th. The meeting had been to continue negotiations on the Declaration and Action Plan which is expected to be signed by world leaders at the Summit in December.

At the meeting, the Youth Caucus lobbied to ensure the paragraph on youth was kept in the Declaration despite more than two thirds of its length being cut. The Youth Paragraph for WSIS remains by far the strongest of any UN Summit held (in last year's Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, youth barely rated a mention).



Above: Members of the Youth Caucus at the WSIS Intersessional Meeting in Paris, France.

Speech at the Plenary

Ana Pascual made a strong speech on behalf of the Youth Caucus to the plenary, and we also worked closely with the Trade Union movement and the Gender Caucus to see them strongly reference the importance of sustainable youth employment, and young women in their own presentations. Side meetings were held and partnerships formed with numerous groups including the International Chamber of Commerce, the United Nations Environment Program, UNESCO, the Swiss government, and others, for various YCDO activities at the Summit in December.

"Youth are the driving force behind technological innovation and entrepreneurship. We all know this."

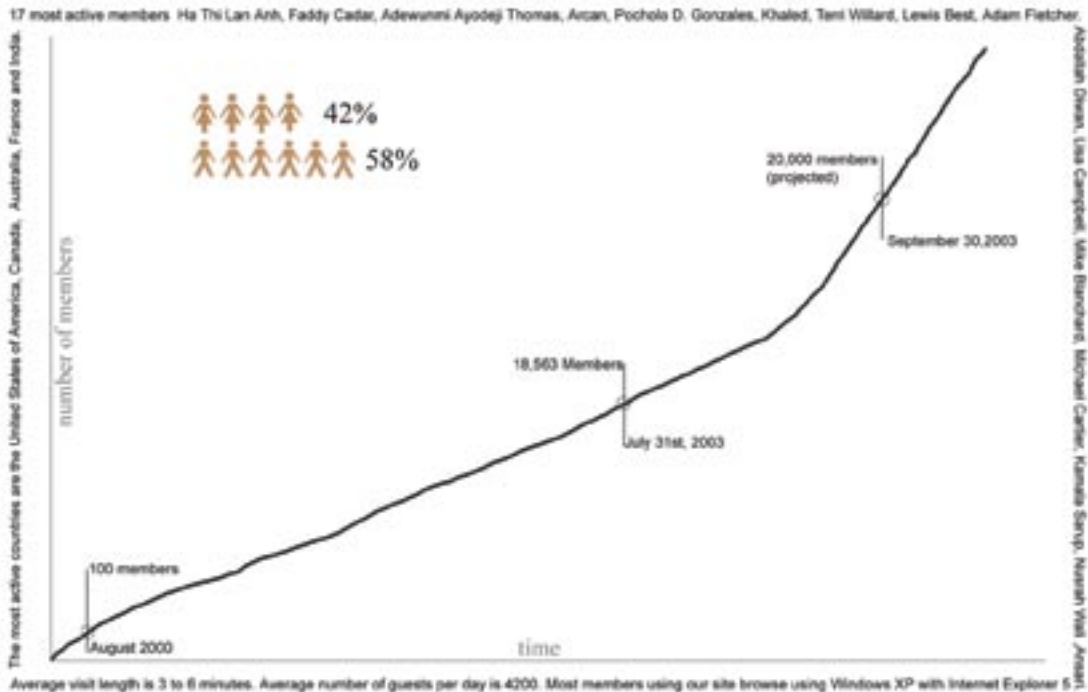
-- Ana Pascual, WSIS Intersessional Meeting, August 2003

Other YCDO Developments in July...

- The WSIS Youth Awards were launched, seeking applications from outstanding projects or companies run by youth under 30 that use information and communications for development, health, education, human rights, peace and employment. An overall prize will be presented at the Summit in December by the Global Knowledge Partnership, with numerous additional category prizes.
- TakingITGlobal and UNICEF jointly launched a video competition on the theme "Communication", inviting children around the world to submit 1-minute amateur films or animations that will be displayed at the World Summit in December.
- Industry Canada committed \$60,000 towards youth activities at WSIS, complementing other YCDO funding provided by the Swiss government, the GKP, the World Bank, and others.

In less than three years, TakingITGlobal has experienced rapid growth, significant accomplishments, real impact and worldwide recognition. From humble beginnings to **18,560 members in 220 countries** and well on the way to surpassing **20,000 members** in the next two months, TakingITGlobal is experiencing exponential growth. With **2086 events** ranging from the Arts to Volunteering being hosted from Barbados to Baghdad listed for this year, we're providing youth opportunities to come together and learn from each other, to co-operate and create change together. The newly revamped Global Gallery allows for our **200 artists** to showcase their collective **1858 pieces of artwork** through collaborative exhibits, collections and a host of other ways. For the **525 authors** and their **1100 articles** our zine, I-Cubed, provides a youth literature-hungry audience **18,000 strong**. With all this information being absorbed, TIG Messenger allows for members to discuss what they think of well... anything, with over **100,000 messages** being sent in near-real time. TakingITGlobal ensures that its members have an efficient and speedy way of communicating with each other. The 626 projects that are currently being pursued by our members are testament to the depth of activity that TakingITGlobal fosters. With **592 Workshops** being held in various parts of the world by our members, we ensure that people without access to the web and non-members have an opportunity to learn something new or participate in socially productive work.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



TakingITGlobal member profile #146
Meet Ezekiel from Ghana.

Ezekiel is leading a team of committed young Ghanaians who work to inspire, inform, and involve youth in the possibilities and opportunities available to them through the use of Information and Communications Technologies. In 2002, he held a Ghana-wide conference to which some participants traveled many hours to attend. He also flew to Egypt where he shared his story at the Youth Employment Summit. He is one of thousands of young TakingITGlobal members taking practical steps towards solving the global challenges we all face.

To meet more amazing people like Ezekiel, visit www.takingitglobal.org and connect to over 18,000 members in over 200 countries.

WWW.TAKINGITGLOBAL.ORG
1800 MEMBERS 200 COUNTRIES 900 PROJECTS

TakingITGlobal 
INSPIRE INFORM INVOLVE

In July, TakingITGlobal formed a partnership with *Outpost Magazine*, agreeing to build the Content Management System (CMS) for the online portal of the magazine. In exchange, TakingITGlobal will place a series of advertisements in the print issues of the magazine. The above advertisement, which was created by our design staff, will be featured in the August-September issue of *Outpost Magazine*.