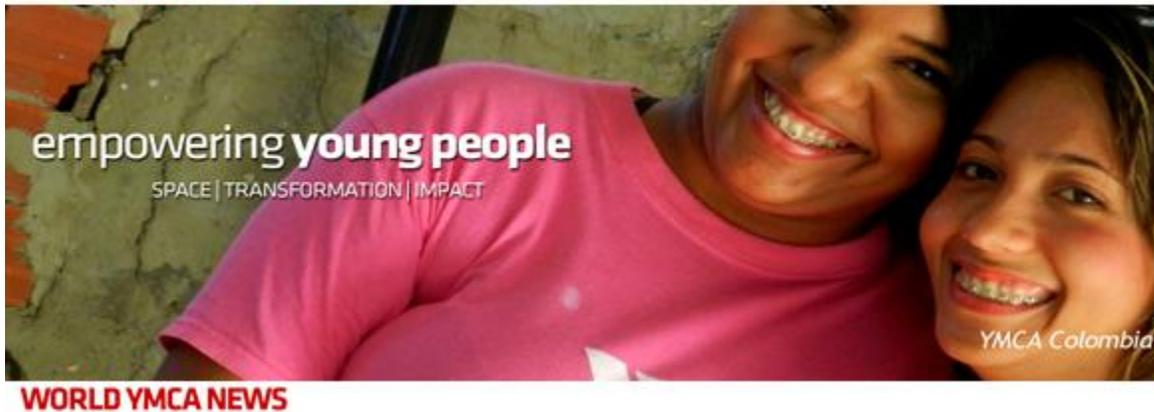


World E-News March 2013



empowering young people
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Jericho, an important milestone in the new way Strategy

- March 28, 2013



View of Jericho

The 63rd Executive Committee of the World Alliance of YMCA will take place from 4-7 April, hosted by the East Jerusalem YMCA in Jericho. The Executive Committee is the highest governing body of the World Movement between two World Councils and meets once every year. The Committee is composed of 33 representatives of all the five geographical regions among which are 8 young people and 11 women.

The meeting in Jerusalem comes exactly a year after the Nairobi meeting during which the statement on Youth Empowerment was adopted as the core focus of the world movement, giving impetus to the NEW WAY strategy and culminating the

journey began in Hong Kong to Estes Park, Colorado. The 63rd gathering of the Executive is therefore an important milestone in reviewing, defining and grounding actions that will see successful implementation of the NEW WAY strategy.

Important expected outcomes of the meeting include:

- Discussion on the next strategic directions of the world movement 2014-2018. This will include a consultative process with National Movements for ownership and collective preparedness;
- Discussion and approval of the 18th World Council Programme process;
- Update on the Change Agent initiative and the next milestone: Prague festival; and
- Deliberations of specialised committee such as Investment and John R Mott Foundation.

The 63rd session also presents a unique opportunity for the leaders of the world movement to be exposed to the realities of Israel and Palestine and also to express their solidarity with the people affected and afflicted by the ongoing crisis in the region. Participants will visit YMCA programmes empowering youth in Jericho and Beit Sahour, not forgetting some historic sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Dr Saeb Erikat, Head of the Palestinian negotiating team, will address the committee as key note speaker.

Be a part of this important discussion and milestone by following us on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#). Log in and share your views and contributions on what you see as the main strategic issues the world movement should focus on in delivering youth empowerment.

Carlos Sanvee

Advisor to the Secretary General, Communication and Branding

One Million Voices - Excitement is building!

- March 20, 2013



Excitement is building! The World YMCA's One Million Voices research project with young people aged 15 to 24 is gathering momentum.

YMCAs of Australia, England, Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, Ireland, India, Macedonia, New Zealand, Brazil, Mexico, Gambia, Sierra Leone, South Africa have communicated their willingness to be involved. The World YMCA asks you to join this game changing opportunity.

Outcomes: The World YMCA's One Million Voices (OMV) project will contribute to the understanding of youth perspective on social justice issues and barriers and opportunities relating to employment, health, civic engagement, and organizational involvement. We will hear young people 15 to 24 years' collective and individual orientation on individual, family, and society, and present and future orientation. The learning will inform the policies and practices of youth-serving agencies everywhere, inspire new programmes, funders and advocates for empowering youth.

Outputs: Each National YMCA will receive their own national data set on the results for their country and a Global report that will be both graphical and narrative.

Timescale:

Pilot project phase from June 2013 to December 2013.

Project implementation from January 2014 to November 2015.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is sharing their learning from their

Work4Youth project and they are offering their expertise and learning on youth employment from their extensive experience.

We are hearing that everyone is talking about youth voice, youth research, and youth expectations. The question is whether the YMCA worldwide is going to be leading or following? YMCAs are saying they want to lead.

Be part of the process to engage and involve youth voice! Send us an email and sign on.

Contact us today for more information on the World YMCA's One Million Voices project at: selma@ymca.int

Change Agent Training on Civic Engagement in Uruguay

- March 15, 2013



Young People, Transforming Governance, and Civic Engagement were the main topics of the Change Agent training that recently took place in Uruguay.

From February 27th to March 2nd of this year, 14 Change Agents came together from all over Latin America for a fun week of team building and training in Montevideo, Uruguay. The programme was led by a group of WAY and LACA leaders and trainers, and emphasized the role young people by focusing on themes of civic engagement, governance, global citizenship, and our collective responsibility to work together for a better world. See highlights from the training in the video below:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=9Nr293GfUj8

Laura Andrés, a YMCA Change Agent from Mexico and participant in the training, observed:



“Being a Change Agent means, first of all, that you have to be convinced that you are one, and that you have to assume that identity. Then you need to be

aware that you have a great responsibility and commitment to other people. You need to know that transformative processes can sometimes fail or come out differently than you expected. However, the journey is what matters: the efforts, mistakes and mainly, the lessons learned and experiences had. Participating ...was very rewarding for me because I realized that many young people like us are being given the opportunity to be Change Agents, and we can only achieve change through teamwork. We may be from many countries in Latin America, with diverse ideas and hearts, but we are all united by one YMCA movement with the goal of building a better world for those who live in it now and those to come.” [english translation]

[original in spanish]

"Ser un agente de cambio implica primeramente, convencerte y asumirte como uno de ellos, después estar consciente que tienes una gran responsabilidad y compromiso con otras personas. Saber que las transformaciones son procesos que en muchas ocasiones pueden fallar o no salir como esperabas. Sin embargo, lo importante es el camino recorrido, los esfuerzos, las equivocaciones y principalmente los aprendizajes y las experiencias adquiridas. Participar ... fue muy enriquecedor, porque me di cuenta que muchos jóvenes tenemos la oportunidad de ser agentes de cambio y sólo podemos lograrlo a través del trabajo en equipo. Diversos países latinoamericanos, diversas ideas, diversos corazones, todos unidos por el movimiento YMCA y por el objetivo de construir un mundo mejor, para quienes vivimos ahora en él y para aquellos que están por venir"

The World YMCA is working with young people like Laura to create change worldwide. Through the YMCA Youth Empowerment in Action Programme, young people are raising their voices to advocate for more resources and programmes for youth, more comprehensive youth policies, and for organisations to be socially responsible and accountable to young people. In this way, YMCA Change Agents are equipping more young people to have the confidence, leadership skills, and practical competencies that will allow them to become proactive citizens in their society.



Romulo Dantas—Executive Secretary for Youth Empowerment—and Jose Varghese—Advisor for the Secretary General of the World YMCA—have a good time at the Change Agents training session in Montevideo.

YMCA Change Agents have the following responsibilities:

- Be the Change
- Communicate the Vision
- Inspire Action

Later this year, all 240 Change Agents will come together as a group of global leaders for the “Love 2 Live” Festival in Prague. The annual festival, organized by YMCA Europe in August this year, is projected to bring together more than 10,000 young people between the ages of 14 and 30. While there, the Change Agents will attend workshops on global citizenship and leadership, and practical training sessions where they will put the knowledge they have learned into practice.

The YMCA Change Agents initiative is creating a new generation of leaders. Trainings are taking place in YMCAs across the world throughout 2013, at organized events as well as online via the Change Agents e-learning platform designed by the World YMCA. Our vision is to create a global community of young people who fulfill their potential and are empowered to make change happen. These young leaders will be a new, vibrant expression of the global YMCA movement as they impact their communities across the world.

[More pictures of the event >>>](#)

Tell us: Did you know about the Change Agent programme before this? Are you currently supporting a Change Agent? We'd love to know.

Send us your comments to : comment@ymca.int

Change the World Through Youth Exchanges

- March 7, 2013



“Do you believe you can change the world?” asked Norwegian Minister of International Development, Heikki Holmas to a 300-strong crowd, mainly comprising youth from both Norway and those on exchange programmes, at the Fredskorpset Youth Conference on 27 February in Oslo, Norway.

He was met with a resounding “yes” by the youth, who all cheered and shouted enthusiastically. Sharing the podium with him were other illustrious speakers, including His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, who opened the event.

“You are the present. You are the now. You need to be listened to now!” And listen we did, to the stars of the day: the Young Peace Performers (YPP). A group of 15

youth from 7 different countries, these youth delivered a strong message:

- A peaceful and just world is possible through global solidarity
- We can eradicate absolute poverty by 2030

The YPP group of 15 youth from 7 countries have travelled through Kenya, Tanzania and now Norway advocating for justice and peace. The YPP is done in partnership with Y Global Norway, through Fredskorpset, the national agency tasked with youth exchanges. Africa Alliance has a partnership with Y Global, whereby we have two S2C Ambassadors on the exchange, whose role it is to run S2C workshops in the communities. Other partners are Kenya YMCA and YWCA, Tanzania YWCA, Sudan YMCA, Sri Lanka YMCA, Joint Advocacy Initiative (JAI) of East Jerusalem YMCA and Palestine YWCA.

As YPP coordinators, we spent the next few days evaluating the current programme, and planning for the upcoming 2013/14 programme which focuses on Palestine, and also tours Jordan and Norway.

Some questions we asked ourselves and encourage you to ask in your youth exchanges:

- How does the youth exchange influence the individual participants to work for a more just world?
- What type of interventions at a local level can a youth exchange have and how do we ensure these are sustainable?

Gil Harper, International and Corporate Affairs, Africa Alliance of YMCAs