



Youth Delegates find a common voice

From September 4 – 6 2008, Youth Delegates from various European countries, South Korea and Australia joined together with representatives from ECOSOC accredited youth organisations for the Annual Preparatory Meeting of Youth Delegates.

During the meeting, the Youth Delegates discussed the issues of concern for young people in their countries, and the priority areas of action for the Youth Delegates:

Millennium Development Goals: Youth delegates recognise that young people play a key role in the promotion and understanding of the MDGs. Many of the goals directly relate to young people, and the involvement of young people is vital to the achievement of the MDGs.

Volunteering: Youth Delegates look forward to ensuring that the contribution of youth and youth organisations to volunteering is acknowledged by the UN, and would like to have input into the upcoming resolution on volunteering.

Participation: The Youth Delegates are particularly passionate about the opportunities for young people to participate and meaningfully contribute within the UN and within member states. The inclusion and engagement of young people is a theme that will be discussed in many of the statements made by Youth Delegates to the Third Committee over the next week.

Climate change: Young people everywhere are concerned about the future of our planet, and are leading their communities in working towards environmental sustainability and “green” practices.

The meeting was co-organised by the Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi and the European Youth Forum with support from the Finnish Ministry of Education.

Key Dates and Side-Events

October 6: UN Youth Delegates Working Breakfast with the UN Program on Youth, 8.30 – 9.30am, 13th floor, 2 UN Plaza.

October 7: Launch: “Growing together Youth and the United Nations”
The United Nations Programme on Youth invites you to the NY launch of the inter-agency publication “Growing Together Youth and the United Nations”, followed by an interactive discussion among youth, Member States and UN agencies about how to improve collaboration among all stakeholders. 1.15 – 2.30pm, Conference Room 9, UN.

October 9: Working Breakfast: What youth is doing to improve the MDGs
The Swiss Mission invites you to this working breakfast with a focus on how to achieve the MDGs on a national level. 8.30 – 9.30 am at the Swiss Mission, 29th floor, 633 Third Avenue.

October 15: How and why work with youth to achieve the MDGs?
The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Youth Delegates to the 63rd session of the UNGA will co-host a side-event on the importance of working with youth to achieve the MDGs. 1.15 – 2.45 pm in the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 16th floor, 235 East 45th Street.



Who are the 2008 Youth Delegates?

In 2008, the following countries are sending a Youth Delegate to the UN GA or CSocD:

Australia	Azerbaijan	Bulgaria
Finland	Germany	Ghana
Jamaica	Mexico	Netherlands
Nigeria	Norway	Romania
Slovakia	South Korea	Sweden
Switzerland	Thailand	

Youth delegates typically make a speech within the Third Committee of the General Assembly, advocate on behalf of young people at the UN and organise a side-event to raise awareness of key issues.

It is a fundamental tenet of any democracy to include young people in decision-making. The UN Youth Delegates call on ALL countries to include a Youth Delegate in their delegation. For more information about Youth Delegates, see the website of the UN Program of Youth: www.un.org/youth

International Youth NGOs present International Youth NGOs with ECOSOC accreditation following the UNGA:

- European Youth Forum
- Pan-African Youth Union
- Pax Romana
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
- World Christian Student Federation
- YMCA

Five minutes with...



Young Joe, 17, from Seoul, South Korea

- Young Joe means “long happiness” in Korean
- Young Joe was recruited in cooperation with the National Council of Youth Organisations in Korea
- Young Joe says young people in Korea prioritise study and academic achievement, and often feel like “study machines”
- Volunteering and youth employment are the issues Young Joe is looking forward to promoting at the UN
- In any spare time he might get in NYC, Young Joe wants to check out a few jazz bars and visit New York universities

We'd love to hear from you! Please contact the editors Elizabeth Shaw (Australia) and Christoffer Grønstad (European Youth Forum) on youngnews2008@gmail.com

Keep in touch with your Youth Delegates! Visit www.unyouthdelegates.org, learn more and subscribe for the electronic version of our newsletter!