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The newsletter of the Global Youth Network for Drug Abuse Prevention

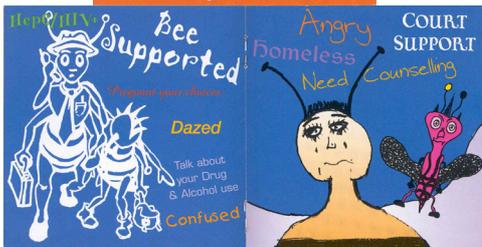
ISSUE 7
September 2002

This issue



Theme Meeting on Working With Youth From Ethnic and Indigenous Minorities on Drug Prevention, 2-7 June, Brisbane, Australia

The latest in the ongoing series of hands-on meetings focused on working on drug abuse prevention with young people from ethnic and indigenous minorities. Youth and youth workers from Guyana, Finland, Lithuania, Canada, Australia and New Zealand took part. The meeting was held at the Yungaba cultural centre, a heritage building that was originally a receiving office for new migrants to Australia and has now been dedicated to the indigenous community in and around Brisbane. One corner of the complex is also devoted to a radio station that broadcasts in the various native languages and addresses themes relevant to the target audiences.



"Hands On Theme Meeting on Working With Youth From Ethnic and Indigenous Minorities on Drug Prevention"

UNDCP INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
GLOBAL YOUTH NETWORK
June 2-7, 2002
Brisbane, Australia



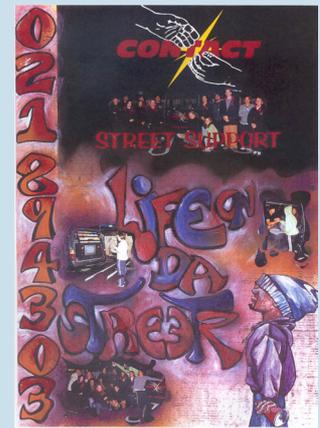
The objective of this meeting was to write a "How-To" guide on working with youth from ethnic and indigenous minorities on substance abuse prevention that youth around the world could use to develop relevant programmes. This time, we tried a new methodology based on using personal narratives or stories about participants' own lives and experiences. It was very interesting to see that despite huge differences in the circumstances and types of minorities that were involved, a number of common themes emerged.

The meeting was conducted by Ben Norris, Professor Cindy Shannon and Gautam Babbar. Myrene Portman provided logistical support and ensured that the participants learned something about local culture while working hard.

To contact any of the participants of the meeting, please visit our web site at http://www.undcp.org/youthnet/youthnet_whats_on.html



Gautam Babbar, UNDCP, Vienna



What is Contact?

Contact is committed to proactively assessing and responding to the most vulnerable youth. Meeting face-to-face with young people who are out on the streets, offering them support, entertainment alternatives, monitoring their safety and gathering information about current youth needs and issues are among the main activities of Contact. The project's objectives include identifying and monitoring local youth hot spots and inner city neighbourhoods, identifying youth-at-risk and coordinating emergency responses to meet their basic needs as well as linking them with appropriate youth service providers in their communities.

How to attract youth and get them to ask for help?

This was one of the trickiest issues we had to face. We decided to create a mobile entertainment unit with a television and a video playstation connected to the back of the Contact street support van. This vehicle is run by five youth workers and patrols the streets on busy nights. Youth approach the van to 'check it out' and take turns at the playstation. The Contact staff who are on board take this opportunity to engage with the youth, they chat with the kids, offer food, information, advice and support.



Contact staff are actively recruited from the community and agencies specializing in the care, support and education of young people. Twenty team members of both genders, different cultures and levels of experience are rostered on duty along with professional youth workers.

Contact is committed to the holistic well-being of young people and the indigenous Maori health principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi.

Contact Street Support, C/-Nawton Community Centre
108 Grandview Road, Hamilton 2001, New Zealand
Mobile: 021-894 303 (Andre McLachlan)



The Hub Community Youth Centre supports and encourages the development of youth and family community-based activities and initiatives. It promotes a holistic approach for the participation of the wider community in efforts to promote its own health, welfare and safety. The Hub provides services including education, assessment, treatment, alternative activities and active supervision where needed to support and encourage youth for a positive future.

At the Hub, the potential and skills of youth are acknowledged, and they are empowered to take charge of their lives, actions and attitudes. Staff provide support to youth, helping them to 'size-up' their lives, make changes and set and achieve goals.

Using programmes like

lifeskills education, employment programmes, drug and alcohol treatment, literacy/numeracy support, budgeting advice and counselling, as well as fun stuff, like breakdancing, weight training, art-bombing, pool and showing videos, the Hub strives to become the true Centre of youth activity in the area and to help youth achieve responsible positions as members of a larger Community.

If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always gotten



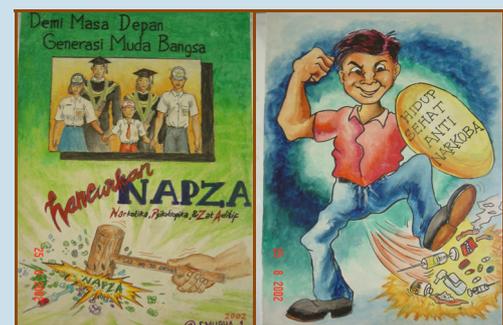
The Hub Community Youth Centre
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The Asian Youth Congress on Drug Abuse Prevention, 26-29 August, Bali, Indonesia

The Asian Youth Congress ended after four days of workshops, brainstorming sessions, training, performances, outdoor activities and much more. Over 150 youth from more than 20 countries actively participated in every aspect of this congress making this event a youth-powered gathering. New friendships were formed, new prevention methods were discovered and the impetus for youth-led prevention was invigorated.

Four topics were presented and brainstormed on by sub-groups of participants: school-based programmes; what can youth do?; the community and youth; and media literacy.

Recommendations and action plans for each topic were developed exclusively by the participating youth. As a result, the participants came up with a pledge to implement in their countries and communities.



Youth Pledge

We, the youth of this generation, on this day, the 29th of August 2002, at the conclusion of this, the Asian Youth Congress on Drug Abuse Prevention held in Bali, Indonesia, representing the following nineteen nations:

Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Papua, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States of America, Solemnly pledge to do our best to uphold and maintain the following conclusions:

1. **We as the young generation pledge to be united against drugs despite our differences in culture.**
2. **We as the young generation are committed to not using gateways drugs and stand firm in our decision to say NO to drugs.**
3. **We are committed to treating drug addicts not as criminals, but as human beings and to always support people who want to be free from drugs.**
4. **We are committed to be active and proactive and to create and implement effective activities for drug abuse prevention.**

It is our intention to make this pledge a reality, not only in word, but also in deed. As a first step, we shall share what we have experienced here with our peers back at home. Moreover, from this moment forward we shall not forget this worthy cause on which our future happiness, success and life rests - to create a drug-free world.

The Asian Youth Congress on Drug Abuse Prevention was organized by:

Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa (YCAB) Indonesia

www.YCAB.org

Hosted by:

National Narcotics Board (BNN) of Indonesia

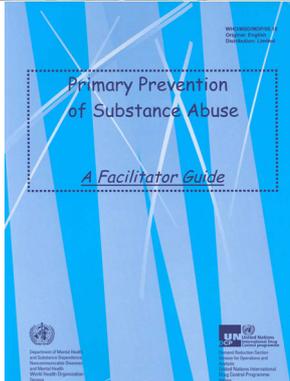
The Colombo Plan – Drug Advisory Programme

And supported by:

Bureau for International Narcotics & Law Enforcement Affairs, US Department of State (INL)

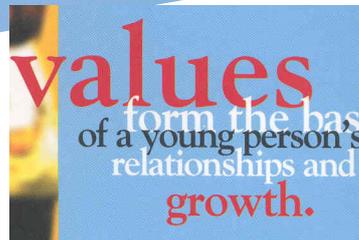
The Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse

UNDCP and WHO are jointly implementing the Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse otherwise known as the Global Initiative. In 2001, the regional coordinators of the Global Initiative (now Ms. Teclia Butau in Zimbabwe, Ms. Nadia Gasbarrini in Russia and Ms. Katie Walker in Vietnam) identified some 100 organizations with a proven ability to work with young people at the community level in Belarus and Russia; South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia; and the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. We trained these organizations, which we call 'local partners' in 2001, to develop and implement activities to prevent the use of substances (not only illicit drugs) by young people through action at the community level. After the training, the local partners undertook local situation assessments and, on that basis, developed prevention projects for which they received small grants. We are already proud of a project that supports prevention at the community level around the world, but we think that there is something else that makes our project really exciting. The experience that our local partners are gaining by developing and implementing their



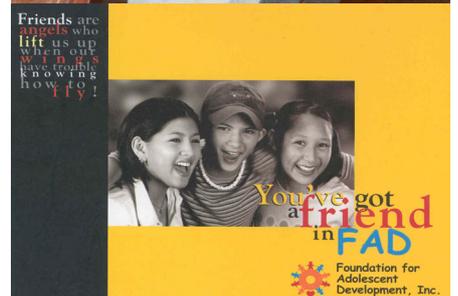
prevention activities is precious and could be useful for others around the world. For this reason, we are organizing meetings where our local partners share their experiences and develop best practices on a particular topic. The first round of meetings is complete. We had a meeting in the Philippines, rapidly followed by one in South Africa for all of the South African partners, in Russia for all of the partners in Russia and Belarus, in Thailand and in Vietnam. The topic of the meetings was the process of assessing the local situation and planning the prevention activities. Each of the meetings produced best practice statements that will be consolidated in a publication by a consultant, Mr. Gary Roberts, from the Canadian Council on Substance Abuse, who also designed the activities during the meetings. In the next year, we are planning two more series of meetings. The first will be about alternative activities for prevention. We have still not decided on the topic of the second one, so stay tuned for the news, but we hope you will find them all of interest.

If you would like to know more about this project, contact:
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Photos are from different workshops and activities with and by our local partners.

Scanned material from FAD programme, Philippines.



EVENTS

22-27 septembre ■ September ■ septiembre

World Forum Montreal 2002

Drugs, Dependencies and Society: Impacts and Responses

The Forum provides a global, open platform for those involved in or affected by drugs and dependencies, to tackle the causes and consequences in an innovative way at all levels of society. Illicit drugs (including synthetic drugs), and licit substances (such as alcohol and tobacco), as well as compulsive gambling will be covered.

Forum Secretariat:

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Email: secretariat@worldforumdrugs-dependencies.com

Web: <http://www.worldforumdrugs-dependencies.com>

Palais des Congrès de Montréal

4th Youth Summit on Human Rights: "Strengthening Youth Leadership for a Sustainable Human Rights Advocacy", 18 October, Baguio City, Philippines.

This summit is geared at consolidating and developing youth leaders for active participation in human rights advocacy by organizing, developing and implementing activities and materials on human rights issues affecting youth at the national and international levels.

Contact:

Jepie Papa or Ryan Silverio

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European Conference "Search for Quality in School-based Drug Prevention", 27-29 November, Hamburg, Germany.

The conference aims to initiate a debate in Europe about the effectiveness of drug prevention education for young people, aged 12-18. The project "The European Healthy School and Drugs" is based upon the assumption that effective drug prevention for schools focuses on a combination of objective, factual information and a personalized approach in prevention, such embedded in an intensive and continuing prevention programme.

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http://www.ayn.ca/band_home.asp. The AYN is a cool site with loads of action for youth of all nations to explore. There is a news centre, hot links, powwow listings, job board and even a chat line. Everyone is welcome.

<http://www.gdpn.org>. The Drug Prevention Network of the Americas (DPNA) is a non-profit corporation committed to the education and prevention of drug abuse in the western hemisphere.

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/for_you/aboriginals.html. Health Canada has many online resources concerning aboriginal health issues. Visit the site and check for yourself.

DISCLAIMER Highlighting non-UN events and web sites in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by UNDCP. These are provided here as a resource for young people and youth workers. The views expressed in these sites are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of UNDCP.

School-based Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting, 2-5 September, Vienna, Austria



From 2nd-5th of September, an expert and youth hands-on theme meeting on school-based drug prevention took place in Vienna, Austria, at UNDCP Headquarters.

The aim was to tap the knowledge of expert researchers and youth groups working in school-based prevention to share the theoretical and practical aspects of this topic. The idea was to identify principles that have demonstrated some effectiveness in different places.

Youth group representatives from Bulgaria, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Russia, South Africa and Tanzania attended the meeting.

UNDCP Vienna organized this meeting and working groups were facilitated by Gautam Babbar, Stefano Berterame and Giovanna Campello from UNDCP and by Rod Ballard (Queensland Education Department), who also conducted the literature review that was used as the background paper for the meeting.

The meeting set up small working groups of about 10 people, a combination of experts and youth representatives, who discussed the issues that need to be considered when planning and implementing school-based prevention programmes. Topics discussed included the role of schools in drug abuse prevention (what schools can realistically do), a review of "successful" and "unsuccessful" methods and approaches, student involvement, teacher training, school environment, sustainability, managing drug incidents, community engagement, parental involvement and methods for monitoring and evaluation.

The last day and a half was spent discussing a set of principles for drug abuse prevention education in schools. A basic list was written by Rod Ballard and was discussed and modified by the working groups. These principles are meant to represent the main ideas and guidelines for a group wanting to set up a school-based prevention programme.

One main idea was that school-based drug abuse education should be part of a broader health curriculum and part of an overall healthy school, rather than an isolated topic. Interactive working methods were highlighted as being more effective if used in the correct context. Also, the importance of student involvement, as well as parent, teacher and community involvement and training, was emphasized by many.

As a follow up to this meeting, Rod Ballard will develop a guide on school-based drug prevention, which will be the next in the series that already includes booklets on using sport and performance for prevention. The draft will be sent to the participants for comments before the final version is published.



Tamara Maman, UNDCP

This is your newsletter. Tell us how we can improve it and what you would like to read about. Send us your comments and suggestions at the address given above.