

International Symposium on Youth Participation and Empowerment

Preamble:

Central to the building of strong, healthy and inclusive communities and nations is the active participation of young men and women. So often this participation is adult defined, lead and structured, and in reality, quite tokenistic in terms of the scope and youth responsibility and leadership.

The International Council on National Youth Policy as an international agency is fully committed to supporting the full and meaningful participation, leadership and empowerment of young people in the design, implementation, evaluation and re-orientation of youth strategies. ICNYP encourages the creation of supportive environments and programs at the community and national levels which enable young women and men to be proactive in facilitating positive change. ICNYP recognises that across the globe there are many exciting examples of where young people are designing and leading initiatives which are making a difference in terms of community and national life.

This International Symposium seeks to bring together young people active in community and nation building with youth policy and program makers to share experiences, ideas and aspirations and to identify what motivates and sustains successful youth designed and lead actions.

This Symposium is also a response to the frustrations of many young people whose feelings were captured well in the words of Mathagonda Magapi – *‘we as young people always yearn for something that we never really get – a feeling of control of our situation, and of our lives’*.

Symposium Theme:

Youth Empowerment and Participation – Getting Beyond the Rhetoric and Slogans

Symposium Objectives:

1. To listen to the voices and stories of young men and women about their experiences regarding participation and empowerment.
2. To expose youth policy makers and practitioners to best practice and thinking regarding youth participation and empowerment.
3. To gain a deeper understanding of the processes and methodologies to maximise youth participation in development.
4. To develop guidelines, tools and a Declaration on youth empowerment and participation.
5. To build an ongoing network of people interested in ensuring youth participation as the fundamental basis for youth policy and practice.
6. To enrich national youth strategy and action plan formulation processes.
7. To create a unique international networking experience.
8. To exposure participants to the richness of Goan and Indian culture and youth development experiences.

Symposium Venue:

Ronil Beach Resort, Goa, India (www.alcongoa.com). Goa is the smallest state of India and lies 600kms south east of Mumbai. A Portuguese colony for 450 years (until 1961), it has evolved with a unique heritage and culture, and as a place where east meets west. Annually, two million visitors descend on Goa enjoying its stunning beaches, food, architecture and built and cultural tourist sites. Parts of Goa have been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. India has a strong tradition of innovative youth development. It is also the home of 540 million young people under the age of 25.

Symposium Dates:

29th October – 2 November, 2007

Symposium Program Structure:

29th October

4.00pm	Registration
6.00pm	Official Welcome
	The Story and Lessons of People Power – ‘The Save Goa Campaign’
7.30pm	Welcome Dinner and Introduction to Goa

30th October

9.00am	Morning welcome and reflection
9.15am	Keynote presentation – ‘ <i>The Participation of Young People Development - How to make it REAL and how to make it WORK</i> ’
10.20am	Morning tea and snacks
10.45am	Youth Stories of Participation (x 4)
12.15pm	Lunch and networking
1.30pm	Structured Workshop 1 – ‘ <i>Defining the Elements of Successful Youth Participation</i> ’
3.00pm	Afternoon tea and snacks
3.30pm	Skills workshop 1
7.00pm	Dinner and Cultural evening

31st October

9.00am	Morning welcome and reflection
9.15am	Keynote presentation – <i>‘Building Supportive Environments that Maximise Young Peoples Success in Designing and Implementing Civic Action’</i>
10.20am	Morning tea and snacks
10.45am	Key note presentation – <i>‘Making the Voice of Youth Central in National Youth Policy Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation’</i>
12.15pm	Lunch and networking
1.30pm	Skills workshop 2
3.00pm	Afternoon tea and snacks
3.30pm	Tour of Goan Youth Projects
7.00pm	Mandivi River Cruise and dinner

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9.00am	Morning welcome and reflection on tour of youth projects
9.30am	Keynote address – <i>‘Making Schools a Place to Learn and Practice Participation’</i>
10.30am	Morning tea and snacks
10.50am	Structured workshop 2 – <i>‘Defining the Key Ingredients of Successful Participation’</i>
12.30pm	Lunch and networking
2.00pm	Optional tour of old Goa Writing of DRAFT Declaration
7.00pm	Dinner and dance

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9.00am	Morning welcome and reflection
9.15am	Presentation and discussion of Symposium Declaration
10.40am	Final Symposium participant reflections
12.00noon	Farewell Lunch

Skills Workshops:

The Symposium will offer a choice of skills workshops would be offered e.g.:

- ‘Building a Culture of Participation – Necessary Tools’
- ‘Youth Participation – lessons from the fight against youth unemployment’
- ‘Youth Participation – lessons from the fight against AIDS’
- ‘Involving Young People in National Youth Policy Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation’
- ‘Gender and Formulation Participation’
- ‘Teaching Youth Enterprising Skills’
- ‘Role of the Media in Building Participation’
- ‘Private Role of National Youth Service Programs in Building a Culture of Participation’
- ‘Youth Participation via New Communications Technologies’
- ‘Tools and Indicators for Maintaining and Evaluating Effective Youth Policy’ etc

Proposed Organising Committee:

Peter Kenyon (Convener), Anne Fevre, Daniel Gerer, Jennifer Dowling, Sun-Jae Lee, Arthur Gillette, Baby Jacob, Kamel Nabulsi, Lyndall Osborne

For Further Information:

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