

# News from Youth Business International

## *January 2011*

A global network of independent initiatives providing young people with the opportunity to start and grow their own business



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*YBI plays vital role in Global  
Entrepreneurship Week*

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*Youth Business America joins the network*



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*Winners of the YBI People's Choice Award  
announced*

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*New YBI report looks at how to increase  
access to capital for young entrepreneurs*



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# Youth Business America starts operations!

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*Youth Business America (YBA) receives approval to begin working in California and reveals plans to build a national network.*

Youth Business America (YBA), a newly launched non-profit organisation helping young people start and expand their own business, has become a member of Youth Business International.

Based in Oakland California, YBA will be able to benefit from experience and support from YBI member organisations around the world as it grows its operations to support young entrepreneurs through a combination of access to loans, mentoring and training. YBI advised YBA in its start-up phase and has now formally accepted YBA into its network as a pilot member.

"I am delighted to welcome Youth Business America into our global network," said Andrew Devenport, CEO of Youth Business International. "YBA is ready to play a valuable role in helping young people in the Bay Area create businesses which can drive economic success in the community."

Youth Business America's mission is to generate employment and promote the economic health of low and moderate income communities. By creating a national network that provides young people who otherwise would lack access to capital with loans and business mentors, YBA aims to help young entrepreneurs launch and grow successful businesses.

"We have received an enthusiastic reception from our community partners as there are limited sources of capital for young people who want to start businesses," said Henry Rogers, CEO of Youth Business America. "We have benefitted greatly from Youth

Business International's expertise

in developing new programmes and have received tremendous support and encouragement from its member organisations around the world."

Youth Business America received notice of approval of its California Finance Lender's License in late November, permitting it to commence operations. As a first step, YBA has activated relationships with more than 10 community partners in the six Bay Area counties where its pilot programme will focus. These community partners provide entrepreneur training to young people and will be able to refer candidates to YBA for support under its programme.

Youth Business America received start up funding of \$750,000 from the Arthur Guinness Fund, which is a global programme to support social entrepreneurship around the world. The Arthur Guinness Fund support for YBA was part of a Clinton Global Initiative commitment. Additional funders include Barclays Capital and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.



*Above: Henry Rogers, CEO of Youth Business America*

*"YBA is ready to play a valuable role in helping young people in the Bay Area create businesses which can drive economic success in the community."*

You can read more about Youth Business America at <http://www.youthbusinessamerica.org>

# Youth Business International celebrates Global Entrepreneurship Week in 17 countries

*A round up of YBI's contribution to Global Entrepreneurship Week 2010, which brought together over 7.5 million entrepreneurial people from around the world.*

YBI played a pivotal role in this year's Global Entrepreneurship Week, which ran from 15-21 November. Around the world YBI provided official hosts in 10 countries, and organised events in several others - engaging thousands of people

and encouraging more support for young entrepreneurs.

Here is just a sample of the activities held by the global YBI network:

## Canada

*Official host: Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF)*

Last year's Country of the Year hosts CYBF held even more activities to celebrate GEW in 2010. CYBF launched the week in the Canadian Parliament with an event featuring 10 entrepreneurs. CYBF ended GEW in Calgary at a press event held by Colin Davison, owner of Stealth Acoustical and Emission Control Company, and featuring Minister Blackett who formally announced a CAN\$1 million dollar contribution to CYBF in Alberta.

One interesting campaign to highlight is called 'Show Us Your Entrepreneur'. CYBF asked all Canadians to share their story of entrepreneurship to demonstrate personal stories and the definition of what makes an entrepreneur. Young entrepreneurs could send a standard or electronic postcard to CYBF, sharing triumphs, memories and milestones on their entrepreneurial experiences.

More at [www.showusyourentrepreneur.com/](http://www.showusyourentrepreneur.com/) and [www.cybf.ca](http://www.cybf.ca)



## Belize

*Official host: Youth Business Trust Belize (YBTB)*

The Belize Youth Business Trust partnered with the University of Belize to offer an Entrepreneur Symposium on 16 November at the Belmopan campus. The purpose of the event was to offer a broad range of lectures on pertinent information and resources that are critical to starting a new business and to motivate the students to work hard and develop innovative businesses for Belize's economy. YBTB also partnered with the High Schools in Belize City to hold an Innovative Entrepreneur Contest which was judged on 17 November - the winner was a team who developed "The Flamp", a battery operated tableside lamp-clock-fan to be marketed to Caribbean residents who frequently encounter power outages.

More at <http://www.youthbusiness.bz/the-news/1135-global-entrepreneurship-week-at-ybtb>

## Barbados

*Official host: Barbados Youth Business Trust (BYBT)*

BYBT held a breakfast meeting at the US embassy in Bridgetown, several events to promote entrepreneurship in schools and also held a Barbados Entrepreneurship Conference attended by more than 500 people.



# Youth Business International celebrates Global Entrepreneurship Week in 17 countries

## Dominica

*Official host: Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT)*

DYBT themed its week 'Dismantling Barriers' to reflect its goal of removing obstacles which hinder youth development. This included maintaining and obtaining the support of strategic partners such as banks, government councils and universities. DYBT held its seventh annual graduation and awards ceremony, recognising facilitators, mentors and entrepreneurs. The week was launched by the Dominican Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, the Honourable Justina Charles. DYBT also staged an exhibition with 40 entrepreneurs and 21 business students of the Dominica State College.

DYBT also partnered with the Waitukubuli Entrepreneurs Le've' (WEL) in conducting a one-week emerging entrepreneurs and mentors retreat with 21 emerging entrepreneurs and fifteen mentors.

During the whole week, GEW attracted tremendous attention from the television, radio and the print media. DYBT entrepreneur Marcus Cuffy also represented DYBT at an entrepreneurs' breakfast panel in Barbados hosted by BYBT and sponsored by the US embassy.



## Trinidad & Tobago

*Official host: Youth Business & Tobago*

Youth Business Trinidad & Tobago ran a series of lectures and workshops throughout the week on topics ranging from how to advertise your business and small business accounting to public speaking and mentoring skills. They also hosted a Youth Entrepreneurship Services Expo.

## Paraguay

*Official host: Fundacion Paraguaya*

Fundación Paraguaya carried out a range of activities, from workshops directed at women entrepreneurs, seminars on understanding macro and micro economic-business decision making and business idea and best product competitions.

# Youth Business International celebrates Global Entrepreneurship Week in 17 countries

## India

*Official host: Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST)*

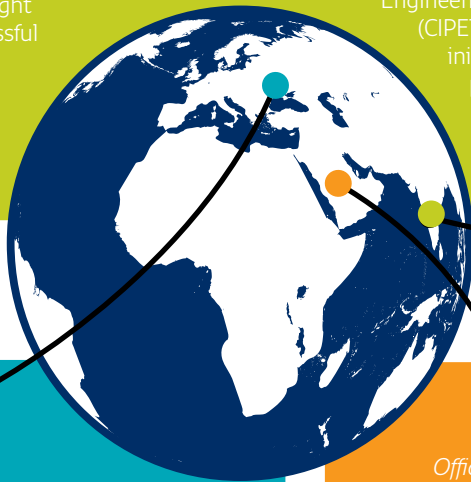
In India BYST conducted over 70 special GEW programmes, interacting with over 11,000 people, both in person and online. In Chennai, the BYST teamed up with IBM for, "Sowing the Seeds of Entrepreneurship" an event inspiring young entrepreneurs at a local secondary school. The event brought together successful entrepreneurs and educators, as well as officials

from both BYST and IBM. The children heard from Prince Nehemiah of IBM, who told the children, "the goal of your studies should not be to get good marks and secure any job, but to explore your potential, explore your interest and serve your community by taking up entrepreneurship."

In Hyderabad, Southern India, an awareness generation programme called Reaching Out was organised at the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET). The focus of the initiative was support potential entrepreneurs in fine-tuning their business ideas. All

participants took an oath to support one other person in engaging with entrepreneurship in the coming year.

More information at [www.unleashingideas.org/blog/india-inspires-youth-gew](http://www.unleashingideas.org/blog/india-inspires-youth-gew)



## Ukraine

*Official host: Youth Business Ukraine*

Youth Business Ukraine (YBU) focused on social entrepreneurship by unveiling a newly created Social Entrepreneurship Centre and training programme for potential social enterprises. In addition, YBU strengthened its partnership with the media, conducting a press tour for journalists to meet with young entrepreneurs followed by a discussion of youth entrepreneurship issues in mass media. YBU facilitated discussions on the need of continuous enterprise education from the ages of five to 18 and development of the corresponding educational programme, presented at GEW (for the first time in Ukraine).

## Saudi Arabia

*Official host: The National Entrepreneurship Center (The Centennial Fund)*

Saudi Arabia began its Global Entrepreneurship Week celebrations a week behind the global campaign, due to the Eid-al-Adha holiday. His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Centennial Fund, opened the Kingdom's participation in GEW and threw his weight behind the global campaign:

"We are all working through the guidance precious to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, which aims to sustain the development of this nation and people, especially young people. From this point of Grace of God Almighty, we open this week, the world initiative GEW, which aims to develop an entrepreneurial culture and encourage it as an option for a decent life and an alternative to the work of the job."

More at [www.unleashingideas.org/blog/saudi-arabia-continues-global-attempt-entrepreneurship](http://www.unleashingideas.org/blog/saudi-arabia-continues-global-attempt-entrepreneurship)

## Other activities around the network

### Scotland

The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust held nearly 40 events for GEW including business start-up workshops, lectures on entrepreneurship at colleges and universities and a cash-award business idea competition.

### South Africa

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) used Global Entrepreneurship Week to host different sessions for young entrepreneurs. Aspiring young entrepreneurs as well as young people who are already in business got a chance to learn more on what the NYDA and other institutions have to offer during the different awareness sessions. Each session hosted no less than 200 young entrepreneurs with the aim to promote entrepreneurship among young South Africans, create awareness of what it takes to start a small business. They will also provide a network and collaboration platform for small, medium and micro enterprise practitioners as well as showcasing the integrated service provided by NYDA. NYDA also offered aspiring entrepreneurs access to a group mentorship session.

More at <http://bit.ly/hqDE2I>

### Argentina

Fundación Impulsar hosted its national annual dinner in Buenos Aires, where the 2010 Entrepreneur of the Year was announced.

More at [www.fundacionimpulsar.org.ar/2010/11/felicitamos-emprededor-2010](http://www.fundacionimpulsar.org.ar/2010/11/felicitamos-emprededor-2010)

## Syria

BIDAYA signed an MoU with Shell LiveWIRE in order to support more young entrepreneurs. Shell LiveWIRE will provide training in how to start your own business and BIDAYA will provide financial support and mentoring services to approved trainees. BIDAYA also organised a joint activity with Junior Chamber International where participants in the Chamber's previous events had the opportunity to network with BIDAYA and other possible financiers.



## Russia

Among a busy schedule of GEW events Youth Business Russia expanded into its third region, Vladivostok, the far east of the country. Local business leaders and officials were joined at the town hall by 170 young people keen to learn more about the support that the new office would offer. The deputy mayor, who was among the guests, gave her full support to the programme saying, "We are committed to giving every support to youth business".

More at <http://en.iblfrussia.org/news/detail.php?ID=416>

## Israel

Keren Shemesh held 10 activities to celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week. Highlights included an entrepreneur conference in the Sami Shamoon College in Be'er-Sheva, featuring a young entrepreneur panel with the participation of the Keren Shemesh general manager Rael Goodman, and hosting a delegation from Nigeria in the framework of an educational business entrepreneur development tour in cooperation with the Galilee College for assisting developing countries.

# The Prince of Wales highlights growing problem of access to capital for young entrepreneurs

*The Prince of Wales spoke at YBI's annual dinner about the growing problem of finding ways to help young people start their own business around the world.*

The Prince of Wales has for many years been an advocate of young people's issues, and he used his address at the YBI dinner to highlight the fact that youth unemployment was continuing to grow in many countries.

Young people, he said, were being hit disproportionately hard by the economic downturn – but that young entrepreneurs possessed the creativity, drive and determination to help their local economies grow and prosper.

Speaking alongside the Prince at the YBI's annual dinner was Jacques Attali, founder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

and President of PlaNet Finance.

Attali commented it was important not just to enable entrepreneurs to flourish but to ensure that entrepreneurs developed in ways that did not damage the environment, or even helped to tackle environmental issues such as climate change.

Earlier in the day the two organisations, YBI and PlaNet Finance, signed a cooperation agreement focusing on three areas: in-country partnership, resource-raising and advocacy.



*Below: HRH The Prince of Wales delivers his speech at the YBI annual dinner*



*Above: Fathuma Nisreen meets HRH The Prince of Wales*



*Above: Hitender Punyane in his workshop*

## Two entrepreneurs from Sri Lanka and India jointly win People's Choice award

Congratulations to Hitender Punyane from India and Fathuma Nisreen from Sri Lanka who have been announced as the joint winners of the Youth Business International (YBI) People's Choice award.

The poll, which is part of YBI's Entrepreneur of the Year competition, gave you the opportunity to tell us who inspired you the most and who was the best role model for entrepreneurship. Barclays Capital supported the 2010 YBI Entrepreneur of the Year competition.

Hitender Punyane, who makes customised air-conditioning panels for industrial machines, was a joint winner alongside Fathuma Nisreen, whose company Ramsi Fashion designs and manufactures traditional outfits and bags aimed at Muslim women.

The runner up was Wenhui Ma from China, whose local handicrafts business Yi Xin Yuan Folk Culture Company employs nearly 100 people, the majority of whom are women.

Nearly 16,000 votes were cast in this year's competition, which was run in conjunction with Global Entrepreneurship Week. The competition was so tight that the polls were kept open beyond the deadline, but even then the two eventual winners could not be separated, with nearly 7,000 votes each!

Read more on the YBI Entrepreneur of the Year People's Choice Award here: <http://www.youthbusiness.org/entrepreneur-of-the-year.aspx>



# New YBI report shows how to increase access to capital for young entrepreneurs

*Youth Business International has released a report to help to answer a key question: How to increase access to start-up loan funding for young entrepreneurs?*

The report, entitled *Youth Entrepreneurship: Beyond Collateral* is the third in a series which looks at the issues and challenges surrounding youth entrepreneurship.

Beyond Collateral looks at the crucial issue of how to increase access to capital for young entrepreneurs and makes the case for recognising the value of non-financial support as an alternative to collateral, to enable them to access start-up capital.

The report argues that young people in particular – the business champions of the future – face significant barriers to setting up in business. Lack of collateral is a major reason why many cannot access finance from banks and other mainstream financial institutions.

The report shows that when young people receive a combination of financial and non-financial support their loan repayment rates improve and their businesses become more successful and sustainable. Subsequently the report calls for recognition of the importance of non-financial support as an alternative to collateral and other types of guarantee to secure start-up lending to young entrepreneurs.

Andrew Devenport, CEO of Youth Business International, commented that:

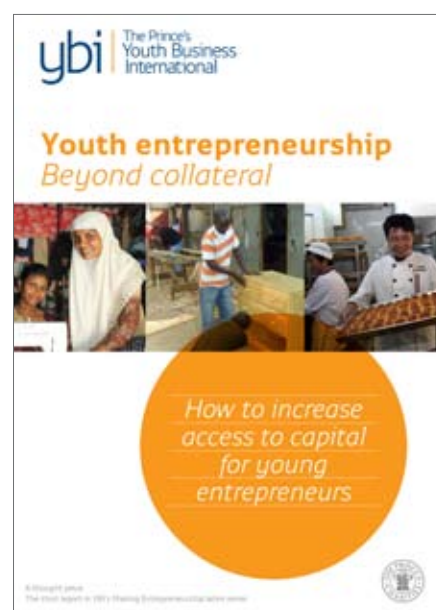
“Young entrepreneurs are absolutely critical to economic growth, job creation and social change, but a lack of access to a loan can stop them in their tracks. Unlocking more start-up capital for youth enterprise is where YBI can make the most difference to the young people we support, and the communities in which they live. We need a fundamental shift in how non-financial support is recognised in financial systems.”

The report was launched on the first day of 2010's Global Entrepreneurship

Week and was co-authored by six members of YBI who hosted the week, in Barbados, Canada, Dominica, India, Paraguay, and the Ukraine.

As part of the launch, Beyond Collateral was the focus of an online discussion between an exciting group of business people, academics and economists who shared their thoughts on the work and the important issues it raises.

The lively debate touched on many topics, with all those involved in agreement that the provision of integrated non-financial support was crucial for maximising the success rates of young entrepreneurs. “Access to finance is crucial, but not sufficient,” said Jane Nelson, Director of CSR at Harvard Kennedy School. “It needs to be combined with provision of non-financial resources,” she added.



Above: The latest YBI report, which is available to download at [www.youthbusiness.org](http://www.youthbusiness.org).

*“Young entrepreneurs are absolutely critical to economic growth, job creation and social change”*

*“Access to finance is crucial, but not sufficient. It needs to be combined with provision of non-financial resources”*

# News from the network

## The Prince of Wales helps raise money for YBI in Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa

The Prince of Wales, YBI's President, joined City brokers in London on 8 December to help raise money for YBI's work in Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa.

The Prince of Wales, along with his son Prince William, helped to close deals for the global interdealer broker ICAP, as part of the ICAP Charity Day.

The money raised for YBI during ICAP Charity Day will go to support four members of the global Youth Business International network, which helps young people start up their own business in nearly 40 countries worldwide.

In China, the funding will allow Youth Business China to train its local office staff across 12 locations, enabling an additional 1,200 young entrepreneurs to be supported over a 15 month period.

In Russia, the funds will support the development of Youth Business Russia, enabling it to expand its presences across Russia to support more young entrepreneurs.

In South Africa, the funds will help to transform the way that the National

Youth Development Agency is able to mentor young entrepreneurs, improving the survival rates of thousands of new youth business start-ups.

In Brazil, YBI's member Conexão will use the ICAP funding to provide training and funding for 40 new entrepreneurs and create additional employment opportunities for over 100 people.

Michael Spencer, Group Chief Executive Officer, ICAP said: "Our vision for ICAP's Charity Day is that we give something meaningful back to the global community we live and work in. Charity Day for us is a collaborative effort – it is a day when our staff, customers, suppliers and beneficiaries, all pull together to give 100%."

## YBI members play pivotal role in G20 Young Entrepreneur Alliance Charter

In November last year, at the closing of the G20 Young Entrepreneur Summit in South Korea, members of the G20 Young Entrepreneur Alliance approved the creation of a charter document outlining how they will encourage the G20 process to include entrepreneurship in its agenda. The Alliance recognises that young entrepreneurs are powerful drivers of economic renewal, job creation, innovation and social change and the

charter is an important step towards placing policies which support and foster youth entrepreneurship at the centre of the economic plans of the G20 nations.

Five members of Youth Business International attended the meeting – the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, Fundacion Impulsar (Argentina), The Centennial Fund (Saudi Arabia), the National Youth Development Agency (South Africa) and Youth Business China. The Young Entrepreneur Alliance was launched at the G20 Young Entrepreneur Summit in Toronto, Canada in June 2010 – organised by the Canadian Youth Business Foundation.

The charter states that "we, the members of the alliance, commit to a long term engagement of the G20 as an extension of our missions to champion the cause of young entrepreneurs in our respective countries and across the globe. Through our global movement, we believe we can make the 21st century the Century of the Entrepreneur."

"As the founding Chair of this G20 Young Entrepreneur Alliance, I am absolutely thrilled with the momentum this movement has taken in the four short months since we convened for the first time in Toronto," said Vivian Prokop, CEO of the Canadian Youth Business Foundation.

The next G20 Young Entrepreneur Alliance meeting will take place in France in November 2011, prior to the G20 Leaders Summit. It will be hosted by Les Journées de l'Entrepreneur.

## YBI becomes a preferred partner of DfID – and receives a grant for use in Ukraine

DFID, the UK's development agency, recently announced that a consortium of YBI, Restless Development and War Child, has been selected as one of a limited number of Programme Partnership Arrangement (PPA) beneficiaries.

Following a very competitive concept note round, over 100 civil society organisations were invited to submit their full offers for consideration and only 39 were finally approved. PPA's were



Above: The Prince of Wales and his son Prince William closing deals as part of the ICAP Charity Day

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established in 2000 to improve funding arrangements with a limited number of civil society organisations with which DFID has a significant relationship. The new PPA will run from April 2011 to March 2014.

Andrew Fiddaman, YBI Managing Director, who led the YBI bid team, said he was delighted the consortium's bid had been accepted as the new PPA would enable significant support to many YBI members. Discussions are now underway with the consortium partners and with DFID to determine which countries and activities will be supported.

In a further positive development YBI was able to secure from DFID significant funding for Youth Business Ukraine (YBU). This was one of the last grants made by DFID before it withdrew from the country. These new funds will enable YBU to help an increasing number of young Ukrainian entrepreneurs start their own business.

## Vivian Prokop named as one of the top women in Canada

The chief executive officer of The Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) has been selected as one of Canada's Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network.

Vivian Prokop, who is a global expert on issues of youth entrepreneurship, was recognised in the Trailblazers and Trendsetters category of The Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards. She joins an illustrious community of 522 women from across Canada who have been recognised in this way.

"The entire Canadian Youth Business Foundation team is extraordinarily proud of Vivian's accomplishments," said John Risley, Chairman of the CYBF's Board of Directors. "Her visionary leadership and true passion for what we do has been fundamental in securing CYBF's position as the leading expert in youth entrepreneurship."

This award is fitting recognition for the hard work and leadership which has seen CYBF spearhead many international initiatives. These include the inaugural G20 Young Entrepreneur Summit, which



Above: Vivian Prokop of the Canadian Youth Business Foundation

resulted in the creation of the G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance. Most recently, she represented Canada at the APEC SME Summit in Yokohama, Japan. Additionally, Ms. Prokop is the Chair of Global Entrepreneurship Week Canada.

## Singapore mobile technology business receives US\$600,000 investment from venture capitalists

Two young entrepreneurs whose technology start-up received finance and mentoring support from Youth Business Singapore (YBS) have secured substantial funding from one of Singapore's leading communication companies.

2359 Media, which designs mobile advertising solutions, will receive US\$600,000 from SingTel to help their business expand and gain access to a customer base of over 300 million people. This is great news for the young company, which was established in 2009 and was supported by an interest free loan from YBS. YBS also put 2359 Media in touch with a business mentor who advised the pair on important business decisions and how to manage their expansion in a sustainable way.

Only two years after the initial investment the company has grown to include 22 full time staff and is developing a range of new products.

The organisations young founders, Wong Hong Ting and Zhou Wenhan, are examples of the power of entrepreneurial networks. Wong Hong Ting was active in entrepreneurship communities throughout his education and was President of the Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Society.

A great example of young entrepreneurs with big ideas, 2359 Media plans to expand its distribution into the US market within the next few months and has pledged to reinvest a percentage of future profits to help other aspiring entrepreneurs.

## Canadian Youth Business Foundation Opens First-Ever Manitoba Office

The Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) has announced the opening of a new regional office in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The new office will provide an environment for young entrepreneurs to learn about CYBF's start-up financing, pre-launch coaching, mentorship and online resources, at the same time as providing access to mobile



Above: Founders of 2359 Media Wong Hong Ting (25) and Zhou Wenhan (24) with their staff team

workstations, business resources and complimentary wireless internet access.

This new facility is a significant marker in the wider regional effort to reverse the trend of outward migration from Manitoba. Despite challenging economic conditions more and more Canadians are expressing their desire to start their own entrepreneurial business. Over the last three decades the number of self employed entrepreneurs in the region

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has increased by 70% and currently stands at an impressive 90,000.

The work of CYBF and the extended support offered by this new site are important tools to further encourage this important trend among young Canadian's.

Commenting on the opening, CYBF's Joelle Foster said, "CYBF looks forward to working with young entrepreneurs and helping to turn their fresh ideas into a reality."

## Butterfield Bank gives support to our member in Barbados

Butterfield Bank has committed to support the efforts of the Barbados Youth Business Trust (BYBT), so that more young people in Barbados can have the opportunity to start and grow successful business.

In addition to financial support, Butterfield has also committed to providing assistance in other areas including business mentoring, networking, sharing of best practices and work on mutually selected projects aimed at nurturing and developing young entrepreneurs.

## Belize Youth Business Trust gets US\$250,000 grant from government

The Government of Belize has announced that it will disburse US\$250,000 to the Belize Youth Business Trust, as



Above: Butterfield's Marketing Officer, Nicola Greaves, presenting Executive Director of the Barbados Youth Business Trust Marcia Brandon with a cheque.



part of its commitment to ensure that small and micro enterprises are developed at a much faster pace.

Through the initiative, government is expected to be targeting vulnerable groups including women and young persons. The initiative will be accompanied with measures which will ensure that the terms and conditions of the loans will not be as stringent as borrowing at the commercial banks.

## Development Bank of Jamaica invests US\$220,000 into the Jamaica Youth Business Trust

In December the Jamaican Youth Business Trust (JYBT) received a significant boost to its efforts thanks to a grant from the Development Bank of Jamaica. The grant was allocated to JYBT through the Government of Jamaica's Youth Entrepreneurship Programme (YEP).

The YEP Programme, which is part of Jamaica's drive to support entrepreneurial spirit, is targeted at young people who are unemployed as well as those who have already started a business and need support. According to the country's National Centre of Youth Development the money will benefit entrepreneurs who are looking to expand into certain business areas, including "beauty and spa service, retail and trading, fish farming, and agro-processing, among others."

Going forward into 2011, JYBT

Above: Students from the San Francisco Agricultural School at their graduation ceremony

anticipates that the money will result in a significant increase in loan activity and an expansion of the programme island-wide. It predicts that this significant new funding will allow it to "reach many more of the nation's youth, thereby providing them with new economic opportunities."

## Paraguayan agriculture students receive their first loans

Some 46 students from San Francisco Agriculture School (part of Fundación Paraguaya), have recently graduated from their studies, earning two degrees simultaneously! Passing students were awarded both the Technical Agriculture & Livestock High School Diploma and the Technical Hotel Management and Tourism High School Diploma.

As part of the programme, the students produced detailed business plans relating to ventures they hope to develop after graduation. The new entrepreneurs produced an impressive range of potential businesses covering everything from wine production to beekeeping.

Each graduate also received a line of credit to implement these plans, according to the type of business they want to develop.

These first credits are a very important step towards the success of *Emprendimientos Juveniles*. The training the students have received

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in the last year of school provides an important base for them to be able to go on and set up their own businesses.

## Golfing duo win Scottish Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award

A young French entrepreneur and his Brazilian partner have struck a hole in one by winning The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' award at a ceremony in Glasgow. The judges selected their business, the St-Andrews Golf Experience, from over 900 other entries from all over Scotland.

The business partners, who are fluent in five languages, identified a gap in the golf tour market for a multilingual tour operator offering bespoke golfing holidays for European and American clients. The pair used their industry knowledge and passion for the sport to establish a successful business offering golf packages in the UK. Adding to their businesses unique appeal they allow guests to combine golf with English lessons.

Taking advantage of advice and funding offered by the PSYBT the young entrepreneurs launched their business in 2008. Despite the highly competitive market they operate in, they have catered for over 500 visitors and have exceeded the original targets set for the business.



Above: Raphael Metayer (30) and Carina Neubert Favero (23), founders of the St Andrews Golf Experience in Scotland



## Co-Founder of Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust in India recognised in award ceremony

Lakshmi Venkatesan, one of the founding members of the Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust in India, has been awarded the Karmaveer Puraskar award for Social Justice and Citizen Action. This nationally recognised award seeks to "celebrate and inspire individual citizen social responsibility, justice and action." The award is recognition of Lakshmi's tireless work to develop and promote BYST. Since its inception in 1992 BYST has supported thousands of entrepreneurs, producing a crop of self made millionaires and creating jobs for over 25,000 people.

## Youth Business Trinidad and Tobago welcomes new general manager

The start of the new year marks a new chapter in the history of Youth Business Trinidad and Tobago (YBTT) as it welcomes its new general manager Veronica Simon-Wallace. The organisation, which celebrated its 10 year anniversary in October, is heading into a second decade helping the young people of Trinidad and Tobago to start businesses and expand their horizons. YBTT also bids farewell to its long serving general manager Garland Samuel. Garland was an inspirational leader at YBTT, helping to launch the

Above: YBR programme manager Boris Tkachenko presents HRH The Prince of Wales with the oak carved dragon

organisation in the wake of a visit by HRH The Prince of Wales, and he has been instrumental in its ongoing success.

## First meeting of the Youth Business Russia (YBR) Advisory Council

The first meeting of the YBR advisory council took place in Moscow in December and provided an important forum for developing the organisations strategy for the coming year. The meeting was attended by YBR programme manager Boris Tkachenko, YBI CEO Andrew Devenport and representatives from Oxfam and the US Russia Centre for Entrepreneurship, among others. Earlier in the year Boris had been a guest at the annual YBI dinner in the UK where he presented HRH The Prince of Wales with a magnificent oak carved Welsh dragon that had been produced in Russia by two young YBR programme participants. The dragon's creators Denis Chernykh and Alexander, from the Voronezh region, started creating their art as a hobby but with the help of their mentor Yuryi Segal now manage a successful business with a number of employees.

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## Loden Entrepreneurship Programme is growing fast in Bhutan

The Loden Entrepreneurship Programme (LEP) continues to go from strength to strength. LEP is now in its third year supporting young entrepreneurs in Bhutan by providing interest-free capital loans for entrepreneurial projects and business proposals.

Since the programme began over 100 new jobs have been created by Loden entrepreneurs. The number



Above: Bhutanese entrepreneur Namgay

of applications received is growing each year and the proposals are increasing in quality.

Of the 177 business applications received 27 were shortlisted and 12 outstanding entrepreneurs with innovative business ideas selected. Among the successful applicants was Namgay from Western Bhutan (pictured). Her Auto Paint House business was on the verge of closure until an interest free entrepreneurship loan from LEP enabled her expand her operation. Presently Namgay employs 12 people in the capital city of Thimphu.

## Tributes for Sujeewa Ratnakumara, National Programme Manager, Youth Business Sri Lanka



We are sad to report that Sujeewa Ratnakumara, National Programme Manager for Youth Business Sri Lanka, died from a heart attack on Sunday 26 December 2010. He was 46 years old and leaves a wife and three children.

Sujeewa was well-respected and admired by all those that knew him, and played a vital role in the growth of Youth Business Sri Lanka. Sujeewa was appointed as the first National Programme Manager of YBSL in 2009 and took on the challenging task of coordinating a national initiative, building on the great work of Azmi Thassim and his team in Hambantota.

He had also played an important role in developing YBI's online Operations Management System (OMS), and attended last year's YBI Global Forum in Mexico where he not only presented eloquently on a panel about the OMS but also supported Fathuma Nisreen, the winner of the YBI Entrepreneur of the Year award, through the week.

Andrew Devenport, CEO of YBI, said, "This news is desperately sudden, shocking and tragic. Our thoughts are with all in Sri Lanka who knew him and of course especially with his family. I count myself very fortunate to have met Sujeewa in Mexico City, he had a deep commitment to his work, to YBSL and to YBI. The network has lost a great supporter."

Sujeewa's passing is a great loss to YBSL and to all of Youth Business International. Colleagues in the network have paid tribute to Sujeewa, commenting particularly on his commitment and dedication, his humbleness and genuine warmth.

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