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# WYConnected

Staying in touch when we're out of reach

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## Hey all you World Youth Citizens!

Later than we planned and smaller than we expected, we nevertheless proudly present this first edition of our WYC Newsletter! First of all, thanks to all who contributed something!

In this edition, we have some announcements of interesting events coming up. Also, the Executive Board members present themselves, so that everybody knows who is who and we have more than just a name and an e-mail address in mind when thinking of someone.

For the future, we hope that ALL MEMBERS contribute something for our Newsletter!

It doesn't matter what you want to write about... If you want to announce an interesting youth event, look for project partners, if you want to share a poem or your thoughts on some current topic with us, or just tell us how and what you're doing... Please, just WRITE TO US and use the possibilities of this great network!

We aim at publishing one WYConnected every three months, but this will greatly depend on your contributions!

You can reach us via the WYC e-mail or write directly to Sophie or Nina.

We will also try to work on the design, but we thought we'd keep it as simple as possible, so that you can even open the letter with the most ancient, and slowest internet access.

Well, we hope that we have really found a way to keep in touch, when we're out of reach, and that you'll enjoy reading, writing, exchanging ideas...

All the best,  
Nina Perkowski and Sophie Hinger

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## **1. The Executive Board Members**

Robert sent an e-mail announcing the results of our election...

but who are these people that you voted for (or maybe didn't)? What are they doing and where are they from?

Not knowing how much longer it will take until we can see each others' profiles on the website, we decided to ask all Executive Board members to send us a self-description.

The Board holds monthly meetings, which take place via msn. Amongst other things, topics such as gender equality in the resolution, WYC projects, the website, registering the WYC, and tasks of the Board members have been discussed.

But surely, most of you have read the minutes of all the meetings so far☺

As you can see, the Board is functioning and is also ready to support, connect, or even conduct themselves projects.

The Project Coordinators are trying to gather material of all projects associated with the WYC so far (see 2.WYC projects).

Also, all kinds of contributions are needed for the website...and input for the gender equality working group!

But first of all, here comes the Executive Board...

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**Mr. President:** Joao Felipe Scarpelini



My name is **Joao Felipe Scarpelini**, I'm a 21 years old Brazilian-Italian, but spent most of my life in Brazil were since I was 13 years old I've been working in slums and other poor and vulnerable communities empowering young people in order to support them to change their lifes.

I'm really passionate about International cooperation because I realize the powerful tool we have on hands when we connect people from different backgrounds, experiences and cultures to solve a single issue. And that's why I've been involved with the World Youth Citizens since the real beginning;

in fact I was one of the three who were discussing about how we couldn't accept prejudice and discrimination with people from other countries, and how could would be to have a real brotherhood of people working together for a better world.

But we wanted more than simply words, we wanted to do something about it, and that's pretty much how the WYC started in Morocco in 2003, a group of people sharing ideals, dreams and becoming friends to support each other for making a difference.

Currently I'm living in the UK, working as the Institutional Development Coordinator at Peace Child International, working also as a consultant for youth empowerment, education and international development for some NGOs and international organizations like the Inter-American Development Bank, Flamingo International, etc. Apart from that I'm a columnist for some magazines concerning youth-issues and education.

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**Our Vice President:** Robert Watt

I can't accept the world as I find it; there are too many problems in the world to do that, and too many means by which the world might be greatly improved. I study in Scotland and campaign locally on environmental issues. I have worked with Young Peace Brigades, a Ghanaian NGO which runs rural community development projects. Networks like World Youth Citizens will help to bring young people together and give them strength and resolve to continue the struggle for a better world - that's why I want to make it stronger, however I can!

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**Our Magazine Editors:** Serge Thiar Ipanthiar and Madeleine



Hello!! My name is **Serge**, 28 years old, from Democratic Congo, living in France. I like playing my guitar but also singing. Without forgetting my passion of strolls in bicycle and rollers.

I am Engineer in environmental protection, my formation(training) allows me to treat(handle)all which is in touch with the environment,

that is to master the pollution under various forms, to master the waste production as well as their transformations(conversions),to master the preservation(conservation) of the Biodiversity. What also allows me to involve of advantage in the objectives of the sustainable development in my professional activity also in various spot organizations here.

Interested and implied in the sustainable development, I am one of founder's members of International WYCs, but also coordinator and founder of World Youth citizens France with whom I introduced the project " pupils for the sustainable development " which learnt me a lot.

My task as the Magazine Editor is to Set up an agenda for each magazine edition- Motivate members to write articles- Work closely with the Designer to develop magazine design- Act as chief editor of the magazine- Set up a database of

contacts for magazine distribution- Ensure the magazine is available on the WYC website- Work with the Marketing and PR Coordinator to promote the magazine

**Madelaine** currently works for TakingITGlobal as the Online Community Manager and Editor. She holds a B.A. in International Development Studies from McGill University. In 2004 she lived in Ecuador studying and interning at a UNHCR partner organization working with Colombian refugees. Madelaine is passionate about working with other youth and inspiring them to get involved in their local and global communities to promote social justice issues. In October 2007 she will begin a Msc. in Forced Migration at Oxford University.

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**Our Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator:** Padma-Dolma Yasmin Fielitz

My name is Padma-Dolma Yasmin Fielitz, 20 years old, female, living in Karlsruhe/Germany. Okay but let's keep it short and just call me Padma! As I am half Tibetan my name is derived from the Indian Padmasambhava who introduced Buddhism in Tibet.

Right now I'm busy organising my travel to Asia where I will be spending the next four months. On the one hand I will learn about my Asian rooted heritage and on the other hand I will realize the project that I've been collecting money for the last four years. After this experience I will start my studies in the UK in the field of Economics and Development Studies.

I count myself lucky to know a lot of you guys for I was involved with all the Karlsruher Student Days. This is also the answer to how I got in touch with WYC.

As the Public Relations Coordinator I hope to be able to interact a lot with all the departments as I will promote WYC. Promotional leaflets and a Press Portfolio will be the main challenge in this domain. Thus, I think it's great to be able to highlight our work and to tell everyone how incredibly awesome we are. I'm really looking forward to working in this area.

**Our Project Coordinators:** Sophie Burger and Pascal Renaud



My name is **Sophie Burger**, I'm 21 and I live in Frankfurt, Germany, where I study theatre, films and media as well as comparative literature. Also, I'm interested in politics, philosophy, social and environmental issues as well as in all kinds of artistic activities. I was born in Karlsruhe, Germany, where I was involved into WYC through my work with Greenpeace and took part in the student days. I also was a delegate on the World Youth Congress in Scotland in 2005.

Through WYC I was involved in the project "Celebrating the women in our lives" and also in the "waste management programme" realised in Ecuador where I spent 5 months in 2006, so I have some experiences in how to facilitate an action project, which will help me to support you and your activities. I think every project needs someone not directly involved to give support as an objective supervisor. Therefore I will ask you for short and long term plans to work out partnerships between projects and share experiences with all WYC. Ongoing and already completed projects will be presented on our webpage. I will be happy to take action with you!

My name is **Pascal Renaud**, I am 22 years old and German by nationality. During the last two years I was studying political sciences and international relations at the French-German undergraduate Campus of Sciences Po Paris in Nancy (France). In 2007/2008, I will have an exchange year at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, concentrating on sustainable development and politics in Africa.

Involved since its first breathes at the World Youth Congress 2003 in Morocco, I am happy to have the chance now to continue contributing to the development of World Youth Citizens in the function of a "project coordinator". When I was participating in the organisation of the Student Days "One World" in Karlsruhe from 2004 to 2005, I had pretty much contact with the emerging project partnerships at that time. My primary goal for the next months will therefore be to make all these past activities visible on our website. That will hopefully give a clear image about what WYC is able to do to the WYC members, who might not know about all

of them, as well as to interested people and potential sponsors.

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**Our Membership Coordinator:** Tamo Nguemkam Violette Claire



My name is **Tamo Nguemkam Violette Claire**, I am 19 years old and I live in the South West province of Cameroon. I did my secondary education in Cameroon and I am presently studying economics in the University of Buea.

I am interested in reading, chattering with friends and carrying out diverse youth activities. As the membership coordinator in the Executive Board, I set rules for membership, ensure new members join the network, and give the best of myself!

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**Our Financial Coordinator:** Gaby Mavila



Hello, my name is **Gaby Mavila** from Peru, South America, and I live there as well. I just finish my studies and now I have a bachelor degree in Economics. At World Youth Citizen (WYC), I have the opportunity to be part of the advisor board as a financial coordinator. I'm happy to be a member of this team of full energy. I belonged to Peace Child International NGO, as a Latin American coordinator, contributing in projects of United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

and participating in workshops in the Schuletarge where I learnt about the WYC; of the World Youth Congress and GEO juvenil.

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**Our Newsletter Editors:** Nina Perkowski and Sophie Hinger



I'm **Sophie**, born on August 6<sup>th</sup> 1987 in Berlin, Germany. Berlin is also the place, where I grew up and went to school. However, when I was 16, I spent one year studying abroad in Colorado (United States).

Returning to Germany, I got in touch with the WYC at a youth event in Berlin. Shortly after this, in the summer of 2005, some friends and I founded a WYC

group in Berlin. We went to the Schülertage in 2005, doing a workshop with our partner Sok Heng from Cambodia. Together with Sok Heng, we also started a photo project with Cambodian and German youth. We had an exhibition in Berlin last year. Unfortunately, after graduating from school last summer, most group members left Berlin, so that we couldn't go on with other projects.

Therefore, I was really happy to be able to join the Schülertage once again last year, doing a workshop with Nina on ways how to get involved with volunteer work. Also, I had the chance to participate in the meeting in Buntingford and enjoyed working on the resolution and the development of the Executive Board. Together with Nina, I now have the responsibility for editing and gathering the material for our internal newsletter and for trying to stay in touch with everybody when we're out of reach©

I am currently living and working in Amsterdam in a living community with illegal refugees. Furthermore, I am volunteering in a Jewish old people's home and coordinating the European Youth Media Days, taking place in Brussels this June.

Whenever I find some time, I love to go jogging, paint, ride my bike through beautiful Amsterdam, and watch sunsets.

In September, I hope to start studying "International Relations" at the Sciences Po in Nancy, France

Hi everybody! My name is **Nina**, I'm 20, and I'm currently a full time volunteer at the International Fellowship of Reconciliation based in the Netherlands. Together with Sophie, I'm gonna be responsible for compiling and sending out the WYC newsletter. I attended the Schülertage in 2005 and 2006 and together with a Berlin WYC group and Sok Heng, I conducted a photo project with German and Cambodian children.

Here in the Netherlands, I am using the time in the office to find out more about nonviolence and peace work in general, and I'm trying to get some youth work started within the organization.

I'm very much looking forward to contributing to our network and to sending you interesting and entertaining newsletters... Of course, I need all the input I can get in order to do so. So don't be shy and forward me everything that might be worth sending out, write articles about events, your work, your thoughts or your countries!

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## **2. WYC Projects**

### CALL FOR PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Are you currently realizing or planning an action project? Did you accomplish one in the past? We would like to present it on the WYC website!

Why?

To enable all other World Youth Citizens to get to know your activities and to show to everybody else what World Youth Citizens are able to do. Let's have an exchange about our projects and reach out for support!

How?

With a short text of 1-1,5 pages structured like this:

- idea
- realisation
- so far achieved results
- contact and pictures (please send the pictures in a separate data-form and not integrated in the text)

And then?

We will make the layout for your text and care for the publication on the website. If you wish, we can also assist you in elaborating your project presentation.

Where to send it?

To our two project coordinators Sophie Burger ([dreamspeaka@web.de](mailto:dreamspeaka@web.de)) and Pascal Renaud ([pascal.renaud@gmx.de](mailto:pascal.renaud@gmx.de))

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**Example of a project description:**

by Sok Heng

Children in Development Project in Cambodia is a low cost quick impact initiative that completes the rote cause of poverty in rural communities. It is a cluster based activity where village communities through their school committees work together to assist and mentor their children to learn to develop themselves. The long term goal of this project is to nurture leadership qualities in primary school children to create an action focused generation.

The Children and Nutrition project was developed as a response to the fact that the lack of sufficient nutrition is a hindrance to children's education as they either don't attend school in order to work or when they do attend they are unable to focus due to hunger. The project sought to enable children in one primary school in Harbou village to use self help to create a self sufficient nutritional source for their school. With the help of the local community, a fish pond was created, a source of fresh water

created in the form of a well and the children were taught to grow fish and vegetables. As a result of these activities, 87 of the 158 children who left school in 2005 have returned to the school. The project is set to be sustained with the support of the local community for a further 12 months.

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### **3. Events**

#### **The CIVICUS Youth Assembly is extending its deadline for applications until April 27**

The Youth Assembly will offer a unique opportunity to meet and work with other young women and men who are really making changes to their lives. The Assembly will give youth a program and a space to develop and commit to action around the world. The Youth Assembly delegates will attend, as full delegates, the CIVICUS World Assembly where they will have a voice and opportunity to meet and influence some of the world's leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs), groups and individuals who are committed to the creation of a more just and equitable world. If you are interested in attending, please apply as soon as possible. For those who will require a visa for travel to the United Kingdom (UK), your application will be reviewed on a case by case basis, as the time required for processing may restrict an applicant from travel from this point on. Note also that a number of Travel Bursaries are available to successful applicants from selected countries. To read more on Roseline Zigomo, CIVICUS World Assembly Manager's column on "CIVICUS Youth Assembly to urge for Accountability to Future Generations" published in e-CIVICUS 327, see [www.civicus.org/new/content/deskofthesecretarygeneral157.htm](http://www.civicus.org/new/content/deskofthesecretarygeneral157.htm) . For more information on the Youth Assembly, see [www.civicusyouth.org](http://www.civicusyouth.org)

#### **The Samuel Rubin Foundation**

The Samuel Rubin Foundation's general purpose is to carry on the vision of its founder, Samuel Rubin, whose life was dedicated to the pursuit of peace and justice and the search for an equitable reallocation of the world's resources. The Foundation believes that these objectives can be achieved only through the fullest implementation of social, economic, political, civil and cultural rights for the entire world's people. There are no geographic

limitations, and they accept applications for general operating expenses as well as for specific projects within an organisation. The majority of the Foundation's grants are in the \$5-10,000 range. For more information, see [www.samuelrubinfoundation.org/index.html](http://www.samuelrubinfoundation.org/index.html)

## European Events

### **IT'S YOUR TURN! - European Youth Congress**

This Congress on youth-led (development) projects - titled "IT'S YOUR TURN!" will take place between August 5th and 12th in Mürzzuschlag, Austria.

About 60 young participants from all over Europe are expected, all of the either experienced or highly motivated in carrying out projects on (sustainable) development, human rights, art and culture. The projects will be organised subsequently to the congress by the delegates themselves. During the congress a huge variety of workshops will be offered, where young people will attain the necessary skills for their projects as well as for themselves. The congress is held in the context of the World Youth Congress Series that started in Hawaii (1999), followed by Morocco (2003) and Scotland (2005) and will be held in Quebec, Canada in 2008. The necessity for an only-European convention was realised, when there was not enough space for European issues during the international congresses. The results of these congresses will be the basis for dealing with the problems and concerns primarily in Europe. The subject matter is what the youth of Europe can contribute on one hand to their own continent and on the other hand to the whole world.

The delegates will be part of the „Action Festivals“.

Youth-led projects will be linked worldwide.

Representatives of the best carried out or best running projects will be invited for the World Youth Congress Quebec 2008.

<http://www.eyc2007.eu/>

### **European Youth Media Days**

The Media Days are taking place in the European Parliament in Brussels, from June 27th to 30th 2007.

400 young journalists from across Europe will come together in Brussels, will produce media together, discuss, exchange ideas and get to know each other.

You can keep on following the preparations at  
<http://www.youthmediadays.eu/>  
...or just mail Sophie Hinger for more information  
the application process has not started yet, but will be  
coming soon!