

Media Release

LAST CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS The World Summit Youth Award 2009 - Putting MDGs into Action

Salzburg/New York, February, 2008 – This is the last call for submissions to the World Summit Youth Award 2009, the deadline for entries is February 28th! Young designers and e-Content creators who address in an inspiring manner the UN Millennium Development Goals are invited to participate in this global competition.

Are you under 30 with an interesting site on the web? Are you passionate about using Internet for young people? Do you care about creating culture, gender inequality, lack of education and access to clean water or issues like hunger, poverty, disease and environmental degradation?

If yes, then enter right now at www.youthaward.org and present your site and project to the world!

ONLY THREE MORE WEEKS TO GO – THE FINAL CALL!

The deadline for online submissions is February 28, 2009 and the application form is available online at <http://competition.youthaward.org/reg/reg.asp> for all online platforms that are led by youth under the age of 30. (Please note that the online platforms need to be youth-led so long as the specific project is.)

Projects may be submitted in the following five categories:

1. Fight Poverty, Hunger and Disease !

Rewards the most effective contents and applications addressing issues of extreme poverty and hunger, offers solutions for those whose income is less than \$ 1 a day, supports the reduction of diseases and fights the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidents of malaria.

2. Education for all !

Gives credit to the most innovative contents, platforms and solutions to give children everywhere, boys and girls alike, a full course of primary schooling, to advance in training for personal development and jobs, and to achieve a high level of understanding and knowledge of the global information society and its problems and promises, challenges and opportunities.

3. Power 2 Women !

Demonstrates the most inspiring contents and communities which promote gender equality and empower women, eliminate gender disparity in education and at work places, facilitate access of women to all levels of political decision making and that strengthen women's contribution to peaceful resolution of conflicts.

4. Create your Culture !

Celebrates the most engaging online platforms and applications expressing young people's aspirations, ideas and values, sharing their news, enabling their participation in decision-making processes, strengthening social justice, promoting the knowledge of many languages and cultures, supporting multilingualism, creating new contemporary forms of culture and preserving indigenous knowledge and traditions.

5. Go Green !

Showcases the ground-breaking applications and contents addressing the natural environment, ensuring sustainability, integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes, reversing the loss of environmental resources including biodiversity, reducing the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and improving the lives of slum dwellers.

WSYA Timeline

- February 28, 2009 Deadline for online submission (midnight/GMT)
- March 15, 2009 First round of judging to select finalists
- April 01-08, 2009 Second round of judging to select winners
- April 15, 2009 WSYA winners announced to the public and media
- June 10-13, 2009 Winners and finalists showcase projects and get honoured at the WSYA Winners Events and Gala

WSYA Jury & Gala

An international jury of 12 experts will evaluate the projects, determining three winners for each category. Winners will be given the opportunity to showcase their platform to heads of state, business leaders and civil society at the World Summit Award (WSA) Gala and Winners Conference in June, 2009 in Monterrey, Mexico.

Get involved today at www.youthaward.org and showcase your project to the world!

About WSYA

The WSYA selects and promotes best practice in e-Content and technological creativity, demonstrates young people's potential to create outstanding digital contents and serves as a platform for people from all UN member states to work together in the efforts to reduce poverty and hunger, and to tackle ill-health, gender inequality, lack of education, lack of access to clean water and environmental degradation.

WSYA is therefore both, a showcase to the world for young designers, technologists and e-Content creators as well as a contribution on a global scale to addressing poverty, protecting the environment, sharing knowledge and empowering young people.

The WSYA will be organised 2008 to 2009 as a follow up activity of the World Summit on Information Society and its action plan towards the year 2015. The Youth Award is organised by the World Summit Award Network for the second time after 2005. The 2008/09 contest is organised in partnership with the Cyber Peace Initiative (CPI) launched by the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement in 2007. The CPI has a mission to empower youth of any nation, through ICT, to become catalysts of change, to create safe and better futures for themselves and others, to address the root causes of conflict, to disseminate the culture of peace and to create international dialogues for a harmonious world. Founding partners of CPI are The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the International Telecommunication Union, the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, Microsoft, Cisco and Intel. WSYA is also supported by the Internet Society (ISOC).

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