The 4th Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations

The Youth Assembly at the United Nations 4th annual program will bring delegates from around the world to New York City this August, for a three day series of free, youth leadership events in support of U.N. goals while also facilitating career development. Social entrepreneurship entails connecting the best and brightest leaders with opportunities for service, jobs, and careers in fulfillment of the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals.

Important features of the Youth Assembly include:

1) Offering a unique venue for delegates and employers to network and develop NGO based career opportunities
2) Enabling member states, NGOs, speakers and other workshop leaders to endorse the activities of global youth in support of the 8 Millennium Development Goals, the centerpiece of U.N. initiatives,
3) Recognizing good deeds and contributions of individuals, corporations, sponsors, and other stakeholders, for social entrepreneurship that helps build a better world for all,
4) Developing opportunities for youth leaders to become immersed in important contemporary issues championed by the United Nations and its many affiliates, so they may find campaigns to join … and lead.

Growing International Support

Dr. Valdov and FAF collaborate on the development of each year's program. In 2006 the YA featured more events, supporters, and delegates than in the past. Expanded media coverage included Forbes, USA Today, ABC News, The London Guardian, Associated Press, and more. Youth leaders from over 46 countries applied, with nearly 500 delegates in attendance. Selected youth spent 3 days at U.N. Headquarters in New York, participating in special plenary sessions, workshops, and networking, with captivating speakers and workshop facilitators, followed by 3 days of "life changing" Leadership Training at Pace University.
2007 Youth Assembly Events

The purpose of the Youth Assembly at the United Nations is to offer a special opportunity for young people interested in pursuing a career in civil society. Delegates are introduced and paired off with NGOs affiliated with the United Nations for volunteerism, internships, and entry-level positions that enable them to move forward toward their chosen professions. No other event at the UN possesses this select audience, with direct, active possibilities for growth and empowerment.

4th Annual Youth Assembly and Leadership Seminar - Program
August 8 - 15, 2007

Wednesday-Sunday, August 8-12
Pre-Assembly Leadership Seminar, Leadership Retreat- the best and brightest of the larger group immerse themselves in intensive workshops on the Westchester campus of Pace University with Pace and FAF invited staff. The seminar is focused on translating the Assembly into an action plan, including NGO development and management, creating youth campaigns in participants’ home regions, and how to get the most out of volunteer, internship and entry-level positions with NGOs worldwide. Ancillary courses focus on peace building, conflict resolution, and fund/media development for civil society programming.

Sunday, August 12 - Pre-Conference Program, Early Registration
5:30-8:30 Early Registration & Orientation
A celebration of International Youth Day!
9:30-11:30 Late Night (Optional)

August 13-15
U.N. activities all day, events each evening, including Youth Welcoming Address,
Keynote Address, and Olympian Address
Invited Speakers: Elizabeth Taylor, Kathy Ireland, Arun Gandhi, Jeffrey Sachs, others
- Wednesday features a Campaign Night, as NGOs and young people find ways for interaction throughout 2007 and beyond. This is an NGO ‘job and volunteer fair’.
- Thursday, the Youth Assembly hosts an interactive Culture Night, honoring the cultures of attendees, with concerts and other cultural sharing opportunities
- Special events include concerts of youth ensembles with related artistic messages.
- All concerts will be performed in front of expected capacity crowds at the world-renowned Dag Hammarskjöld Library theatre.
**Historical Perspective**

The vision of the Assembly, as created by founders Dr. Elaine Valdov and Patrick Sciaratta in 2003, is to create substantive opportunities for increased youth involvement at and surrounding U.N. activities, commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, personal career development with an eye toward professions in civil society, and by extension the promotion of democratic values, international partnership and a renewal of commitment to the United Nations and human security.

For the past three years, we have established a relationship with Right to Play directed by Norwegian three-time Olympic Gold Medalist in speed skating and UN Goodwill Ambassador, Johann Olav Koss; Arun Gandhi; and members of the Secretariat and affiliated NGO community who form the programming core.

**A Bright Future**

As the demand for youth leadership and global community service continues to grow, the future appears bright for the Youth Assembly program. In coming years, the YA will offer greater opportunities for career development and volunteer service, creating a more connected future for delegates interested in opportunities in the civil society sector.

**Sponsorship**

Our work to provide meaningful connections and opportunities for global youth leadership requires significant support and investment. FAF will continue to establish partnerships with major sponsors who share our vision, understanding it’s potential as an extension of their own principles and market development interests. Together, FAF’s Youth Assembly at the United Nations and key partners will meet today’s challenges, literally changing the world, enabling select delegates to achieve their highest level of potential as tomorrow’s leaders.

For more information on the current program, delegate applications, and sponsorship opportunities, please visit:

**2006 3rd Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations**

*At A Glance*

**Directors**

Dr. Elaine Valdov, Secretary General, Youth Assembly at the United Nations  
Patrick Sciarratta, Executive Director, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, Inc.

In 2006, applicants from over 46 countries applied, including: the USA, Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Paraguay, United Kingdom, Nigeria, Ghana, Pakistan, China, Taiwan, Guyana, Israel, Ethiopia, Rwanda, India, Sierra Leon, Haiti, the Gambia, Singapore, Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, South Korea, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Burma (Myanmar), Yemen, Morocco, Burundi, Togo, Turkmenistan, South Africa, Mali, Belgium, Swaziland, Burkina Faso, Qatar, Romania, Australia, Tanzania. The applicants were all between the ages of 18-26.

In 2006, Dr. Valdov and FAF hosted a larger program, with more supporters, a greater amount of delegates, and more media coverage than at any point in the past. Media attention came from Forbes.com, USA Today, ABC, The London Guardian and Associated Press, to name a few. A short video can be seen on the UNICEF website.

The quality and caliber of the presenters created the program’s success. Those in attendance in 2006 included; Shamima de Gonzaga special advisor to president of the General Assembly, Olympic medalist Kate Johnson, Dr. Noel Brown president of Friends of the UN and former head of United Nations Environmental Programme, former UN assistant Secretary General Gillian Sorenson, Newark mayor Cory Booker (who received the Martin Luther King Award from the State of New Jersey during the YA events), and keynote speaker Dr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi.

In addition to these panel speakers FAF arranged for eight workshops on the first two days, Wednesday and Thursday of the conference. These workshops related specifically to the Millennium Development Goals. Some organizations participating in workshops this year included: Oxfam International, Heifer International, MADRE, Microcredit Summit Campaign, and Engineers Without Borders. Feedback from delegates stated that the workshops were one of the high points of their experience. The campaign night enabled young people to meet, face to face, with organizations involved in local, regional, and global campaigns relevant to the Millennium Development Goals. It is for this reason that the Youth Assembly stands apart from so many other youth conferences: this one has immediate, active participation as its outcome.

---

yaapplications@faf.org • www.faf.org/hl_youthassembly.htm  
Phone: +1-203-542-0652 • Fax: +1-203-542-0661  
Annual Youth Assembly at the UN, c/o FAF, 299 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
Beyond this, FAF hosted its own Youth Achievement Award ceremonies at the Youth Assembly. The Youth Achievement Award is given out to a young person who demonstrated significant dedication to humanitarian efforts in 2006. Olympic Medalist Kate Johnson gave out the Award. But let us note another outstanding youth achievement: the five youth leaders, chosen from the National Youth Commission of Taiwan to attend and work on the assembly (among them were city, rural and even aboriginal youth leaders), all worked exceptionally hard for the ultimate success of our events.

After the Assembly, a select number of youth leaders participated in a Leadership Seminar at Pace University. Extensive work on how to approach initiatives was conducted by the Art Of Living faculty. Several attendees developed their on model campaigns for use back home when the seminar ended through work with Pace University faculty from the Political Science Department, led by Dr. G. Julian.

The Alithea Creations mime dance ensemble was a special treat. Under the professional direction of Nicholas Johnson, they helped translate much of what was discussed into symbolic, beautiful ‘language’ for the stage. Their performances at the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium and at Pace were highlights of the entire experience. The Youth Symphony for United Nations, under the direction of Yin-Chu Jou, with Yoon Jae Lee conducting, was warmly received for their contribution, too.

2006 Sponsors included:
The Permanent Mission to the United Nations of:
South Africa, Estonia, Hungary, Lichtenstein, Slovenia, Sweden, Tanzania, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, Turkey and The New York Turkish Consulate, Indonesia, and Zambia

NGOs and other sponsoring organizations:
"I wanted to (...) tell you what a pleasure it was meeting you last week and also to thank you for helping organize such an inspirational conference! I learned so much and got so pumped up about the NGOs and all the difference that we can make! - Ayesha Amin, Participant, USA 2006

“The International Youth Assembly at the United Nations provided me with a chance to hear about the issues that are normally ignored. I received the greatest gift that can ever be given: knowledge. It was refreshing and empowering to see so many young people concerned with global issues and finding ways to take action.” - Mariel Maughan, Richmond, Virginia 2005

“The Assembly 2005 was a successful and engaging event and the initiative that your organization put forth was much appreciated. Please accept this as an expression of WFUNA’s wishes for even deeper and continued cooperation with FAF in the future.” - Incia Zaffar, World Federation of United Nations Associations, August 2005

Dear Patrick, It's been 2 months since we last met (at the Youth Assembly). We've been working on achieving our goals by making presentations, reporting our experience through school newspapers, and sharing our experience with our friends. We are really motivated. Thank you very much. Best regards, Tony Chien, Taiwanese Delegation, National Youth Commission October 2005

“The Assembly 2005 was a successful and engaging event and the initiative that your organization put forth was much appreciated. Please accept this as an expression of WFUNA’s wishes for even deeper and continued cooperation with FAF in the future.” - Incia Zaffar, World Federation of United Nations Associations, August 2005


FAF, Inc. is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization, with offices in New York City, New York, Greenwich, Connecticut, and Budapest, Hungary.