

THINKING YOUTH

YOUTH, PROSPERITY, AND SECURITY INITIATIVE

Part of the CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development

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We are pleased to present this second issue of the newsletter for the CSIS-IYF Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative. This has been a busy summer for the Youth Initiative, full of engaging public events, roundtable discussions, and private workshops with youth experts, as the Initiative continued with the development of its first major project, the Youth Wellbeing Index. Launched in January 2013 in partnership with the International Youth Foundation, the Youth, Prosperity and Security Initiative is exploring the near- and long-term economic, social, and geopolitical implications of youth development trends around the world. Dr. Nicole Goldin is the director of the Initiative.

Global Youth Wellbeing Index: Safety and Security (June 10, 2013)

In June, the Youth Initiative hosted its fourth Global Youth Wellbeing Index domain workshop on safety and security. This workshop brought together experts from the Institute for Economics and Peace, IREX, Search for Common Ground, and the International Youth Foundation. Participants discussed indicators related to road safety, juvenile justice, freedom and peace rankings, youth mortality, and crime, and considered the ways in which safety and security could influence other domains, such as civic participation and education. In this way, the interconnectedness of the domains and the indicators that encompass youth “wellbeing” again came to the forefront of the discussion. Participants also discussed the lack of impact evaluation data with relation to safety and security specific indicators. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion.

Trends and Insights from the 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report (June 21, 2013)

The Youth Initiative hosted a conversation with Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the U.S. Department of State. Ambassador CdeBaca discussed trends and insights on human trafficking in the newly released *Trafficking in Persons Report 2013* and the ways in which youth factor in human trafficking: as

victims, as perpetrators, and as the frontline in the fight against it.

“As far as differentiating between perpetrator and victim... you look to see how much a person had the ability to say ‘no.’ Once somebody starts profiting from, or committing acts of violence against others...they’ve left being a victim behind, and they’ve chosen to become a perpetrator. What we try to do, at least in the U.S. prosecution context, is credit how they got there.”

—Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador CdeBaca identified human trafficking as an issue of youth human rights, economic opportunity, citizenship, and health. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion. (A video recording of this event is available [here](#).)

A Roundtable Discussion on Inclusive Economic Growth (June 24, 2013)

The Youth Initiative hosted a roundtable discussion on the topic of inclusive economic growth with experts from Hilton Worldwide, Chevron, CGAP, the World Bank, the U.S. African Development Foundation, USAID, Inter-American Development Bank, and Georgetown Development Policy in attendance.

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The group discussed the importance of broad-based growth in poverty-reduction efforts and agreed that inclusive economic growth measures must be country- and context-specific, cost-effective, scalable and implementable by both governments and individuals. Participants from the corporate sector emphasized the consideration of business drivers in youth employment efforts, such as security and risk management, formal and informal workforce development, and infrastructure, and considered the way youth fit into supply chains. Participants also discussed the importance of integrating youth into constraints-to-growth analyses. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion.

Youth in U.S. Foreign Policy (June 26, 2013)

The Youth Initiative hosted a panel discussion with Zeenat Rahman, special adviser for global youth issues at the U.S. Department of State; Steve Feldstein, director of policy at the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning at the U.S. Agency for International Development; and Andrew Cedar, senior director for global engagement at the White House National Security Staff. The panelists engaged in a lively discussion on youth as a key constituency in designing and implementing American foreign policy, and how the U.S. government is considering youth in its approach to development, diplomacy, and national security. Nicole Goldin moderated. (A video recording of this event is available [here](#).)

“Networks of citizens, and particularly young people, have the ability to shape global events. Not just ‘youth events’ but real global politics and social norms. As demographic changes begin to hit a certain point...that doesn’t become youth policy, that becomes people policy.”

—Andrew Cedar, Senior Director for Global Engagement, National Security Staff, White House

Global Youth Wellbeing Index: Economic Opportunities (July 10, 2013)

For its fifth Youth Wellbeing Index domain workshop on economic opportunities, the Youth Initiative hosted a discussion with leaders from Creative Associates, KPMG, Youth Business International, Hilton World-

wide, Invest2Innovate, Making Cents, the International Youth Foundation, and the World Bank. Participants discussed youth employment trends, youths’ financial access and inclusion in global markets, youth entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Ultimately, participants agreed that countries must ensure their environments are conducive to business and economic inclusion.

Redefining Youth Citizenship: A Conversation with the National Endowment for Democracy’s 2013 Democracy Award Winners (July 18, 2013)

The Youth Initiative, with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), hosted the winners of the NED’s 2013 Democracy Awards. These prominent young leaders included Gulalai Ismail, founder and chairperson of Aware Girls (Pakistan); Vera Kichanova, municipal deputy in Moscow’s Yuzhnoye Tushino district (Russia); Glanis Changachirere, founding director of the Institute for Young Women Development (Zimbabwe); and Rosa María Payá Acevedo, a leader of the MCL (Christian Liberation Movement), who accepted the award on behalf of Harold Cepero (Cuba).

At this discussion, the honorees showcased the varying methods and meanings of youth citizenship by discussing the role of youth in advancing peace and democracy through local governance, online and offline activism. The panelists also shared some challenges and successes they have faced in their work, as well as thoughts on the impact they have had and how they measure, evaluate, and learn. Nicole Goldin moderated.

Global Youth Wellbeing Index: ICT/Infrastructure (August 7, 2013)

The final Youth Wellbeing Index domain workshop addressed indicators related to Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Participants from TechChange, Development Gateway, Plan International USA, EDC, and the International Youth Foundation engaged in a lively discussion on the role of technology in enabling environments, economic development, and civic participation. The group discussed the growing role of ICT in the lives of global youth, how youth are using ICT tools to further and enhance develop-

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ment objectives, and the central role of infrastructure within this context. Participants agreed that there is a lack of vital age-disaggregated data on ICT in existing data sets. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion.

International Youth Day + SocialGood: “Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward” (August 12, 2013)

In partnership with the UN Foundation, CSIS hosted a special event to mark 2013 International Youth Day. As part of the +SocialGood series, participants discussed policy, practice, and youth leadership around this year’s official International Youth Day (IYD) theme—youth migration.

Participants included Aaron Sherinian, vice president for communications and public relations at the UN Foundation; Manuel Orozco, director of migration, remittances and development at the Inter-American Dialogue; Mark R. Montgomery, coauthor of *Girls on the Move: Adolescent Girls & Migration in the Developing World* and senior associate with the Population Council’s Poverty, Gender, and Youth program; Manyang Reath Kher, founder & CEO of Humanity Helping Sudan Project; and Ramona Dragomir, Atlas Corps fellow at International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE). Nancy A. Donaldson, director of the International Labor Organization (ILO), Washington, D.C., Office, who presented the winning video of the ILO’s 2013 Youth Employment Video Contest. Nicole Goldin and Colm Quinn, CSIS media relations manager, moderated the conversation. (A video recording of this event is available [here](#).)

“Most of the literature has fixated on the risk and disadvantage. Most of the literature has not looked, with equal intensity, at the opportunities; the factors that drive migration, the search for a better life.”

—Mark R. Montgomery, Coauthor of *Girls on the Move: Adolescent Girls & Migration in the Developing World*, Population Council

Roundtable Discussion on Youth Entrepreneurship (August 22, 2013)

The Youth Initiative held a lively roundtable discussion on the theme of promoting youth entrepreneurship with Poonam Ahluwalia, founder and executive director of the YES campaign and YouthTrade; Heath Cosgrove, director of MPEP at USAID; Todd Schwartz, deputy special representative for commercial and business affairs at the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State; and Annie Ryu, founder and CEO of Global Village Fruits, Inc. The group discussed opportunities and constraints youth entrepreneurs face in capacity building, building networks, accessing markets, their ability to pierce bureaucratic red tape, and sustainability efforts. Participants agreed that creating a vibrant youth-owned private sector requires a multi-stakeholder approach and attention to both local supply and demand to promote inclusive economic growth and the wellbeing of all. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion.

Publications and Multimedia

Nicole Goldin Interviews Monique Coleman (June 12, 2013) [\[Small Screen Session\]](#)

In this video, actress, activist and UN youth champion Monique Coleman talks with Nicole Goldin about why she advocates for young people and gender equality.

Why We Must All Hope Malala’s Birthday Wish Comes True

By Nicole Goldin, July 16, 2013 [\[Publication\]](#)

Commentary on why Malala Yousafzai’s birthday wish for education equality is truly in the world’s collective interests.

Can World Keep Up with Mobile Young People? (CNN Feature)

By Nicole Goldin, August 12, 2013 [\[Publication\]](#)

On International Youth Day, Nicole Goldin considers the causes, challenges, and opportunities faced and posed by youth migrants and how best to harness the power of today’s global, mobile, and ambitious young people so as to increase prosperity and security for all.