



Thinking Youth

Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative

Part of the CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development

Newsletter: Issue #3 | January 1, 2014

We are pleased to present the third issue of the newsletter for the CSIS-IYF [Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative](#). This has been a busy fall for the Youth Initiative. Following CSIS's move to its new building in September, we hosted several public events and roundtable discussions on topics related to global youth wellbeing. The Initiative continued working toward the 2014 launch of the Youth Wellbeing Index and held a final Index global advisory review in Istanbul in October. 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.

Youth Wellbeing Index Advisory Review

(Istanbul, Turkey, October 3–4, 2013)

In October, the Youth Initiative hosted a final Youth Wellbeing Index global advisory review with a group of 15 experts from 9 countries across 5 regions representing the UN Population Fund, Commonwealth Secretariat, International Youth Foundation, Hilton Worldwide, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Institute for Economics and Peace, World Bank, Youthpolicy.org, Souktel, Organización Iberoamericana de Juventud (OIJ), and the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. Participants were engaged in an intense technical review of the full Index architecture and data and in an analytical hierarchy process to arrive at a preliminary weighting scheme.

Youth Wellbeing Index: Final Roundtable

Discussion (October 16, 2013)

Following the Istanbul review, the Youth Initiative hosted a robust D.C. roundtable on the Youth Wellbeing Index. Participants comprised experts who had joined one or more of the domain workshop series and included representatives from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), World Bank, Population Reference Bureau, Plan International, the National Democratic Institute, Making Cents, TechChange, Brookings Institution, Search for Common Ground, International Youth Foundation, Pathfinder International, Child Trends, Hilton Worldwide, Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC),

and the British Council. The group reviewed the final framework of the Index, provisional findings, and discussed any remaining questions related to the final construct of the Index. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion with Payal Patel of the International Youth Foundation.

Book Event: *First Globals: Understanding, Managing, and Unleashing Our Millennial Generation* (November 20, 2013)

CSIS hosted John Zogby, senior analyst, Zogby Analytics, and founder of the “Zogby Poll” and the Zogby companies, upon the release of his new book entitled *First Globals: Understanding, Managing, and Unleashing Our Millennial Generation*. Mr. Zogby discussed the unique characteristics, opportunities, and constraints posed and faced by the “First Globals” generation in the United States.

“We wondered how young people saw themselves in relationship to others. We discovered they were most likely to consider themselves global...they recognized that they were multicultural. They recognized that they were already different.”

—John Zogby, Senior Analyst, Zogby Analytics

Dr. Goldin offered comments about the global context and engaged Zogby in a discussion of the findings in



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comparison with global trends and insights. (A video recording of this event is available [here](#).)

Youth and Human Rights (December 13, 2013)

To mark International Human Rights Day, the Youth Initiative hosted an event on Youth and Human Rights. Uzra Zeya, acting assistant secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the U.S. Department of State, provided opening remarks. Panelists included Chloe Schwenke, vice president of global programs, Freedom House; Daniel Solomon, former national student director, STAND; and Alison Kiehl Friedman, deputy director, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State.

“Unburdened by convention and fresh with new ideas, young people will always be at the forefront of societal change. Nowhere is this more true than in the space of human rights. If history is any guide, it has proven that human rights activism is by no means reserved for the over-40 crowd. In fact, progress in human rights is often fueled by young women and men who reject an unjust status quo.”

— Uzra Zeya, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State

The panelists considered the ways in which youth are central to the human rights discussion today: as victims of human rights abuses and on the frontline in the fight for justice and equality for all. Panelists discussed the most pressing human rights issues for young people around the world and how youth themselves are addressing complex, interconnected, and context-specific human rights challenges. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion. (A video recording of this event is available [here](#).)

In the News, Publications, and Multimedia **“Concordia Conversations: Dr. Nicole Goldin”** (September 20, 2013) [\[Video Recording\]](#)

At the 2013 Concordia Summit, Dr. Goldin moderated a breakout panel on “Forging the Path toward an Inclusive Financial Sector.” Following the panel

discussion, Dr. Goldin sat down for an interview with Claudia Chan, founder of S.H.E. Summit.

Make Youth Central to Post-MDG Future **(CNN Feature)**

By Nicole Goldin, October 15, 2013 [\[Publication\]](#)

Commentary on why youth must be central to the post-MDG agenda and how youth development has all too easily been sidelined for its complexity.

Assessing Youth Wellbeing: Toward a Global Youth Wellbeing Index

By Nicole Goldin, October 15, 2013 [\[Publication\]](#)

This publication outlines some of the key discussion points and conclusions that will be reflected in the forthcoming final Index framework and inaugural report for select countries, expected to be released April 2014.

Global Youth Unemployment Crisis Spurs Young Entrepreneurs to Get Creative

By Lucy Sherriff and Jillian Berman for *Huffington Post* November 22, 2013 [\[Huffington Post\]](#)

Dr. Goldin comments on global trends and context for youth entrepreneurship.

Looking Ahead Toward the 2014 QDDR: Perspectives from CSIS Experts

Moderated by Nicole Goldin, November 25, 2013 [\[Video Recording\]](#)

The CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development hosted an event with CSIS experts on lessons learned from the 2010 inaugural Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) and issues for consideration in the 2014 QDDR.