

## YOUTH, PROSPERITY, AND SECURITY INITIATIVE

Part of the CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development

Newsletter: Issue #4 | April 1, 2014

We are pleased to present this fourth issue of the newsletter for the CSIS-IYF [Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative](#). This has been a busy winter for the Initiative, full of public events, roundtable discussions, and publications. **The Initiative has also continued working toward the April 3, 2014, launch of its flagship project, the Global 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.

Please join us for the *Global Youth Wellbeing Index launch event on April 3, 2014. For details and the live webcast, visit us [here](#).*

### Global Youth Workforce Development (January 15, 2014)

In January, the Youth Initiative, in partnership with the CSIS Project on U.S. Leadership in Development, and as part of CSIS's ongoing "Chevron Forum on Development" series, with additional support from RTI International, hosted an event on Global Youth Workforce Development. Panelists included Henrietta Holsman Fore, chairman and CEO, Holsman International; former administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, and CSIS trustee; Aaron Williams, executive vice president, international development group, RTI International; former director, Peace Corps; Arup Banerji, director, social protection and labor, World Bank; and Jennifer Silberman, vice president, corporate responsibility, Hilton Worldwide.

The panelists discussed key factors contributing to the global youth employment crisis, including the skills, knowledge, and readiness gap that prevents youth from taking advantage of employment opportunities, and considered how public- and private-sector actors are implementing innovative policy, programs, and partnerships to unleash the potential of today's youth. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion. (A video recording of this event is available [here](#).)

*"One in six young people globally are unemployed...they can't get jobs, or they're struggling within the informal sector, trying to determine how they can survive in this*

*rapidly evolving world economy. We know we're looking at a structural change in the economy. All of us in the donor community, the national governments, the private sector, we're all trying to figure out how we can provide pathways for these young people to engage in a productive life. This is the time when partnerships are crucial."*

— Aaron Williams, Executive Vice President, International Development Group, RTI International

### More than Medals: Youth, Sports, Prosperity, and Security (February 6, 2014)

To mark the opening of the 2014 Winter Olympics, the Youth Initiative hosted an event on Youth, Sports, Prosperity, and Security. Panelists included Tom Dolan, two-time Olympic champion and founder, Tom Dolan Swim School; Mori Taheripour, senior advisor, Sport for Development, U.S. Agency for International Development; Brendan Tuohey, executive director, PeacePlayers International; and Rebecca Zylberman, lead, Global Society Partnerships, British Council.

*"Sport becomes part of the DNA of the community, and therefore it becomes a valuable tool to use to integrate in education and development...people want to use this opportunity to create a positive behavior change among youth and communities."*

—Mori Taheripour, Senior Advisor, Sport for Development, U.S. Agency for International Development

## Thinking Youth

The panelists considered sports' contribution to youth skills development, and how competition, international exposure, and the Olympic experience encourage friendship, tolerance, and peace among young people and their communities worldwide. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion. (A video recording of this event is available [here](#).)

### Youth Employment in Africa: A Roundtable Discussion (February 14, 2014)

CSIS hosted a private roundtable discussion on youth employment in sub-Saharan Africa, with a spotlight on South Africa's recently introduced youth wage subsidy. Speakers included Louise Fox, former World Bank lead economist and coauthor of the World Bank's report on Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa; Alu Museisi, first secretary, socioeconomic and development, Embassy of South Africa; Darias Jonker, first secretary, political, Embassy of South Africa, and Ndumiso Mngadi, third secretary, public diplomacy, Embassy of South Africa.

Participants considered both the supply and demand sides of youth employment, structural issues inhibiting policy formation and implementation, and the challenges and opportunities presented with the introduction of the South Africa youth wage subsidy. The group also discussed the dynamics of agriculture in youth employment in Africa. Richard Downie, deputy director and fellow with the CSIS Africa Program, and Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion.

### Workforce Development Systems: A Roundtable Discussion (March 25, 2014)

To further inform the January 15 event on Global Youth Workforce Development, the Youth Initiative held a private roundtable discussion with Andrea Noske, minister-counselor, head of section science and technology, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; Andrew Baird, senior economic growth specialist, international development, RTI International; and Govind Mohan, minister (economic), Embassy of India.

The speakers discussed systems-level interventions to address global skills mismatch that is contributing to youth un- and underemployment. Participants considered the ways in which government policy and national institutions are effective forces for skill-building at scale, while highlighting the role of the private sector and other actors in planning and promoting institutions

and programs that strive to create ecosystems for workforce development. The group considered how youth expectations and social norms factor in employment choices. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion.

### Publications and Multimedia

#### Global Education and Skills Forum (GESF)

Nicole Goldin participated in the GESF in Dubai on March 15-17th. Her Twitter comments can be viewed at [@nicolegoldin](#) #GESF.

#### "More than Medals: Youth in Sport for Peace and Development."

By Nicole Goldin and Katherine Perry, February 11, 2014 [\[Publication\]](#)

Commentary on sport as an important way to prepare youth for success off the field, as well as bring people together in friendship and peace.

#### "Youth Unemployment Is Costing the World Billions." (Huffington Post)

By Jillian Berman, January 22, 2014 [\[Publication\]](#)

In Jillian Berman's piece on global youth unemployment, Nicole Goldin comments on the implications of jobless youth around the world.

#### "The Urgency and Opportunity of Global Youth Workforce Development."

By Nicole Goldin, Henrietta H. Fore, Aaron Williams, January 23, 2014 [\[Publication\]](#)

Commentary on why promoting youth employment or workforce development should be long term, contextually appropriate, integrative, and sustainable.

#### "Youth: the Key to World Prosperity"

By Nicole Goldin, *Aspenia*, Aspen Institute Italia, Rome, December 2013 [\[Publication\]](#)

To sustain momentum in global growth and minimize opportunity gaps that can drive crime and unrest, young people must be able to break free from cycles of poverty, realize their economic potential, and be equipped to lead their communities forward.