Green growth and green jobs for youth

Millions of green jobs have been created across a range of sectors and there are more work opportunities ahead, according to the report by the Green Jobs Initiative of ILO. The shift to a greener economy that could generate 15 to 60 million additional jobs globally over the next two decades and lift tens of millions of workers out of poverty, also offers opportunities for young people.

Earlier this month in Bangkok, the ILO, UN Environment Programme, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs held an expert group meeting on “Green Growth and Green Jobs for Youth”.

During the conference, APYouthNet recorded its latest talk show with youth representatives from the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka providing their thoughts on youth employment and green economy. Tune into APYouthNet to watch the show.

POSTCARD FROM... Across Asia by
Zach Duffy, Watson Fellow

Konichiwa from Japan, or Ni Hao from China, or Sawati-krop from Thailand! I’ve used all of those greetings over the last four months as I travel the world on a yearlong fellowship from the Thomas J. Watson Foundation to study youth employment initiatives.

Young people around the world are struggling to find decent work. But the global nature of the youth employment crisis also presents the world as a laboratory in which all countries are figuring out how to address the same issue. Some experiments are surely proceeding more successfully than others. I’ve found a few tidbits worth sharing. First of all, there’s no perfect program out there. What helps one person find a job doesn’t help another.

For years now, for-profit corporations have been harnessing the power of data-analysis programs to predict who is most likely to purchase their products. In Japan, I found several non-profits doing the same thing. Let’s say that in a random sample of 100 unemployed young people, only about 50 may actually benefit from a given program and enter the workforce. So these NGOs asked, “What are the characteristics of those 50 people, and how do we focus all of our efforts on them?” That statistical modeling can be expensive, but in the end it saved these NGOs money and made them more effective. Sounds like a good idea to me.

If you’d like to learn more about my project, please visit my occasionally updated blog at youthatwork.tumblr.com.

Recommended resources

European Commission, December 2012 - Moving Youth into Employment. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

ILO, December 2012 - Meeting Report ‘Decent Work for Youth in India’. To raise awareness on youth employment challenges in India, the ILO and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India hosted a day-long even in New Delhi.

AusAID Education Resource Facility, November 2012 - Current Issues in Education: Skills Development and Technical and Vocational Education. This paper is intended to provide managers with an improved understanding of the complex processes surrounding skills development and TVET reform, and how AusAID can ensure sustainable provision.