OUR VISION

Youth everywhere actively engaged and connected in shaping a more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable world.

OUR MISSION

Through Internet technologies, we enable a collaborative learning community which provides youth with access to global opportunities, cross cultural connections and meaningful participation in decision making.
OUR PURPOSE

We facilitate global understanding and grow leadership among youth to enhance their participation in social movements for a better world.
CHAMPIONS & ADVISORS

Patron
Her Excellency the Right Honourable
Michaëlle Jean, C.D., C.M.M., Commander-in-Chief of
Canada, C.C., Governor General, C.O.M.

TIG Advisors (a partial list)

Anurag Nigam
CEO BuzzBox.com and Vice President of the Sand Hill Angels

Brodie Boland
Business Analyst, McKinsey & Company

Idit Harel
Founder & President, World Wide Workshop for Children’s Media
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John Horrigan
Associate Director, Pew Internet Project

Kim Samuel Johnson
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Champions for Youth Engagement

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Walter Fust
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GYAN Board of Directors (United States)

Benjamin Quinto
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Ellen Ratchye-Foster
Principal, Burning Glass Consulting

Michael Butler
Original Producer of the Broadway Musical “Hair”

Michael Furdyk
Director of Finance and Technology, TakingITGlobal

Susan Koehler
Apparate Business Consulting

Vivianna Guzman
Executive VP, CFO & Treasurer, American Management Association
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to welcome you to TakingITGlobal’s 2008 Annual Report. It marks a momentous year for us. With a record budget of $2 million Canadian dollars, we rolled out a wide range of high impact projects and programs.

One of the hallmarks of our innovative organization is our commitment to building collaborative relationships. In partnership with governments, foundations, non-governmental organizations and corporations, we achieved unprecedented success in executing on our vision and mission in 2008.

None of this would have been possible without the vision and commitment of all the foundations and corporate partners that support us. We are grateful to each one distinctly for the difference we were able to make together. Here we are limited to sharing only a sampling of their collective impact:

The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation’s continued support of our Creating Local Connections Canada program made it possible for us to reach even greater numbers of young Canadians. The Ontario Trillium Foundation helped us to strengthen our capacity to support youth in communities like Timmins, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Ottawa.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation funded the Youth Media Exchange, recognizing the increasing importance of how digital media is transforming the way young people learn. The Longview Foundation’s investment expanded the Global Issues section of our Online Community with monthly themes, enabling our members to deepen their understanding of world concerns.

The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation empowered Canadian youth to contribute their voices at the UN Climate Change conference in Poland. The Adobe Youth Voices project gave young people the opportunity to present their creative reflections at the 4th World Youth Congress in Quebec City.

Over the past 3 years, a grant from Microsoft established TIGed, our community for educators, as a leading model of using technology to provide rich, interactive learning experiences that bring the world to students and prepare students for the world. Our partnership with Pearson Foundation helped us launch a new e-course to support aspiring young social entrepreneurs.

We also embarked on a new direction with a strategic alliance between TakingITGlobal and the New York-based Global Youth Action Network (GYAN). Both organizations share a dream of young people everywhere more involved in global issues, and by integrating our efforts, we’ve strengthened our capacity to realize it.

TakingITGlobal continues to be at the forefront of advancing youth-led global social change. 2008 was a year of fantastic accomplishments. And perhaps most importantly, it illuminates how, when provided the environment, youth are contributing meaningfully to shaping a more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable world.

Ron Mitchell
President of the Board of Directors
TakingITGlobal co-founders Michael Furdyk, Jennifer Corriero, and the rest of the TIG team epitomize the best of what I call the Net Generation. Born between 1977 and 1997, the Net Generation represent more than one-quarter of the global population. They are the first generation to be totally immersed since birth in an interactive, hyper-stimulating, digital environment. Using the Internet – the most powerful tool for communications and learning ever – is second nature to them.

Around the world this generation is flooding into the workplace, marketplace, and every niche of society. They are bringing with them their demographic muscle, media smarts, purchasing power, new models of collaborating and parenting, entrepreneurship, and political power. They have strong values and care deeply about our planet. In many countries, including the United States, volunteering by young people is at an all-time high. In some countries we can see this civic involvement morphing into political involvement; witness the critical role the Net Generation played in the election of President Barack Obama.

There has never been greater need for the skills and values of today’s youth. We’re facing unprecedented economic turmoil, and institutions in areas such as business, government and education are experiencing deep transformations. What the world really needs now is a generation of fresh, energized, savvy champions for change. What the world needs is more TakingITGlobal.

I am proud to say that I’ve worked with Michael for more than a dozen years. Our first project was the design and construction of my GrowingUpDigital.com website. Michael was the project manager, and he was 13 at the time. Our most recent collaboration was around my latest book, Grown Up Digital. The research for the book was extensive, and TakingITGlobal was an ideal partner to help me reach out and listen to the views of young people around the world.

This annual report outlines the many remarkable achievements of the TIG team during 2008. I wish this great group of young people even more success in the future.
It amazes us every year how far we’ve come since we founded TakingITGlobal on the idea that when young people are provided the space, support and networks, they can become a major force for change. What we started has blossomed into a global network of socially engaged youth leaders full of energy and capability to tackle the issues that affect their communities. We are honoured that TakingITGlobal has played a role in shaping the lives of so many young people; your stories drive and compel us to do even more.

This year was remarkable, especially given our involvement and coordinating role in two major international conferences - the 17th International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, and the 4th World Youth Congress in Quebec City. With both events happening within weeks of each other in August, it was a summer filled with great expectations, results and accomplishments. We were excited to follow through on the successes achieved at the previous conference in Toronto in 2006, and in collaboration with the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS, we truly believe that young people had an even stronger impact on the international movement to address AIDS in 2008.

In Quebec City, we were extremely touched by the commitment made by the Governor General of Canada, who attended three full days of the World Youth Congress. Her Excellency’s passion for young people was a resounding example of what officials can and should do to address our concerns. We’d also like to thank organizing partners Peace Child International and Congrès mondial des jeunes for joining us in creating a memorable Congress. Finally, our gratitude goes to the Canadian International Development Agency for providing the financial support necessary to pull off the 12 day event, and recognizing the role that young Canadians can play in international youth-led development.

We ended this year with the launch of the sixth version of our online community. Sporting a new URL, TIGweb.org features streamlined navigation, greater emphasis on member-driven content and a fresh layout. The launch event was the culmination of a two-year process to improve our platform after many meetings, focus groups and development cycles.

Join us as we reflect on a year filled with amazing achievements and results that has set the stage for an even better 2009!

Jennifer Corriero
Executive Director

Michael Furdyk
Director of Technology & Finance

Twitter: takingitglobal
Who we serve

We serve youth primarily between the ages of 13 to 30 through:

▪ an online community and initiatives that focus on enabling actively engaged youth (TIGweb)
▪ education programs geared towards middle and high school students. (TIGed)

DIVERSITY

We live in a rich and diverse world and we believe that being inclusive is a basic human value. By encouraging intercultural dialogue, ensuring intergenerational cooperation and championing the notion of equality in everything that we do, we believe in nurturing a world where all individuals have deep respect for one another.

COLLABORATION

A strong global civil society requires citizens who are motivated to share their knowledge, talents and expertise with each other. A shared understanding of the value we each contribute to building our world must exist within all of us. By being democratic and participatory, we are committed to ensuring that everyone not only has a voice, but has an opportunity to be heard.

INNOVATION

New approaches to solving problems are vital if we are to live in a truly sustainable world. Where there are obstacles to be overcome, new ideas will flourish. Individuals possessing a vision of a better world will step into the responsibility to be innovative and to embody the best qualities of leadership.

EXCELLENCE

By constantly reaching for excellence, we undertake a path that strikes a balance between quality and quantity, breadth and depth, where the results of our actions have deeper impact than words. Ours is a cause that invigorates and sustains us to continue being the best that we can be, to deliver powerful results and to live life fully with an appreciation for the whole.

What We Stand For

▪ Meaningful youth engagement
▪ Intercultural dialogue
▪ Participatory democracy
▪ Sustainable development
▪ Digital citizenship and inclusion
▪ A rights based approach to social change
OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Our Theory of Change is inspired by the integral philosophy of Ken Wilber, which posits that there are 4 areas (quadrants) where progressive development can occur: Interior Individual, Exterior Individual, Interior Collective, and Exterior Collective. Through our programs and projects, young people move along a linear path through each quadrant, as exhibited by the diagram.

(A) Youth Development: We help develop a sense of social responsibility and awareness of global issues, as well as build capacity among youth, regardless of their placement across the spectrum of engagement.

(B) Youth Action & Participation: We provide engaged youth with the access to global opportunities, building their skills and creating a sense of belonging to a community of other actively engaged youth.

(C) Social Movements: We strengthen global social movements by collaborating with other organizations to ensure youth participate and become key stakeholders in these efforts.

(D) Societal Values: We impact shared values through our involvement in global social movements, ultimately influencing attitudes and behaviours towards creating a more sustainable world.

The Spectrum of Youth Engagement

In 2005, we undertook research on the spectrum of the various levels of youth engagement. As a result, we focus our attention on the "sweet spot" of Engaged and Highly-Engaged youth - those young people around the world who are aware of issues and have the desire to make a difference by taking action.
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008

Jan

- WorldBlu Council Meeting (Boston, USA)
- Northwest Council for Computer Education Annual Conference (Seattle, USA)
- Digitally-Empowered Activists Conference (Istanbul, Turkey)
- “Inspiring Youth through Global Communications,” Social Innovation Conversations
- “TakingITGlobal Profile,” RedCanary.ca
- “Night of Inspiration,” York University Magazine

Feb

- MacArthur Foundation Public Forum on Digital Media & Learning (Los Angeles, USA)
- “Online networking for social good – A global approach,” Centre for Health Promotion Studies News
- “She takes it global,” The Aspirant

Mar

- WorldBlu Most Democratic Workplaces Award
- Global Engagement Summit (Chicago, USA)
- Global Youth Service Day ⇒ p.26
- GETEX Dubai (Dubai, UAE)
- World Economic Forum LAC (Cancun, Mexico)
- “Digital Activists Target Tibet,” The Globe and Mail

Apr

- TakingITGlobal partners with International Labour Organization
- Youth Media Exchange (ymex.org) launches ⇒ p.18
- Inspiring Action: a Conference on Social Justice (Toronto, Canada)
- IV International Meeting on Youth Policies (Urbino, Italy)
- ICTs for Development Conference (New York, USA)
- UNDESA Global Alliance for ICTs for Development (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
- “Chatelaine's 80 amazing Canadian women to watch,” Chatelaine Magazine

May

- TIG Advisors Meeting
- Government 2.0: Wikinomics, Government and Democracy (Cambridge, USA)
- Tallberg Forum (Tallberg, Sweden)
- OECD International Workshop on Building Citizen Centred Policies and Services (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- CIVICUS Youth Assembly (Glasgow, Scotland)
- 5th Science Centre World Congress (Toronto, Canada)
- World Bank Youth Open House (Washington, D.C., USA)
- TIG Open Forum in Singapore, Malaysia

June

- Interactive Innovations (Vancouver, Canada)
- Alliance for a New Humanity, Human Forum 2008 (San Jose, Costa Rica)
- “All Media is New Media,” UNICEF: Media Magic Digest
- “Cybernetic Engagement,” Faculdade Cásper Líbero
- “Timmins youth lend helping hand,” Timmins Daily Press
Milestones: Some of our achievements, including launches and partnerships, in 2008.

Events: Conferences and other events where we presented or attended, sharing our expertise.

Media: We were featured and interviewed in articles and other media stories.

**July**
- National Educational Computing Conference (San Antonio, USA) ⇒ p.15
- Canadian Youth Climate Coalition Summit (Edmonton, Canada)
- Australian Council for Educational Leaders Tour (various, Australia) ⇒ p.14
- “Social networking for social change,” The Globe and Mail
- “Youth Dialogue” recommends purifying the “Youth Parliament” from impurities,” Al Waqt
- “Green bonanza!” Edmonton Sun
- “Canadá en las Américas,” Radio Canada International

**Aug**
- Youth Employment Summit (Baku, Azerbaijan)
- “Building the Future: Science Centers and the Net Generation,” ASTC Dimensions

**Sept**
- XVII International AIDS Conference (Mexico City, Mexico) ⇒ p.26-27
- 4th World Youth Congress (Quebec City, Canada) ⇒ p.27-28
- AIESEC International Congress (Sao Paolo, Brazil)
- Global Democracy Live Chat (online)
- “Reaching Millions - Youth, AIDS and the Digital Age,” The Kaiser Network

**Oct**
- Social Networking for ITAC (Toronto, Canada)
- Sommet de la Francophonie (Quebec City, Canada)
- Youth Policies & Networks, UNESCO Meeting (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)
- CBC Montreal Matters
- Towards Governance of Local & Global Commons (Hude, Germany)

**Nov**
- National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference (Houston, USA)
- International Cooperation Days (Ottawa, Canada)
- Impact Leaders Summit (Toronto, Canada)
- PrevNet Town Hall Discussion on Cyber Bullying (Toronto, Canada)

**Dec**
- V6 Launch - www.tigweb.org ⇒ p.12
- UN Climate Change Conference, COP 14 (Poznan, Poland) ⇒ p.27
- “Compassionate Clicking,” Leadership for Student Activities Magazine
- “The Future of Volunteering is Online,” e-CIVICUS
In 2008, we had...
3.5 million unique visitors
30% member growth
53,457 new members
97,723 blog posts
652 groups created
2,387 Global Gallery submissions
54,226 actions taken by members
(made a commitment, signed a petition, started/joined a project)

TIG V6 Launch

At the beginning of 2008, TakingITGlobal embarked on an process to update its Online Community. An assessment of TakingITGlobal’s previous homepage was conducted to determine the primary purpose of the new, redesigned homepage, along with other site sections including Country pages, Regional Pages and a landing page for organizations.

The revamp also included a new and dynamic Flash map that features the locations of some of our most active members and locates upcoming events, and a member feed to aggregate the latest actions taken by members, including petitions signed, commitments made, and projects started. Both of these improvements provide users and visitors a sense of community, and logs the activity taken on the site as it happens.

The revamp process also drew on feedback collected from our membership through an online survey along with discussion forums and submitted recommendations. As a final step, a usability study was conducted in which focus groups comprised of TIG members and non-TIG members assessed the function and appearance of the revamped homepage in comparison to the previous one.

TIGweb.org is the social network that connects you to the global issues that affect us all

Our Members Say...
82% have developed friendships
72% have formed collaborations and/or partnerships
69% agreed that TIG greatly improved their view of young people as change agents
64% have joined a project or an organization
58% agreed that TIG increased their sense of belonging to a community

Community
Action Tools
Resources
Regions
Global Issues
Youth Media
The Impact of TIG

Between January and April, we conducted an in-depth study building upon research first conducted in 2004 on the impact TakingITGlobal has had on the lives of our members. This survey was designed to not only generate benchmark data for future studies, but to also identify strengths and weaknesses of our programs.

The research demonstrated that the Online Community - as a vast global network of globally aware individuals - was of most value to our members. Over half (57%) of surveyed members agreed that their awareness of local and global issues had increased as a result of using our resources. Educators and organizations who use our tools and resources were also interviewed, and all of the results were included in the Impact report available online at: http://www.tigurl.org/impact08
Multilingualism

The United Nations designated 2008 as the International Year of Languages, and it’s fitting that we spent much of the year examining our 12 language platforms and developing ways to make each more dynamic and vibrant. One of the improvements we will be launching in 2009 is to recruit teams of volunteers for each language to submit content in their native languages so that other members would be encouraged to contribute. We also plan to further develop additional platforms: German, Farsi, Bengali and Swahili!

Community Connectors

In 2008, we launched a 6-month pilot designed to provide virtual internship opportunities for some of our most active members. The Impact of TIG report revealed that many members wanted more opportunities for long-term involvement and interaction with the community. In turn, we wanted to create an innovative approach to combine online and offline tasks and activities. TIG’s Community Connectors program highlighted the ability of young people to ignite online activity while strengthening offline networks of youth interested in making a difference. A total of 12 connectors were selected from 9 countries.

90% of the interns said the Community Connectors program was a meaningful experience for them; 100% said they would recommend it to a friend; 100% said they feel more confident in their use of ICTs for social change thanks to the internship; 90% said they were able to make a difference in their community and learn new skills.

“TIG helped me to broaden my mental horizons to a great extent. We can become a part of the world by getting involved and using our knowledge and abilities to contribute to solving global problems. Information means empowerment!”

– Olga Pavlova, Member, 22
Virtual Volunteers

As a result of the strategizing around our multilingual policy, we realized the need to also improve the experience of our dedicated team of virtual volunteers. The Online Community relies on a team of over 100 young people all around the world, each contributing time and knowledge. We wanted to develop a virtual volunteer policy that not only consolidates their efforts efficiently, but also celebrates their work. This endeavour will culminate in an academic study to be published in 2009, that will look at the trends, challenges and opportunities of volunteering in an online setting.

“It gives me so much hope and inspiration just to know that a network like TakingITGlobal exists. When you’re striving so hard to make a difference within your community, sometimes you can get tired or discouraged. But in a place like TIG, where thousands and thousands of youth making change in all corners of the world can connect with each other, you see that you’re not alone.”

– Laura Muller, Member, 22

Member Breakdown by region
Africa: 23.1%
Asia: 20.4%
Central America & Caribbean: 1.5%
Europe: 12.3%
North America: 33.8%
Oceania: 4.8%
South America: 4.1%
Similar to the Online Community, our community for educators, TIGed.org, underwent a revitalization process, which started with an in-depth consultation that asked teachers what worked and what needed improvement. Many of their suggestions influenced the new design for TIGed.org, which included a simplified navigation and a fresh visual design. The interviews also shed light on how educators used and accessed our peer-driven community, and the need to continually provide examples of best practice on how our technology and resources can be applied in the classroom.

The Transatlantic Project Citizen

We also entered into a collaborative online partnership with the Florida Law Related Education Association, to use the virtual classrooms for an innovative project called “The Transatlantic Project Citizen.” Students in Florida, Hungary and Romania explored government in action, while learning about each other’s communities in the process. In the curriculum developed by and administered by the Center for Civic Education, each of the classrooms studied a problem in their local communities and examined government processes and policies to resolve the problem. Their work was displayed online and through a culminating virtual showcase.

Grub: Growing Reflections, Understanding Bites

In partnership with Youth Voices Research at the University of Toronto, the Centre for Global eHealth Innovation and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, we launched GRUB, a new and exciting interactive virtual classroom looking at youth perspectives on food choices and food systems. The GRUB toolkit features photographs and captions created by both rural and urban young people, to encourage your students to ask important questions about the food we eat, where it comes from, how we make our food choices, and how those choices affect our health.

Green Street

During the fall of 2008, we laid the foundations for a relationship with the Canadian Teachers’ Federation and Centrale des syndicats du Québec, through the Green Street project, which aims to use our virtual classrooms to deliver high quality environmental and sustainability education to Canadian elementary and secondary school students. http://www.green-street.ca

“TIGed virtual classrooms allow informal interaction between young people, providing exactly the kind of social networking which today’s computer-savvy kids use so much in their free time.”

– Jennifer Klein, Research Journalism Initiative
National Educational Computing Conference

At the 2008 National Educational Computing Conference (NECC), in San Antonio, Texas, the collaborative potential of our educational tools were referenced in a keynote speech by iEARN Canada representatives Mali Bickley and Jim Carleton, while TIG Advisor Idit Caperton highlighted the value of the platform as an educational resource in her closing keynote address.

We had a booth in the NECC Exhibition Hall and also ran a Spotlight Session on “Social Networking for Social Good,” where we discussed the opportunity for educators to incorporate our programs into the classroom, and shared many stories of how young people’s use of social web tools have provided them with life-changing opportunities to engage with the issues facing our planet.

Australian Council for Educational Leaders

Co-founder Michael Furdyk was selected as a traveling scholar by the Australian Council for Educational Leaders in 2008, and conducted professional development workshops with over 500 educators on TakingITGlobal and the opportunity of bringing Global Education in the classroom for educators in Adelaide, Canberra, Parramatta, Melbourne, and Hobart throughout July.

Global Issues: An Online Resource

The Understanding the Issues initiative was launched with the support of the Longview Foundation with the aim of deepening the Global Issues section of the Online Community. Each month, featured themes such as Women’s Rights, Child Labour and Corporate Social Responsibility were spotlighted across the network, giving our members the opportunity to increase their knowledge.

A dedicated team of editors from around the world took a series of actions that engaged our members; these include commemorating UN International Days, encouraging youth-created content through art contests, and promoting commitments tied to featured themes. Live chats and discussions were also organized that gave youth the opportunity to interact and ask questions to experts in each field.

This comprehensive online resource receives between 50,000- 140,000 hits per month, with climate change, human rights and HIV/AIDS being the most popular issues. The content developed and curated by our team of editors was supported by a group of academic advisors and organizational partners.

Organizations who shared a topical focus with each theme were approached to partner with us, thereby giving them an opportunity to engage with our entire community.

Our activities database on TIGed was populated with dozens of 100 lesson plans created by both teachers and various partner organizations. Many of the posted activities reference specific Global Issue sections.

Issues

Agriculture & Food Security
Child Labour
Climate Change
Corporate Social Responsibility
Freedom of Expression
Genocide
HIV/AIDS
Women’s Rights
Youth Media Exchange is a participatory learning project that launched a social network enabling youth to exchange and discuss digital media on global issues that they create, or that exists elsewhere on the web. With the generous support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, we jointly created ymex.org with Global Kids, in collaboration with Asia Society.

The ultimate goal was to educate and empower young people around the world to become creative producers and critical consumers of digital media about global issues through a niche social networking environment that provides directed learning activities.

By building on the tigweb.org community platform and existing media uploading sites such as Flickr and YouTube, ymex.org allowed users to share both first and third party digital media. The learning activities on ymex.org focused on global issues such as migration, access to education, global health, environment, and poverty.

As a part of the project, members were invited to complete a digital media literacy survey. The results demonstrated that a niche social networking community with learning goals can be effective in developing the abilities of young people. Of the participants surveyed, 86.9% were confident of teaching themselves new skills on the computer, 75.4% agreed they could effectively determine the accuracy of information found online, and 73.8% agreed that they were able to effectively identify bias or prejudice within a form of digital media.

**Quests**

Quests involve guided steps to engage members in a global issue while learning to use digital media to effectively explore the issue. For instance, a quest around poverty might involve answering questions in a discussion forum, watching a short film about child poverty, commenting on a blog post from an aid worker and then producing a digital poster to support an awareness campaign.

**Youth Guides**

Youth Guides is a mentorship system for members age 13 to 17 to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and engagement. Members publicise the skills that they can share into an online database, with the aim of connecting those members who possess skills and smarts in media production and/or global issues with those who are seeking guidance in any of those areas.
Regional Online Community Connectors

During this pilot phase, youth volunteers were selected from the target countries of India, China and South Korea. These Regional Online Community Connectors acted as a bridge for cross-cultural interaction and outreach. The Resources section included member submissions of online tools and free open source software to find, create and upload media on the Internet, as well as online resources on global issues.

Formal and informal outreach was conducted in the target countries as well as North America, through viral outreach on other social networking websites, NGO partnerships and events in order to engage youth.

The goal was to populate the network with 1,000 members by the end of the pilot phase, and we easily surpassed that target with 2,329 members registered by November.

Democracy Video Challenge

We also partnered with the Democracy Video Challenge - a global digital media competition, spearheaded by the US State Department, asking youth to reflect on the meaning of democracy by completing the statement, “Democracy Is...” The contest, which wraps up in early 2009, will see 7 winners hailing from various regions around the world, with each young person’s film screened in Hollywood, New York and Washington, D.C.

MacArthur Research

The ymex.org project was a unique initiative as its development and implementation were influenced in part by the research goals of the MacArthur Digital Media and Learning Initiative. An advisory board comprised of MacArthur Foundation grantees was formed to guide the project partners for this particular goal. Four research questions were devised which presented a different perspective and approach to managing an online community.

1. What level of instruction is needed for meaningful learning to occur in the informal environment of social networks?
2. What is a necessary length of engagement needed to sustain substantial learning and how is this achieved?
3. How does cross-cultural interaction help make learning more engaging?
4. How does our approach as practitioners frame our thinking and affect our contributions to the field of digital media and learning?

The full report can be downloaded online at: http://www.tigurl.org/ymex2008

“For the past year I have participated in YMEX first as a teen member and now as an admin, and doing so has given me the opportunity to learn about topics as varied as the issues around languages, global warming and Kabbalah, and to understand the way young people use media.” – Mariel Garcia, YMEX Coordinator
Over 2008, our Creating Local Connections (CLC) Canada ended its second year and began its third and final year of engaging young Canadians through global education, leadership training and network building through internet technologies.

As a multi-year project supported by the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, CLC Canada extended its reach this year, with a team structure that evolved over time to include Regional Team Facilitators based in Winnipeg, Ottawa, Quebec City and Halifax. They provide support and help coordinate region-specific activities for the 14 Youth Engagement Coordinators who range between 17 and 27 years old. In September, the year 3 team met in Toronto for an orientation and training session.

Another improvement was the revamped CLC Canada project page which was transformed into a dynamic space that better reflects the goals and nature of the program, with greater emphasis placed on promoting local and national events and opportunities, and showcasing CLC team accomplishments.

A Francophone engagement strategy was also established to better leverage the networks and local presence of partner organizations. The team also coordinated several issue-based initiatives to better mobilize Canadian youth on local, regional and national levels.

The Web 2.0 for Social Change guide was a collaborative effort between various CLC staff, partners and advisors. It is both an educative and skill building resource that highlights the primary online tools being utilized by the non profit sector, including YouTube, Flickr, Word Press and TakingITGlobal. Case studies focus on successful campaigning and online promotional strategies used by different groups.

The CLC Canada team launched a series of monthly webinars in February to provide comprehensive training on TakingITGlobal’s online tools. Each webinar was tailored for different audiences to ensure that material covered was relevant to those in attendance. This online training has been made available to an international audience in both English and French, with extensive promotions in Canada via the CLC Canada network.

Summary of Activities

Canadian Members: 26,273
Team Blog Posts: 200
Events Attended: 118
Workshops organized: 46
Live Chats & Webinars: 18
E-newsletters: 14
Youth Engagement Coordinators: 14
Change That Clicks

The Change That Clicks program designed to introduce to youth the safe uses of internet technologies expanded its curriculum to 12 modules including Youth Leadership, Volunteerism and the Millennium Development Goals. Modules were restructured to follow a storytelling format, additional activities with an online focus and a comprehensive facilitators guide and activity book to build on best practices and lessons learned from the pilot.

The most rewarding development was the expressed interest by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada (BGCC) to fully adopt this innovative program by having their Program Coordinators in local clubs receive training on the curriculum. 13 centres across Canada were selected to participate in a training session in Toronto. This in-person training was vital in building a sense of support and belonging amongst centres undertaking the program, effectively integrating Change That Clicks into BGCC programming.

http://www.changethatclicks.org/

Guide to Action Workshops

With the support of the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, our CLC Canada team delivered 25 workshops in schools and community centers across Canada to highlight opportunities for action on climate change. These were co-facilitated with the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition to raise awareness of Canada’s environmental policies and the international agreements taking place at the UN Climate Change Conference in December. The Guide has been voluntarily translated into Arabic, Portuguese and Chinese, and has been downloaded over 30,000 times by young leaders worldwide. The workshops engage and educate youth in a dynamic manner around the pressing issue of climate change, and encourage them to take tangible actions.

http://www.tigurl.org/climategta/

Beyond Graduation

In partnership with the PLAN Institute for Caring Citizenship, we began work on Beyond Graduation, an online community to support young people with disabilities, by focusing on employment and ensuring opportunities for contribution and community engagement beyond high school. The intention is to provide a safe and comfortable environment for young people to share inspiring stories and plan for a bright future, to provide youth and their families networking tools and resources and to enable access to available opportunities that can help them reach their goals.

http://www.beyondgraduation.ca

“Networking plays a major role in enabling students with disabilities and their families to begin thinking outside the box to open up the doors do possibility.”

– Irena Kaganski, Writer & Website Animator
Creating Local Connections West Africa

In 2008, we completed the initial phase of Creating Local Connection West Africa (CLCWA). Over 21,000 West Africans use TakingITGlobal’s tools and resources, representing nearly 10% of overall membership. Despite these promising numbers, the reality is that lack of Internet access and technological know how excludes many more youth who share the same passion for positive social change. This informed how we rolled out the local engagement and capacity building model in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Coordinators in each country customized activities to each local implementation context, combining information and communications technology capacity building, community events, youth media creation and civic engagement.

CLCWA can thus be considered a new type of regional development project with its emphasis on ICT training and the strengthening of local networks. What was pioneering in the implementation of this project was the previous lack of effective communication between the project countries; never before have youth from Nigeria and Sierra Leone, or Anglophones and Francophones, reacted to the events in neighbouring countries and connected with each other using ICTs.

As more and more young West Africans become comfortable dialoguing about such themes as the emergence from conflict, advancement of democracy, economic empowerment, reducing stigma and raising awareness about HIV/AIDS, their ability to do something about them will improve.

There exists a gap where young West Africans have the passion to make things better but do not have the capacity to make things happen. The program helped to build capacity among youth through peer-led ICT trainings, networking, national youth meetings, media creation and awards.

“At the end of the training I learnt that leadership may be defined as speaking, listening and acting in ways that Mobilize people to take effective action to realize dreams, vision and possibility.”

– Idiku Ukpo, Nigeria
Country level highlights:

**Sierra Leone**
http://sierraleone.tigweb.org/
Members: 579

Peacelinks, our partner in Sierra Leone, operates a number of drop-in centres for street kids that served as natural venues to deliver CLCWA activities. The Minister of Information has also proposed donating an abandoned technology enabled public information centre to be a venue for ongoing activities to help encourage measures of sustainability.

**Cote d'Ivoire**
http://cotedivoire.tigweb.org/
Members: 1,027

The host organization Worldwide Entrepreneurship Campaigners' Network completely adopted the CLCWA activities as their main programming, with a specific emphasis on entrepreneurship. Months-long training series were implemented, and micro-grants valued between $600 and $800 were offered by the Ministry of Customs to participants who developed business plans during the entrepreneurship workshops.

**Guinea**
http://guinea.tigweb.org/
Members: 215

The well-regarded reputation of the host organization Les Amis du Futur and its 12 satellite offices across the country made it possible to implement the program and even carry out outreach in areas with limited internet access. The team’s main accomplishment was a very thorough and coordinated media campaign through national television, radio and several newspapers, which resulted in mass interest for the project from youth to government ministers.

**Liberia**
http://liberia.tigweb.org/
Members: 484

Given Liberia’s turbulent recent history, the lack of stable structures producing electricity or a reliable communications and technological infrastructure meant that Internet access was extremely limited. A primary concern for the national team was to provide a telecentre where training and cheap Internet access could be provided. The physical location was jointly funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Mission for Liberia’s Short Impact Project.

**Nigeria**
http://nigeria.tigweb.org/
Members: 15,697

The local team of young Nigerian coordinators were very proactive and demonstrated plenty of initiative; for instance, they quickly secured practically all their venues for upcoming activities, trained over 60 youth in ICT Basics workshops, and began developing a very promising partnership with MTN, Nigeria’s most important telecom company. The potential partnership would involve using the CLCWA model in 120 ICT-connected classrooms across the country.

Training Guides

ICT Basics: http://www.tigurl.org/clcwa-ict1
ICT & Leadership: http://www.tigurl.org/clcwa-ict2
ICT & Entrepreneurship: http://www.tigurl.org/clcwa-ict3
Between March and December, we ran the Youth For Change project in partnership with Bibliotheca Alexandrina and supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to engage youth in cross-cultural dialogue as well as support youth-led development through local projects in 10 Arab countries.

The project utilized online and offline tools and spaces to support cross-cultural dialogue between Arab youth on local, regional and international levels. Mini-grants and online training were provided to support 13 projects that focused on crucial issues facing young people in the Arab World such as employment, education, environment, capacity building, HIV/AIDS, health, culture & identity, cross-cultural dialogue and human rights & democracy.

The project also offered scholarships to 2 mini-grant winners from Egypt and Bahrain to attend the World Youth Congress 2008 in Quebec City, and receive additional support, training and access to international networks focused on supporting youth-led development. To help implement the project, 9 active youth have been chosen as focal points to coordinate and promote the project activities with the support of host organizations in each country.

“Youth for change” is considered a great example for projects that enhance the leadership role and the initiative of the youth.

What distinguishes this project is that it offers youth an opportunity to initiate and change according to their needs and aspirations.

Leaders Organization considers this partnership with TIG as a strategic partnership that we will work on further developing, we will also work on providing similar programs for the youth in Palestine.”

– Shadi Atshan, Leaders Organization, Palestine
Open Forums

TakingITGlobal conducted Open Forum events where youth came together in order to identify key challenges facing youth and how they can be addressed. While Arab youth in each country focused on a number of different issues, similar themes arose in their discussions, including: the lack of opportunities for youth, society’s perception of youth and the role of women. Other topics included youth participation in political processes, environment, employment and health management.

Online Engagement

We facilitated ongoing cross-cultural dialogue through the use of online community tools and spaces including organizing online live chat events to encourage discussion among participants in the priority countries on the following themes:

- ‘Utilizing new media to promote dialogue across cultures’
- ‘Strengthening youth as community Agents of Change’
- ‘Social Networks for Social Change’
- ‘New Media and Intercultural Dialogue’

Projects

**Bahrain:** Democracy and Human Rights Club (Human Rights)

**Egypt:** Kick HIV/AIDS out (Health)

**Egypt:** Be the Change (Capacity Building - Education)

**Egypt:** Our Health in Our Food (Health)

**Egypt:** Restoring the Colour Green (Environment)

**Jordan:** My Environment is My World (Environment)

**Morocco:** The Environment is Our Responsibility (Environment)

**Palestine:** Artwork for the City of Jerusalem (Arts & Culture)

**Palestine:** For a Different Vision (Cross Cultural Dialogue)

**Palestine:** Youth and Children for Development and Change (Capacity Building)

**Tunisia:** Peer Education for Youth Leadership and HIV/AIDS Prevention (Health)

**Yemen:** Combating AIDS in the Rural Community (Health)

**Yemen:** Building Capacities and Creating Employment for Development (Capacity Building - Employment)

“To me Youth for Change wasn’t just about youth changing; it was also about changing youth!! In fact through this project I had the opportunity to witness not only young people changing their reality and acting for a better world but also a networking and sharing, that is changing young people themselves! Changing their negative passive attitude, giving them hope and inspiring them while trying to spread a new culture of young people taking their first step and getting more active.”

– Samar Mezghanni, YFC participant, Tunisia
On April 25-27, 2008, young people around the world engaged and participated in Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), an annual event held on a designated weekend every April to celebrate the year-round contributions young people are making to their communities, and to the world, through volunteerism.

GYSD has been celebrated in more than 150 countries since its start in 2000, building on the success of National Youth Service Day initiated by Youth Service America in 1989. GYAN has been involved as the main partner and international coordinator for events taking place outside the US, with TakingITGlobal providing web tools as the technology partner.

GYSD strives to be much more than a three day event: it seeks to be an opportunity for participating organizations to launch long term initiatives, build partnerships and sustainable collaborations, and strengthen programs that address community problems through the year-round engagement of young people in planning and decision-making.

“Thanks to the organizer’s efforts through Global Youth Service Day, 50 orphans experienced the transformation from being a person who receives to being a young volunteer who gives.”

– Diana Vaptsarova, Volunteer Bulgaria

Highlights from the 2008 activities included:

- In Brazil, Natal Voluntarios mobilized young people in 255 cities throughout all 27 states. Recognizing the UN International Year of Sanitation, most of the 1,000 projects focused on issues of access to water and hygiene. Brazil’s President Lula sent an official message of encouragement to all Brazilian volunteers participating in GYSD.
- In France, Association de la Fondation Etudiante Pour la Ville (AFEV) promoted solidarity through concerts, panel discussions and community gatherings.
- In Indonesia, LMPI Foundation engaged more than 60,000 youth through events under the national theme: Strengthening our Global Future through Youth Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship.
- In Iraq, the Iraqi Democratic Coalition for Youth Empowerment shared knowledge of first aid management and emergency care for burn victims with youth in the community.
- In Liberia, Vision Sisters for Development organized clean up campaigns and knowledge quizzes reaching 10,000 young people, leading to a UN Volunteers pledge to support skill training programs.
Due to the success of our 2007 climate change initiative, a follow-up – Negotiating Our Future – was launched in July, in partnership with the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition. The project launched and supported the Canadian Youth Delegation (CYD), which selected, trained and empowered 26 incredible Canadian youth from across the country to engage directly with the international climate change negotiations at the 2008 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland. The delegation represented nine provinces and two territories. They were First Nations and community activists, young workers, non-profit staff, high school students, journalists, grad students and much more. Together, they formed a powerful team.

Prior to their departure, the Canadian Youth Delegation received training from a network of 10 mentors, who used their wealth of experience and diverse perspectives to help prepare the delegation for the negotiations. Training was delivered both online and via an in-person summit in Toronto, and included the dynamics of Canadian policymaking, what to expect at the conference and media and communications training. We were also honoured to have both Toronto Mayor David Miller and former federal Minister of the Environment David Anderson attend the pre-departure summit, sharing their unique perspectives on policymaking and the role of engaged citizens in fighting climate change. Other mentors shared important perspectives from the Labour, Indigenous Rights, Youth and Environmental movements.

To broaden the engagement of Canadian youth, over 15 workshops were held across the country in partnership with our CLC Canada team. During the negotiations in Poland, the youth delegation and young Canadians across the country were linked through a highly-interactive, participatory website, where daily updates were shared on the negotiations and the participation of youth at the conference. The CLC National Program Manager also attended in order to document the stories of youth worldwide taking local actions on climate change in daily blog posts and video interviews. (www.tigblog.org/group/poznan) Participating in the conference provided great insight into how young Canadians can engage with and influence policy decisions by lobbying policymakers, showing dissent through creative demonstrations and engaging the media who help carry their voices to local communities back home. Young people play an important role in representing their generation but also the hopes and expectations of their local communities.

Over 500 youth joined forces in Poland to make a statement, to raise their voices as one and interact with the ministers and official delegates in attendance. The message that young people have a crucial say in the future of our planet was transmitted in policy meetings, media interviews and direct action activities. To learn more about the CYD and its activities, look out for our forthcoming report, Negotiating Our Future.

http://www.cydpoznan.org
In 2008, the Global Youth Action Network continued its work to support collaboration among diverse youth organizations; to provide tools, resources, and recognition for positive youth and action; and to facilitate youth participation and intergenerational partnerships in global decision-making.

The Network
At the core of GYAN’s work is its network of youth-led and youth-focused organizations, which range from local or university groups to major NGOs. Members benefit from the connectivity GYAN offers to other groups, its partnership with UN agencies, and Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council. In 2008, GYAN’s membership grew to almost 1,350 organizations, constituting a growth of nearly 10% over 2007.

Voice Blog
In 2008, GYAN started a blog for members and other interested young people focusing on ongoing activities at the United Nations. Staff, interns and volunteer contributors have posted blog entries about meetings, events and issues that are relevant and important for young people, encouraging a dialogue on how the United Nations is affecting the lives of young people around the world.

YouthLink Express Newsletter
GYAN’s monthly electronic newsletter, YouthLink Express, has grown in its 10 years of existence to become one of the most valuable resources to socially engaged youth worldwide, providing information about news, opportunities and resources for youth and youth organizations. In 2008, GYAN continued to send out YouthLink Express in three languages to more than 20,000 subscribers worldwide.

“A few years ago I learned about and attended an international youth conference through GYAN’s YouthLink Express Newsletter, and my life as a global youth activist has been changed ever since. GYAN’s newsletter served as my entrance into a wider world of youth connections and today it continues to be the number one place that I look to for keeping informed on the pulse of the global youth movement.”

– Joshua Gorman, global youth activist
GYAN contributed to several research and policy projects, both deepening the insights of the lives and aspirations of young people and channeling their opinions into relevant policy forums.

**Commission on Social Development**

The 2008 session of the Commission for Social Development took place in February with a focus on employment and poverty eradication. GYAN submitted a statement to the Commission based on a consultation with its members, and was present at the Commission to ensure the statement was distributed to participating governments. GYAN has also been a member of the NGO Committee for Social Development to ensure that young people are on the social development agenda throughout the year.

**Commission on Sustainable Development**

For many years, GYAN has supported the efforts of the Youth Caucus at the Commission on Sustainable Development. In 2008, GYAN provided accreditation and access to the United Nations to more than 50 members of the Youth Caucus, and took part in the lobbying and advocacy work during the Commission in May.

**Machel 10-year Strategic Review**

Following up on the work in 2007 in bringing the voices of children and young people in conflict zones into the policy arena, GYAN organized a consultation among youth organizations with experience working in conflict zones. The insights from the consultation formed a chapter in the report: “Machel 10-Year Strategic Review: Children and Conflict in a Changing World”.

**OECD Research**

Between May and June, TakingITGlobal and GYAN partnered to conduct two separate e-consultations on behalf of the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD), each running for 3 weeks and presented a number of thematic questions for young people to consider. Are youth able to participate in shaping public policies and services? What do they think of their government’s response to climate change? Over 350 participants from over 75 countries participated in the e-consultations and their voices and opinions were enlightening, eye-opening and honest. The results of the e-consultations were presented at the OECD’s International Workshop on Building Citizen Centred Policies and Services in Ljubljana, Slovenia in June. Download the full report online at: http://www.tigurl.org/oecd2008

**Expert Group Meeting on Youth**

In May 2008, the United Nations Programme on Youth organized an Expert Group Meeting on Youth with the purpose of developing goals, targets and indicators for areas within the World Programme on Action for Youth, the guiding resolution for United Nations’ work with young people. Representatives from both TakingITGlobal, the Global Youth Action Network and the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS were invited to present at the meeting and contribute to the overall debate.

**GYAN Membership Breakdown by Region**

- Middle East & North Africa: 7.4%
- Central America & Caribbean: 2.9%
- South America: 4.9%
- North America: 10%
- Europe: 8%
- Oceania: 1%
- Asia: 18.4%
- Africa: 47.2%
E-course participants say:

94.1% can now determine the activities needed to implement their projects
87.5% feel that the development of their portfolio has helped them learn new information and skills
87.5% feel that the online e-course resources are relevant to their projects

Supported by the Pearson Foundation, we designed and developed curriculum for Sprout, a 4 month e-course that provides an innovative, technology-driven approach to co-learning. Young people aged 16 to 30 now have the opportunity to build their capacity to develop, implement, and evaluate successful projects that address social and environmental issues in their local communities. By using our online education platform and stressing the importance of digital literacy, the e-course enables participants to reinforce their fluency with ICTs and social networking while engaging collaboratively with other young leaders.

The e-course was designed with a unique combination of instructional methods, including a mentorship program, project portfolio development, and an emphasis on peer-to-peer learning, in addition to being delivered entirely online. The course, composed of 4 modules each lasting 4 weeks, is primarily asynchronous, but requires some participation in real-time meetings in order to fulfill its collaborative and mentoring components. The modules provide participants with a number of immediately applicable skills, as well as a framework to see their ideas become reality.

As part of the pilot, the Center for Information and Research on Learning and Civic Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University was brought on as a partner to conduct an evaluation of the program. The focus was on assessing the impact of the e-course, including a process of discovering how the participants’ skills, attitudes and abilities might have changed as a result of their participation in the learning experience.

Learning Modules:

Design It: explores the fundamental steps necessary to setting up a project or an organization.
Plan It: emphasizes the key elements of effective project development and management.
Connect It: focuses on communications strategies and the process of project implementation.
Assess It: explores the role of critical evaluative frameworks to monitor a project’s progress.
The Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), an initiative hosted by GYAN and TIG, trained 120 young people through free, innovative e-courses on project management, political advocacy, and grant writing and fundraising via our online platform.

GYCA facilitates approximately one course every six weeks, with 20 to 25 participants selected out of an average of 75 to 100 applications per course. Participants are selected based on their experience in community level engagement, ability to transfer skills gained to local peers and geographic location. E-courses are taught with the TIGed online platform, which offers private virtual classrooms with teacher tools, discussion boards and links to TIG’s broader online community.

In 2008, GYCA also offered a course to prepare young people for the International AIDS Conference. The e-course covered four key areas: writing a successful abstract, turning the abstract into an effective presentation, fundraising to attend the conference, and advocacy and networking skills to be used at the conference.

Three of the 21 students in the course went on to participate in the conference in very high-profile ways. Ivens Reis Reyner, GYCA’s regional focal point for Latin America, presented at the 1st Meeting of Ministers of Health and Education to Stop HIV and STI’s in Latin America and the Caribbean and, along with another GYCA member, Kristina Mena, read the final declaration from the meeting. Himakshi Piplani, GYCA’s former regional focal point for South Asia, spoke on the panel “Achieving Universal Access for Young People,” and co-facilitated a workshop on advocating for comprehensive sexuality education based on her experiences in India. Finally, Christabel Opudo, a GYCA small grants recipient from Kenya, spoke at the panel “Children and Youth Facing HIV and AIDS” about the challenges faced by children and youth who are affected and infected by HIV and AIDS from Kenya.

GYCA Small Grants

GYCA members face significant challenges implementing their HIV and AIDS programs due to a lack of funding available for young people’s sexual and reproductive health, and particularly for youth-led interventions. With the support of the American Jewish World Service, GYCA awarded ten small grants of $1,500 each to graduates of one of GYCA’s three e-courses in 2008.

The small grantees submit interim and final narrative reports and blog once a month on their progress at www.tigblog.org/group/gycablog/. The projects ranged from education on HIV prevention for young girls, to awareness and advocacy campaigns, to improving access to treatment and care.

Grant recipients:

- Faith Phiri, Malawi: Building Capacity of Girls to Reduce Their Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.
- Gulalai Ismail, Pakistan: Awareness-Raising about HIV/AIDS Among Young Women.
- Jean Luc Ugirashebuja, Rwanda: Voluntary Counseling and Testing Campaign Project.
- Ahmed Tammam, Egypt: We are all with you.
- Lamin Bojang, the Gambia: Youth Action Against HIV/AIDS.
- Oghenefego Isikwenu, Nigeria: Close the Gap Nigeria.
TakingITGlobal and the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA) championed the opportunity for youth activists to participate in the global movement against HIV/AIDS through the 2008 International AIDS Conference in Mexico City.

Building upon our work accomplished during the 2006 conference in Toronto, we were involved in many aspects of the conference, including being a key partner in the Mexico YouthForce, the organizing body for youth participation. Our staff chaired the Media and Communications subcommittee while GYCA staff members co-chaired the Advocacy and Pre-Conference subcommittees.

In the lead-up to the Conference, we organized two live chats in March (in English and Spanish). Panelists included volunteers from the YouthForce Working Group and provided information on the history and goals of the YouthForce.

A photo contest - “AIDS in Focus” - was launched on Flickr to capture what AIDS meant to youth and their communities and attracted over 70 submissions from numerous countries. In the end, 5 pieces were selected for display at the Youth Pavilion. The collection can also be viewed at http://www.tigurl.org/infocus.

“I commit to creating a position of leadership in my organization for a young person and to fund a youth-led initiative” – Wilson Tete Koffi
Pre-Conference

Between July 31 and August 2, approximately 300 youth from 66 countries participated in the pre-conference, which consisted of informative and skills-building workshops around HIV and AIDS issues. Participants also learned how to advocate to policymakers on issues relevant to young people and how to deliver the YouthForce’s advocacy messages at the conference and beyond. GYCA staff co-facilitated the advocacy training session along with the opening plenary that gave a general overview of HIV/AIDS and young people.

Impact of the Pre-Conference

89% of participants stated that they were better prepared for both the main conference and their work at home.

96% of participants reported that they improved their skills and knowledge.

Over 60 were trained in digital media production, including blogs, photos, videos and twitter feeds.

Advocacy

The subcommittee organized and delivered a coordinated and comprehensive campaign that championed youth involvement at the conference. An e-consultation was conducted to identify key advocacy issues and discuss strategies for the advocacy campaign, and the findings were used to create advocacy messages and materials used by the youth delegates.

We acknowledged and encouraged youth-adult partnerships and involvement through the Youth-Adult Commitments Desk.

Advocacy Messages

RIGHTS: we have a right to comprehensive, accurate information and services to protect our sexual health.

RESPECT: for our realities, our experiences, and our contributions.

RESPONSIBILITY: together, we must create an environment where we have power over the decisions that affect our health and lives.

RESOURCES: we need training, mentorship, funding, and opportunities.

Media & Communications

The committee’s responsibility was to promote the Mexico YouthForce, distribute newsletters to 600 individuals, and train the Youth Journalists Team and Youth Spokespeople. The support of a globally recognized public relations firm, Burson Marsteller, was secured through the support of the local UNESCO office in Mexico and assisted the subcommittee with media relations, press releases and conferences during the conference. A critical in-kind donation of N95 smartphones by Nokia allowed the Youth Journalists to capture their experiences through portable video recording capabilities.

Ten Youth Spokespeople were selected as focal points for media at AIDS 2008, and represented countries including India, Azerbaijan, Tanzania, Ecuador and Jamaica. An online training session was facilitated to prepare the spokespeople on some YouthForce basics: history, goals, and advocacy messages for AIDS 2008.

The Youth Spokespeople highlighted youth issues and the key messages of the Mexico YouthForce at the conference. A project page on TIGweb.org provided the spokespeople with an online space where they could network, receive updates, access important documents, and be made aware of key dates.
For 12 days in August, we joined Peace Child International and Congrès mondial des jeunes as organizing partners in welcoming 525 young people from around the world to Quebec City for the 4th World Youth Congress. The Congress series originated as an event where youth could connect and learn about the ways they can contribute to a peaceful society and evolved towards focusing on the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

With Quebec City celebrating its 400th anniversary, we provided a festive and highly engaging atmosphere for young people to celebrate their achievements, develop their capacity and assist organizations in the city and surrounding areas. This fourth edition of the Congress (after Hawaii, Morocco and Scotland), was made possible thanks to a wide range of financial supporters, including the Canadian International Development Agency, Forum jeunesse de la region de la Capitale-Nationale, Secretariat a la jeunese Quebec, Heritage Canada, and Universite Laval.

The experience for a young delegate was split into three components: Celebration, Skills Building and Action. The Celebration component kicked off the festivities with inspirational speeches from youth champions and energetic performances from youth and professional artists. Delegates also had a chance to take to the streets of Quebec City with 2,000 citizens during the World Youth Walk on August 12, International Youth Day.

The Skills Building component provided youth the opportunity to develop deeper understanding on pressing global issues through the 240 capacity building workshops and seminars that were organized around thematic issues that address development issues.

The Action component sent the delegates to roll up their sleeves and assist in one of 38 local community improvement projects, and in the process build their skills to become better activists in their respective communities.

“`Youth must be considered a part of the solution. You are a part of the solution here and now! ... My commitment to global solidarity is the reason I’m excited to be here. You are the movers, the shapers of our planet.”

– Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean, C.D., C.M.M., Commander-in-Chief of Canada, C.C., Governor General, C.O.M.
Virtual Congress

One of our main contributions was the development of a Virtual Congress website, a platform that utilized the latest Web 2.0 technologies to record the experiences for those youth unable to attend. Blog posts, video interviews, photos and the live broadcast of training sessions were some of the ways we continued to innovate the learning experience for young people.

http://www.wyc2008.qc.ca/virtual/

Champions of Youth

At the Opening Night Ceremony, 6 Champions of Youth were recognized for their contributions to the youth-led development movement. They included Dr. Ismail Serageldin (Director of the Library of Alexandria and Founder & Board Member of Youth Employment Summit), Dr. Kandeh Yumkella (Director General of UNIDO) and Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada.

Her Excellency also spoke at the Opening Plenary on ensuring young people are “equal partners” who can creatively contribute to the solutions that address global issues. Most important is creating the space where their voices are heard, a platform that values inclusivity, solidarity, citizen participation and democracy.

The Governor General also led a Live Chat event entitled “Come Shake Up Global Democracy.” Her Excellency fielded a range of questions from the power of art to spur discussion on important social issues to the opportunities for democratic participation by youth. Additionally, youth around the world logged into TakingITGlobal’s webcast and live chatroom to participate and comment on the discussion.

Regional Recommendations

During the Congress, delegates had an opportunity to develop recommendations specific to the regions they represented. The Regional Roundtables were divided as follows: Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands, Europe, La Francophonie, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, and North America. The methodology of sessions allowed participants to discuss the challenges and opportunities of youth led development, as well as have a democratic and decision making dialogue on the recommendations that they would like to bring to the decision makers.

Three common themes were identified by all regions:

More Funding Required:
Governments must provide financial support and incentives for young people and their projects.

More Youth Participation in Decision Making:
Young people want to have a voice and contribute to decisions and the development of youth-focused policies.

Improved Environmental Education and Policies:
Youth of all ages must have the opportunity to learn about environmental policies and the necessary actions to face the challenge.
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS OVER 2008...

Organizational and Strategic Partnerships
AIESEC International
Better the World
Career Edge Internship Program
Center for Information and Research on Learning and Civic Engagement (CIRCLE), Tufts University
Global Alliance on ICTs for Development (GAID)
Glocal Forum
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Peace Child International
UNESCO
UN Millennium Campaign
Youth Challenge International (YCI)
Youth Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (YES Inc)
Zeus Technology

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YOU CAN

Creating Local Connections West Africa (CLCWA)
African Peace Child Initiative – Liberia (APCI)
Les Amis du Futur (LAF)
Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN)
Peacelinks Sierra Leone
West African Network for Peace Building (WANEP)
West African Youth Network (WAYN)
Worldwide Entrepreneurs Campaigners’ Network (WECaN)

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Youth Voices, Centre for Health Promotion, University of Toronto
York Region District School Board

World Youth Congress
Peace Child International
Congres Mondiale de Jeunes
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Apathy is Boring
Ashoka’s Youth Venture
Bibliotheca Alexandrina
Canadian Commission for UNESCO
Canadian Heritage
Chantier de l’économie sociale
Club 2/3
CADEUL
CUJEF
Conseil du statut de la femme
Desjardins
FEUQ
Global Knowledge Partnership
Institut du Nouveau Monde
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
John Humphrey Centre
LOJIQ
Mercy Corps
Musée de la Civilisation
Nokia
Oxfam Québec
Plan Ngagua
Secrétariat à la jeunesse
Student Vote
Studio PSO
The International Secretariat for Water
United Games of Nations
Uniterrra
Université Laval
Wapikoni mobile
Xtatic Solutions
Youth Challenge International (YCI)
Zone Coopérative

Youth Digital Media Arts Workshops
Adobe Youth Voices
Beijing Jiaotong University
CIVICUS
Human Development Foundation
La Casita de los niños
Slumcode
Soleil d’Afrique
The International College of Economics and Finance, Moscow

Youth For Change
Bibliotheca Alexandrina
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Arab Thought Foundation
Association Tiflétois new life
Hawar Youth Center
Iraq Health Aid Organization
ISOC Tunisia
Leaders Organization
National Forum For Youth and Culture (Jordan Youth)
OFOK NGO
Sharek Youth Forum
Sustainable Development Association
Tamkeen Foundation for Rural Youth

Youth Media Exchange (ymex.org)
Asia Society
Global Kids
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR STAFF, INTERNS, & VOLUNTEERS!

Abhijith Jayanthi
Adeola Omotunde Oyelola
Ahmed Haroon
Akhila Kolisetty
Alaa Al-Aghbari
Aleksandra Radyuk
Aleza Summit
Allen Augsak
Allison McLean
Alvin Pour
Amanda Hicks
Amanda Thaylassa
Gondim Ferreira
Amita Desai
Andrea Wilson
Andrea Blake
Andrea Prince
Angela Murugi Kimani
Anne Borden
Ashley Grant
Aurora Herrera
Aysha Asifuddin
Benjamin Quinto
Bridget Kearny
Caileen Chandler
Candice Valente
Ceren Gergeroglu de Torres
Huenta
Chelsea Lam
Chiara Camponeschi
Christine Bro

Christine Battle
Corina Murafa
Chantelle Ennis-Charoo
Crystal Wong
Damian Profeta
Dana Murray
Daniel Townsend
Daniella San Martin-Feeny
Debashree Mukherjee
Diallo Mamadou Malick
Efrain Neto
Ehsan Naser
El Hammoumi Naoufal
Elaine Cristina de Castro Melo
Elizabeth Arceo
Emily Briggs
Emily Kornblut
Eriel Deranger
Felistas Yiamo
Flávia Maria Donadelli
Francisco Cardinal
Francisco Pereira
Francios Laureys
Franziska Seel
Fred Domingo Barlue
Gillian Javetski
Heon-Joo Ha
Ilan Tsekhman
Ilyes El Ouazradi
Incia Zaffar
Jamie Dawkins
Jamie Whitecrow
Janine Padilla
Jean Luc Ugrashebuja
Jennifer Corriero
Jenny Mason
Jerry Nwigwe
Jess Wishart
Jessica King
Jessie-Lee Langille
Jhon Esteban
Jo Anne Tacorda
Joanne Diep
Johnny Arilexis Pérez Sier
Jonas Eriksson
Jonathan Frank
Josh Darrach
Joya Banerjee
Julie Rae Diyen
Justine Castonguy-Payant
Karim Al Nadoury
Katherine Walraven
Karen Moores
Kenny Lindsay
Kerry O’Connor
Kimia Ghomeshi
Kirsten Jordan
Kouakou Niamien Kouao
Krystal Payne
Kwame Freempong
Kyle Simunovic
Lan Tham Vi
Laura Kenyon
Leslie Marie Albueme
Liam O’Doherty
Lili Wang
Lily Luan
Lily Wang
Linda Remy
Lindsay Beaudoin
Lindsay Menard Freeman
Lisa Campbell
Lucas Denis
Luciana Brasil
Luke Walker
Lynne Lessard
Maciej Jasiobedzki
Mai Ngo
Malick Diallo
Marioliva Gonzalez
Mary Anne Matos
Mary Stranges
Mathieu Carey
Maya Boutros
Meghan MacDonald
Mehrdad Nadimi
Mekhala Chaubal
Melanie LeBlanc
Michael Furdyk
Michael Jacko
Mike Alves
Mohammed Al-Shamsi
Mostafa Nejati
Muhhammad Bin Alam
Muqing Zhou
Mustafa Nabulsi
Nahka Bertrand
Naila Obaid
Nancy KaziLege
Naomi Sorkin
Natalie Rodic
Nick YeO
Nigel Ayow
Nikki Allison
Olga Pavlova
Pascal Bekono
Patricia Monroy
Patricia Sudi
Paul de la Merced
Pauline Fogarty
Paulo Farine Milani
Phillip Fry
PJ Parthington
Puja Goyal
Qian Zhao
Rachel Jacobson
Rakish Singh
Rada Irimie
Reshma Pattni
Rhiya Trivedi
Rik Jacqueymyn
Robert Meyer
Robert Neubauer
Rosa Montero
Saad Rajput
Sarah Pasetto
Sarah Touni
Sessi Hounkanrin
Shaza Gameel
Sheridy Leslie
Simon Gargonne
Stacey Aglok
Staci Kentish
Stephanie Penev
Sulmaz Ghoraishi
Susanna Lopresti
Suzie Vesper
Sylvanus Murray
Tala Nabulsi
Tarek Belghith
Todd Fraser
Toshio Rahman
Valentina Rae
Veronica Cappella
Vidar Ekehaug
Vilma Lantigua
Xingtao Zhu
Ya-Nan Lee
Yasmary Mora
Yassir El Ouarzadi
Yuchen Chen
Yue-kiu Chan
Zi-Lian Luan
REVENUES & EXPENSES

Financial statements audited by

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

FUNDING SOURCES

Financial statements audited by

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

REVENUES

Grants
$1,229,750
$851,711

Community and technology support services
261,037
353,872

Unrestricted contributions
132,242
98,710

Revenues excluding in-kind contributions and amortization of capital
1,623,029
1,304,293

In-kind contributions
372,644
144,350

Amortization of capital contributions
51,982
122,825

EXPENSES

Salaries, benefits and internships
965,360
689,742

Advertising and promotion
412,547
144,245

Travel
320,064
145,312

Project support services
134,791
128,494

Amortization of property, equipment and software
79,221
176,437

Office rent
54,082
46,254

Communications
42,898
41,676

Office and general
42,276
50,365

Professional fees
35,952
17,367

Bookkeeping
13,778
15,834

Insurance
9,590
14,500

Bad debts
5,457
22,675

Memberships and dues
5,235
5,091

Technology support
956
6,445

Foreign exchange (gain) loss
(79,867)
29,012

Excess of revenues over expenses for the year
5,315
38,019

The data on these pages has been extracted and summarized from the audited financial statements. Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements and other financial information in this report. The financial statements have been reported on by our auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Chartered Accountants.
# Financial Position

## Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>$2,047,655</td>
<td>$1,571,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$1,229,750</td>
<td>$851,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and technology support services</td>
<td>$261,037</td>
<td>$353,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted contributions</td>
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<td>$98,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues excluding in-kind contributions and amortization of capital</td>
<td>$1,623,029</td>
<td>$1,304,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>$372,644</td>
<td>$144,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization of capital contributions</td>
<td>$51,982</td>
<td>$122,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,047,655</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,571,468</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>$1,533,449</td>
<td>$1,533,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>$121,930</td>
<td>$84,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenues</td>
<td>$181,479</td>
<td>$336,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred capital contributions</td>
<td>$79,935</td>
<td>$131,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,533,449</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,533,449</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>$372,895</td>
<td>$368,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets invested in capital assets</td>
<td>$55,162</td>
<td>$54,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$428,057</strong></td>
<td><strong>$422,742</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Expenditures by Program

- **Online Community**: 39.4%
- **Issue-based Initiatives**: 3.6%
- **Administration**: 7.5%
- **Education Programs**: 7.5%
- **Local Engagement**: 41.9%

## Financial Position

### Administration
- Issue-based Initiatives: 7.5%
- Online Community: 39.4%
- Education Programs: 7.5%
- Local Engagement: 41.9%

### Education Programs
- Online Community: 39.4%
- Education Programs: 7.5%
- Local Engagement: 41.9%
- Administration: 7.5%

### Local Engagement
- Online Community: 39.4%
- Education Programs: 7.5%
- Local Engagement: 41.9%
- Administration: 7.5%

### Administration
- Online Community: 39.4%
- Education Programs: 7.5%
- Local Engagement: 41.9%
- Administration: 7.5%
GLOBAL YOUTH ACTION NETWORK FINANCIALS
Amounts in US Dollars (Unaudited)

### REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>JAN - NOV 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$312,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>92,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>64,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted contributions</td>
<td>24,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursed expenses</td>
<td>13,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal agent fees</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>517,713</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>JAN - NOV 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, benefits and internships</td>
<td>237,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>51,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project expenses</td>
<td>44,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>37,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursable expenses</td>
<td>15,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>11,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising and promotion</td>
<td>9,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>9,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>70,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>2,513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank fees</td>
<td>1,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage and delivery</td>
<td>1,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>495,386</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Excess of revenues over expenses for the year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>JAN - NOV 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22,327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>NOV 30, 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>56,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants receivable</td>
<td>7,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other accounts receivable</td>
<td>16,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>83,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Property, equipment and software</strong></td>
<td>5,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>88,417</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>NOV 30, 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>2,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenues</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>7,489</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EQUITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>NOV 30, 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings</td>
<td>58,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net income</td>
<td>85,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>88,417</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Global Youth Action Network operates as TakingITGlobal’s 501(c)(3) registered charity in the United States of America.
Imagine the possibilities and make a tax-deductible donation to support the growing impact of TakingITGlobal in enabling youth around the world to make a positive difference.

With your critical support, we can enable more young people everywhere to reach their dreams of being valued partners in creating a better tomorrow for themselves, their communities and the world.

Together, with your help, we will continue making a world of difference to young people actively leading a global social movement for change.

To learn more about TakingITGlobal or donate, follow the link below:
http://www.tigweb.org/about/donate/