



PRESS RELEASE

World Summit Youth Award to be launched at Geneva PrepCom for the second phase of the WSIS inTunis

The World Summit Youth Award (WSYA) gets started! This international competition for youth-led projects that encourage the active participation of young people in the emerging Information Society will be **officially launched on 17 February in Geneva, during the World Summit Award Reception at 13.00, in Room XI, Palais de Nations.**

WSYA is the first global “**YOUTH FOR YOUTH**” initiative for selecting and promoting best practice in e-content and technological creativity, **demonstrating young people’s potential to create digital opportunities.** The award is founded on the spirit of genuine youth empowerment and action, sustainable human development and “including the excluded” in the Information Society.

WSYA is a project partnership between the WSIS Youth Caucus (www.wsisyouth.org) and the World Summit Awards (www.wsis-awards.org), held in the framework of the Tunis Phase of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (www.wsis.org). **During the PrepCom2 in Geneva, the WSYA Organizers will meet to set a promotion spark of this unique event and present it to the eminent audience of the WSIS PrepCom2.**

Young people of today are growing up with new technologies. True, they are enthusiastic consumers of everything ranging from mobile phones to chat rooms. But they are also enthusiastic creators of new contents and applications for these new technologies. Both as business and social entrepreneurs, they actively address community needs and provide innovative solutions to global challenges. WSYA is truly an **opportunity for those young people.** It is an opportunity both for the online platforms users and designers. **First** - Because it selects and promotes the world best online platform designers among the worldwide new media and Information Society most influential people. **Second** – Because it contributes on the global scale to the reduction of the poverty, protection of environment, efficient knowledge sharing and enhances the inclusion of the youth marginalized groups.

The WSYA is envisioned to have the following **three categories**:

- Award for **best online platform**, developed by and for young people, that contributes to **poverty reduction, environmental protection or social justice**

This award will be given to the most informative and youth-friendly online platform that promotes at least one of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The project must have been developed and managed by and for young people.

- Award for **best online knowledge resource** and **e-Community**, maintained for and by young people, that **enables and encourages knowledge sharing**

This award will be handed to the best online knowledge resource and e-community on ICT4D maintained for and by young people.

- Award for **best e-Platform**, developed by young people, that **aids or provides digital opportunities for disadvantaged and marginalised youth groups**

The Youth Award for Digital Divide will be awarded to the most outstanding e-platform that provides digital opportunities and an empowering space for marginalized youth groups.

WSYA Celebration:



The World Summit Youth Award celebration will be held on 16 November 2005, during the World Summit Award Gala. This indeed prestigious meeting will gather an eminent audience – Heads of State, dignitaries, top e-content producers, business leaders and media representatives – over 1000 people.

Organizers:



The WSYA is part of the World Summit Award (www.wsis-award.org), a global initiative to identify the best projects in the field of e-content and applications. It is held in cooperation with the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2003-2005 and receives strong support from numerous national and international non-profit organisations, as well as substantial contribution from the private industry.



A key partner of the WSYA is the WSIS Youth Caucus (www.wsisyouth.org), formed at the First WSIS Preparatory Committee Meeting in 2002. It aims to mainstream youth perspectives into the civil society, the private sector and government decisions.

For more information on the World Summit Youth Award please refer to:

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Full resources for the press will be available shortly at www.youthaward.org.