

UNIVERSITY / HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS

Rationale:

We seek partnerships with higher education institutions, especially universities and business schools along with student's societies, because essentially that's where the young people are! Universities in the industrialised world are some of the richest, best endowed facilities on the planet; their students are often amongst the wealthiest, best educated, most skilled, most idealistic and most committed of their generation. So we want their establishments to encourage them to get involved in the Congress by engaging with their peers at the other end of the economic spectrum - living lives that are never touched by formal education. Youth and education institutions can support and learn from the Congress experience - about YLD, about the real challenges of making poverty history: how to create jobs for youth, do projects, start small businesses, improve communities, improve the lives and future prospects of young people in disadvantaged areas.

What are University / Higher Education Partners (UHEPs):

Any registered higher educational facility catering to young people over 15 years of age, student societies, clubs or departments of these institutions which are especially involved on the issues of development

What they are not:

A UHEP is not an individual student or group of students who simply want to get to the Congress. The partnership is for those who want to help the organisation of the Congress by networking or by financing action projects. Those who want to attend the Congress must realise these projects and apply as delegates. However, individual students, even if they don't become partners, can help by using their presence to lobby within their institutions to get senior management to agree to the partnership. They can also see how they make research on YLD as part of their studies.

What PCI can offer to the UHEPs:

- **Recognition:** PCI will link each UHEP with this major international youth event by putting the institution's name and logo on the websites (with links), in the Congress Book, and on the larger promotional materials prepared for the congress;
- **Proposing delegates:** In the selection of the delegates for the Congress, PCI will give special attention to the applicants (active youth who are doing a project) who present a letter of recommendation from a UHEP;
- **Exhibition:** PCI will consider any exhibition materials proposed by the UHEPs of genuine YLD work, research material, policy statements or youth leadership it has supported. In the Congress Exhibition, the UHEPs will be acknowledged next to any projects they have funded.
- **Workshops Eligibility:** PCI will invite the UHEPs to propose skills workshop(s) about your organisation's approach to, or experience of, working on YLD at the Congress;
- **Participation in Shaping the Congress Series:** each UHEP is welcome to become a part of the international family that is shaping the content and development of the Congress

series around the world. They will be kept updated with information about the development of the Congress Series and be invited to participate in international planning meetings etc.

- **Co-Promotion Opportunities:** The Congress leadership - and local Civil Society Partners - are anxious to reach out and generate more UHEPs so there are possibilities for visiting speakers, stands, promotional material to assist in generating the debate about YLD effectiveness in your school or campus. Enquire for contact details within your country at: wyc@peacechild.org

What PCI expects from UHEP:

- **To Promote the Congress:** We expect the UHEPs to promote the goals of the Congress within their institution with meetings, seminars, debates that focus on YLD and the central Congress question about the most effective ways that young people can contribute to the goal of making poverty history.
- **To Endorse:** a letter welcoming the initiative of the World Youth Congress and its goals.
- **To fund and/or facilitate Action Projects:** the best thing the UHEPs can do is to fund one or more Youth-led Development projects realised by one of their students and to sponsor the travel of their student who will be invited to the Congress in Quebec city ;
- **To do research:** the next best thing that a UHEP can do is to advance the intellectual argument for YLD and help answer the Congress question about ‘Where young people’s contribution to development is most *effective*...’ by starting a research project – either as an individual student essay or PhD thesis – on the successes and failures of YLD as an emerging development field. It is excellent if such research can be linked to a project sponsored by a group at the University or Higher Education Programme. Authors of successful research programmes will be invited to present their results and theories at the Congress;
- **To Follow-up the WYC-4 with a continuum of activity:** the great strength of the WYC Series is that as soon as one ends, we start preparing for the next: so we look to our UHEPs to keep the YLD flag high on their community's radar - so that the activity continues, with debates, sponsored action projects, overseas visits, web-chats etc. far beyond the Congress;

For more information about partnership opportunities, contact:
david@peacechild.org or visit our site <http://www.wyc2008.qc.ca/>