

June 2013

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## Spotlight: Arab Youth Leaders Take Center Stage

The ten finalists of the 2013 King Abdullah II Award for Youth Innovation and Achievement ([KAAYIA](#)) were announced during the closing ceremony of the World Economic Forum at the Dead Sea on May 26. The KAAYIA Fellows are the newest members of the YouthActionNet global network now spanning more than 730 young leaders in 73 countries.

Selected from an applicant pool of more than 365 youth from 13 Arab countries, the KAAYIA Fellows have developed innovative solutions to a host of pressing issues - using technology to increase healthcare access in Sudan, equipping Egyptian youth to shape and inform policies, nurturing a spirit of entrepreneurship in Jordan, using dance as a tool to promote healing in Palestine, and more.

[Learn about](#) the winning strategies employed by the 2013 KAAYIA Fellows.

## Featured Fellow



### Ahmad Alhindawi, UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth

In his new role as the first-ever UN Envoy on Youth, 2008 Fellow Ahmad Alhindawi has been taking action to ensure youth voices around the world are heard and represented.

In the first of a series of [Google Hangout sessions](#), Ahmad urged youth to get involved with the United Nations. [Learn](#)

[more](#) about his role and plans to engage youth in setting UN goals for 2015 and beyond.

## In the News

### Royal Recognition

Fellow Rajeeb Dey, CEO of [Internships](#) & Co-Founder of [StartUp Britain](#) was recently honored by Queen Elizabeth with the [Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion](#). In May, Laureate Global Fellow Miriam Reyes received the UNICEF España [Emprende Award](#) from Queen Sofia of Spain. [Here](#), Miriam shares with the Queen her pictogram books for children with autism. Congratulations to our fellows who have captured the national spotlight!

### Universidad Latina Convenes Nationwide Conference

On May 17-18, more than 300 youth and guests convened on the campus of *Universidad Latina*, IYF's partner in Costa Rica, for the Youth Social Impact Forum, the nation's first-ever conference devoted to advancing the role of youth in leading social change. Learn more about the [event](#) and the efforts of [Premio Yo Creo](#), YouthActionNet's local institute, to support young social entrepreneurs.

### Fellowship Applications Open in 8 Countries

YouthActionNet institutes in Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Spain, and Turkey are currently accepting applications for yearlong fellowship programs. If you are a young person leading change in one of these countries, visit our [website](#) to learn more about local opportunities and apply today!

### Working in a Resource-Strained Environment

At a May 7 [Universidad Europea de Madrid](#) conference entitled

[Como Emprender Sin Recursos](#) (How to be an Entrepreneur Without Resources), [Premio UEM](#) Fellows and alumni shared their practical experiences in entrepreneurship with an audience of students, academics, and invited guests.

## Fellow Updates

**Ejaj Ahmad**, Founder and President of the [Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center](#) (BYLC), the country's first leadership institute, received the [2013 Rising Star Award](#) from the Harvard Kennedy School for his work in training young people to be compassionate, competent leaders in the business world and beyond.

**Dina Buchbinder Auron**, IYF's newest board member, participated in May at the [World Economic Forum on Latin America](#) in Lima, where she met the Presidents of Mexico, Panama, and Peru. Dina, Founder of [Deport-es para Compartir](#) (Sports to Share), was also in Costa Rica for U.S. President Obama's visit and gave the keynote address at the Youth Social Impact Forum at *Universidad Latina*.

**Khalida Brohi**, Founder of the [Sughar Initiative](#), was honored with the [Women of Impact Award](#) for her women's rights work in Pakistan. Khalida was presented the award by special guests Oprah Winfrey and Meryl Streep. Khalida recently launched an ethical fashion brand called [Sughar Needlecraft](#) through which women from tribal area design, create, and lead businesses combining embroidery and fashion.

**Kerstin Forsberg**, Founder and Director of [Planeta Océano](#) in Peru, was awarded the World Wildlife Fund's [International President's Award 2013](#) at a special ceremony during the global conservation organization's Annual Conference.

**Aysegul Guzel**, Founder of [Zumbara](#) (Time Bank 2.0), has launched an online campaign to support Zumbara's efforts to build community and offer an alternative economic model in Turkey through which people exchange services instead of money. Learn more and [support Aysegul's mission!](#)

**Arun Krishnamurthy**, Founder of the [Environmental Foundation of India](#), was recently featured in *The Asia Age* online. [Read](#) the interview with the so-called "Guardian of the Lakes."

**Joy Olivier**, Co-Founder and Director of [Ikamva Youth](#) in South Africa, announces that she was awarded an [Ashoka Fellowship](#). Congratulations Joy!

**Bernard Wakoli**, Founder of the Yaya Education Trust in Kenya, reports that the Trust recently partnered with [Kopernik](#), a US-based appropriate technology charity, to provide local women with Q-drums (plastic water transporters) and D-light solar lanterns to provide safer energy.

Contact:  
yan@iyfnet.org  
[www.youthactionnet.org](http://www.youthactionnet.org)  
[Blog](#)

