



# NUEYS Global

## Message from the Editor

Dear Readers!

NUEYS is proud to present to you the monthly newsletter, *NUEYS Global*, prepared by the Foreign Affairs Department to keep you updated on NUEYS' activities around the world. Besides working within Eritrea, NUEYS also has branches abroad. Moreover, NUEYS fosters relations with other youth unions, organizations and networks around the world. This newsletter aims to further consolidate the Eritrean youth movement on a global level and to demonstrate NUEYS' contribution to the general global youth movement.

This past summer saw Eritrean youth from all over the world coming together during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Eri-Youth Festival (Sawa 18-22 July 2008). Many youth are eagerly anticipating their next trip to Eritrea in 2010 in order to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Eri-Youth Festival. This newsletter hopes to keep up the momentum and excitement felt by the youth towards their country and their identity.

Please send us any comments you have on this newsletter. To make this newsletter a tool to further achieve our goals, NUEYS' branches abroad are expected to contribute to it. We look forward to hearing your comments!

NUEYS Foreign Affairs Department

## Eritrea was the place to be in Summer 2008!

Summer time has always been the season when Eritreans from the Diaspora visit the Motherland. However, this past summer, with airfare tickets more expensive than ever, it was quite a surprise to see so many Eritrean youth visit their home far away from home. For many, it was their first time to visit Eritrea. For others, well, they've made it a habit. But one thing is for sure: it was an unforgettable summer!

More than 1200 youth from abroad flocked to Sawa to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Eri-Youth Festival. The celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NUEYS truly demonstrated the strength of Eritrean youth solidarity worldwide as participants came from all over North America, Europe and the Middle East. Right after the festival, NUEYS had organized the Zura N'hagerka (Know Your Country) tour program where more than 100 youth saw different historical and development sites all over the country.

The Sawa Festival also saw the participation of youth from the Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Japan. Right after the festival, a Regional Youth Peace Forum was held in Asmara. Youth from all parts of the Horn of Africa came together to discuss the establishment of a peacebuilding and sustainable development network called the Horn of Africa Youth Initiative (HAYI).

Besides the fact that the summer events were learning experiences for the youth, they were also able to meet other Eritrean youth from different parts of the world and share their experiences with them. Therefore, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Summer 2008 in Eritrea made a positive impact on the youth who had the opportunity to visit. Already there is serious talk among the youth about making sure to come back to Eritrea in 2010. And more than ever, NUEYS is anticipating their arrival.

In 2010, NUEYS will be hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Eri-Youth Festival. The Zura N'hagerka tour program is a program conducted every summer.



National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS)

This newsletter aims at:

- > Updating you on NUEYS' activities and achievements
- > Consolidating the global Eritrean youth movement
- > Demonstrating NUEYS' contribution to the general global youth movement
- > Enhancing Eritrean youth solidarity worldwide!

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الشباب: حماة الحرية  
THE YOUTH, GUARANTORS OF FREEDOM!



## 47th Anniversary of the Launching of the Armed Struggle for Independence Marked in Patriotic Spirit

1 September 2008 - In a statement it issued in connection with the 47th anniversary of the launching of the armed struggle for independence, the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) underlined that the Day not only marks the long path traversed to achieve liberation but it also inspires every citizen to steadfastly meet all challenges.

The statement noted that in line with the spirit of steadfastness and ardent patriotism, which the Eritrean people had demonstrated in the course of the bitter struggle, they would as ever mount united and resolute endeavors to build a strong and prosperous nation in which social justice prevails.

September 1 was enthusiastically marked inside the country and abroad under the theme "Our History is the Guarantee of Our Future." In Asmara, the observances at the national level were attended by senior government officials, PFDJ heads, invited guests and hundreds of nationals. Different cultural shows, including dramas, musical performances and poetry recitals, among others were staged.



**Hamid Idris Awate shot the first shot of the Eritrean liberation struggle for independence**

## 100 Youth Trained in Metal and Wood Work

15 September 2008—In a training organized by NUEYS in partnership with UNDP Eritrea, 100 vulnerable youth received training in metal and wood work. The training was given in the Keren and Barentu metal, wood and cement workshops for six months.

The basic objective of the training was to empower vulnerable youth, especially females, to enhance their capacity so that they could improve their livelihood. Prior to launching the training, a training of trainers was given to 10 youth in Keren and Barentu respectively. Before the start of the training, a training manual on metal and wood work was developed and translated to local languages. While 50 youth were trained at the Keren metal, wood and cement workshop, another 50 had their training at the Barentu metal, wood and cement workshop.

"The training was successfully completed according to its targeted time table" said Ato Selemawi Siyum, leader of the youth empowerment team in the Project Department of NUEYS. The low participation of female youth, which was 10 during the training, indicated that more hard work needs to be done in order to encourage female participation in metal and wood work, which is usually perceived as a man's job.

According to the information obtained from the Project Department, a resource center with a mini-library was established to help the youth find reference materials at the workshops.

During the graduation ceremony, certificates were handed over to the participants by NUEYS, municipality and PFDJ officials in the respective regions. The training was conducted in six months, from January to July 2008.

The Project Department is planning to give training on the introduction to youth entrepreneurship in Keren and Barentu.

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## Successful Youth Organizing Activities in Southern Red Sea Region

NUEYS Southern Red Sea Zone has successfully conducted youth organizing activities in the academic year of 2008. In a meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 to evaluate their activities, head of the NUEYS Southern Red Sea region Mr. Ismael Mussa presented a report for the past 12 months. Mr. Ismael in his report declared that NUEYS in the region had conducted successful activities and played its utmost role in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Eri-Youth festival 2008.

Mr. Ismael pointed out that the organization implemented various seminars, political campaigns and trainings which had an influential impact on the public in general and the youth in particular. Furthermore, activities that further facilitated the organizing of female youth were conducted.

Moreover, while successful campaigns on the importance of education, discipline and health education on STD's was conducted in the region, the school festivals and youth weeks encouraged youth creativity as well as exercised and entertained cultural and artistic activities initiated by the youth.

In a closing remark, Mr. Gebresilassie Aradom, head of Economic Development in the region reminded the youth to be actively involved in the ongoing process of improving the livelihood of the population. He further praised the contribution of the youth in all sectors.

### Did you know?

*NUEYS Eritrea has an office in each adm. zone in Eritrea including a special office for Sawa and all higher education institutes. Each office supports sub-zonal offices in every sub-zone, making NUEYS a truly grassroots oriented union.*



## Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Eritrea Donated Music Instrument to NUEYS

In continuation of the ongoing relations between the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Eritrea and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), musical instruments worth \$25,000 was donated to NUEYS. The donation will be used to supply the demands of youth centers and their established music schools in various regions across the country. During the hand over ceremony that took place at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Asmara on the 16th of September, comrade Mr. Sultan Saeed, chairperson of NUEYS, and the Ambassador China in Eritrea, Mr. Shu Zhan, signed over the equipment respectively. During the occasion, Mr. Shu Zhan expressed his hope that the musical instruments would satisfy some of the demands of the union. Mr. Sultan Saeed on his part, after praising the

contribution of the Embassy, pointed out that such assistance strengthens the relations between both the people and institutions of China and Eritrea. Furthermore, on behalf of NUEYS, comrade Sultan congratulated China's marvelous preparation in the World Olympics 2008 and the medals won by China.

It's to be recalled that the Embassy of China contributed to the establishment of computer centers in Mendefera and donated various sport's materials.



## NUEYS Central Region Conducted Successful Activities in Organizing the Youth and Training of Himeret Groups

In a meeting held on the 17th of September to evaluate the activities of NUEYS Central Region, the union declared that it conducted successful activities in organizing the youth and in training core member (Himeret) groups. Mrs. Saba Haile, head of NUEYS Central Region, in a speech she delivered stated that in an effort to build a versatile youth, the branch has exerted its utmost efforts and achieved encouraging results. However, Ms. Saba pointed out that for the coming year the union needs to diligently work on the establishment of youth entertainment centers, strengthening relations with youth friendly elders, and improving its involvement in school festivals, which were evaluated as unsuccessful activities in the past academic year.

In the meeting, broad discussions were held on the activities to raise political awareness among the youth, to create new core (Himeret) groups, to strengthen youth friendly elders, to inculcate cultural values among the youth and to improve their passion of education.

Moreover, numerous activities that influence the youth such as political campaigns, seminars, health and educational campaigns, activities that enhanced youth creativity and different work campaigns were successfully implemented as indicated in the report.

In a closing speech, Head of Political Affairs at the PFDJ Central Region, Mr. Michael Embaye, confirmed that in the processes of building politically conscious youth who respect the values and cultures of the society, all government institutions, organizations, administrations and partnerships would be on the side of the union.

### Did you know:

NUEYS has two types of members: those who make up the general membership and those who make up the core membership (Himeret). Members go through special leadership training in order to become core members.

## 4th Annual YPFDJ – North American Conference Culminates Momentum in Washington DC

Young Eritreans from all over the world participated in the 2008 YPFDJ – North America Conference in Washington DC from 28 August to 1 September 2008. The three-day conference began with opening ceremonies from the hosting committees and group presentations from chapters from North America and Europe. Over thirty YPFDJ chapters were in attendance from countries spanning the United States, Canada and Europe.

Honored guest and speaker, Mr. Yemane Gebreab, discussed pertinent topics concerning the state of Eritrea and the role of youth. The program began with oral histories of the various organizations including the youth organizations that developed during the liberation struggle and their evolution within Eritrean society.

He also stressed the importance of community organizations, developing ideas and the active participation of Diaspora youth in Eritrean affairs and in securing Eritrean sovereignty. The youth also discussed the challenges they face in organizing while living in the Diaspora.

The closing ceremony included a surprise visit from active members in the struggle and parents from the Washington DC area from organizations such as NUEW, ECCC, and the ENHOC planning committees. Each parent gave all the youth a medal with a flaming torch to symbolize the inheritance of what was dubbed by attendees throughout the weekend: Eritrea—land of dreams!

Over four hundred youth were in attendance. This is the second time Washington DC has hosted the YPFDJ – North American conference.

For more information please contact [info@ypfdj.org](mailto:info@ypfdj.org).



## What is NUEYS?

NUEYS organizes the youth as a driving and decisive force for social change. The youth are a dynamic, active and struggling entity that promotes progress and change that affects the society in a positive way. Knowing that the youth are a strong, steadfast and reliable backbone for social transformation, NUEYS endeavors to guild them by handling a clearly described strategy. NUEYS remains active, centering on youth-related issues. As such, NUEYS focuses on the responsibilities of organizing and mobilizing the youth through activities in accordance with the youth movement.

NUEYS has a strong representation in Eritrea that ensures continuous follow up, support and oversight, as well as commitment to the long-term, sustainable development of Eritrea. It is committed to placing the tools of development into the hands of Eritrea's youth so that they might be better placed to face the future challenges of rebuilding and developing their country and their own lives.

BUILDING A VERSATILE YOUTH



## Next Edition...

- 63rd voyage of the Japanese Peace Boat
- Organizing youth workers
- Volunteering in Eritrea
- And much more...!

**We're on the web!**  
<http://www.eriouth.org>

**Send us feedback!**

**Email: [nueyspub2001@yahoo.com](mailto:nueyspub2001@yahoo.com)**

## Feature: The Horn of Africa Youth Initiative (HAYI) for peace and sustainable development



A regional youth forum for peace and development was convened between 22 and 24 July 2008 at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Asmara, Eritrea. The "Regional Youth Peace Forum" was an initiative taken by NUEYS to bring together youth organizations from all over the Horn of Africa to shoulder their responsibilities and consider their contribution to sustainable peace-building and the development of the region.

The intention of the Forum was to establish a network of youth and student organizations to generate ideas for regional sustainable peace-building and development. Ten youth organizations from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, the Sudan and Kenya participated in the forum.

The forum was opened with a welcome speech from the secretariat of the organizing committee. Speaking at the opening ceremony in which ministers, regional administrators, PFDJ heads and invited guests took part, Mr. Yemane Gebreab, Head of Political Affairs at the PFDJ, noted the

paramount importance of the prevalence of peace to youths in particular and the people of the Horn region in general. Indicating that it is impossible to talk about peace short of analyzing the root causes of conflict and lack of peace at the regional and international level, he underlined that the issue of peace should be looked at from the perspective of national, regional and international reality.

The youth organizations represented in the forum, after having in-depth discussions and deliberations, agreed on a common vision for the network. They also specified the missions and objectives, as well as identified stakeholders which have a direct and indirect bearing on the network's activities.

Participants intensively discussed ways in which the network (HAYI) may respond to seemingly insurmountable challenges in the region. The Forum secretariat used a direct-participation approach to lead the discussion among participants so as to identify the strategic issues and objectives that HAYI would undertake. The group discussions identified several political and socio-economic issues after taking into consideration the factors that make them critical to the youth and their communities and the serious consequences if the youth fail to address them. The diversified opinions of each participant enriched the discussions and helped identify commonalities of the challenges faced by the countries represented.

As a response to the identified strategic issues, the groups discussed on how the network may contribute to building peace in the region. Furthermore, the participants developed an action plan that would enhance their networking and communication, build a culture of peace among youth and develop youth capacity.

The forum ended by launching the network, the Horn of Africa Youth Initiative (HAYI), and agreeing on a resolution supporting the HAYI network, the implementation of peace agreements and the condemnation of foreign interference in the domestic affairs of the region.