

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Climate Change Leaders.

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INSIDE

AIESEC & Kairos Future Survey Results

**Climate Change: the
topic of the century
through the eyes of
tomorrow's leaders.**

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About AIESEC

AIESEC is the world's largest youth-run organization. Active in over 1700 universities across more than 107 countries and territories, our international platform enables young people to explore and develop their leadership potential for them to have a positive impact in society.

In partnership with business and higher education, AIESEC has over 60 years of experience in developing high-potential students into globally minded responsible leaders.

AIESEC's innovative development process consists of unmatched leadership experiences, international opportunities and a global learning environment.

AIESEC uses an innovative approach to engaging and developing today's youth. By offering opportunities to build extensive international personal networks and explore leadership opportunities, we provide a platform for young people to discover direction and ambition for their futures.

Our values provide a way for the collective leadership of AIESEC to encourage common norms of behaviour across our global network.

Our Values

Activating Leadership

We lead by example and inspire leadership through our activities. We take full responsibility for developing the leadership potential of our members.

Demonstrating Integrity

We are consistent and transparent in our decisions and actions. We fulfill our commitments and conduct ourselves in a way that is true to our ideals.

Living Diversity

We seek to learn from the different ways of life and opinions represented in our multicultural environment. We respect and actively encourage the contribution of every individual.

Enjoying Participation

We create a dynamic environment created by active and enthusiastic participation of individuals. We enjoy being involved in AIESEC.

Striving for Excellence

We aim to deliver the highest quality performance in everything we do. Through creativity and innovation we seek to continuously improve.

Acting Sustainably

We act in a way that is sustainable for our organisation and society. Our decisions take into account the needs of future generations.

AIESEC in Numbers

- Founded in 1948
- 38,000 members
- 107 countries & territories
- 1700 universities
- 470 conferences annually
- 7500 exchanges annually
- 4000 partners
- 8300 leadership opportunities
- 800 000 alumni
- 800 Local Committees

“Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace.”

- Kofi Annan

Our Commitment to Developing Youth

As tomorrow’s leaders, today’s students need resources and support to deal with a constantly changing world.

They face significant environmental issues, and are presented with no simple solutions. Issues of climate change and sustainability are transforming the fundamentals of the world economy and fast becoming the responsibility of today’s young professionals.

The future of sustainability presents an opportunity for partnership between the leaders of today and the leaders of tomorrow.

Our Impact

- We have facilitated a more than 200,000 exchange opportunities for young people over the World on the last 60 years. This includes South African students during Apartheid, Polish and Soviet students under a Communist regime, students from China in the 80’s.
- We have expanded from 7 to 106 countries/ territories and continue expanding. In recent years our focus has been Middle East and North Africa, Caucasus and Asian countries (Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Vietnam).
- AIESEC has been honored with Special consultative status in United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- We maintain Official Relationships with UNESCO

Our Alumni

The proof of our success in educating future world leaders is best seen in the accomplishments and reputations of our Alumni (800,000 in the Alumni Network), including former Head of States and business leaders such as:

- **Martii Ahtisaari**, Nobel Laureate, 2008
- **Helmut Kohl**, Chancellor of Germany 1982-98
- **Janez Drnovsek**, President of Slovenia 2002-07
- **Cavaco Silva**, President of Portugal since 2006
- **Aleksander Kwasniewski**, President of Poland, 1995-2005
- **Junichiro Koizumi**, former Prime Minister, Japan
- **Jan Eliasson**, U.N. Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator 1992–1994; State Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1994–1999; President of the United Nations General Assembly 2005–2006; Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs 2006
- **Dr Stanisław Kluza**, Minister of Finance, Poland 2006; President of Polish Financial Supervision Authority since 2007
- **Borislav Skegro**, Minister of Finance, Croatia 1997-2000
- **Alexander Erwin**, President of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development 1996 -2000, Minister of Trade and Industry, South Africa 1996-2004. Minister of Public Enterprises, South Africa since 2004
- **Francisco Gil Diaz**, Former minister of Finances 2000 – 2006 and current CEO Telefonica in Mexico
- **Uwe Doerken**, former CEO and Chairman, DHL
- **Han Maerki**, Chairman, IBM Europe/Middle East and Africa
- **Martin Bean**, Worldwide Education Industry Managing Director, Microsoft
- **Michael Stewart**, Partner, Global Director of Communications, McKinsey & Company

“The climate issue is about discovering nature as home, a place which seems familiar, yet we have forgotten”



Photography ©John Luck

From March 25th - April 5th, 9 members and alumni of AIESEC journeyed to Antarctica for a leadership expedition designed to activate the next generation of leadership on climate and energy issues.

Supported by BP and 2041, the AIESEC members and alumni from China, Brazil, Germany, South Africa, Australia, Denmark, Ecuador, Sweden and India joined an expedition team of over 50 enterprising young students from across the world. More reflections and information can be found at the expedition website: www.expedition-antarctic-2009.com.

Hear what the team had to say:

- “I attended the expedition because I have several questions about what sustainable development means in the context of developing nations. My work is specifically in Africa and the priorities to upliftment are often blurred for me because of the vast amount of pressing needs”
Lesley (South Africa)
- “I could reflect on what it means to be a human beings in contact with Nature rather than isolating ourselves in cities relying on our minds as a primary resource. The climate issue is about discovering Nature as home, a place which seems familiar, yet we have forgotten”
Majken (Denmark)
- “Climate change is not imminent, it’s happening and ACTION needs to take place. It’s not easy and I have to start now, to be conscious and live a life accordingly to my beliefs”
Henrique (Brazil)

Taking the conversation online

www.planetcall.org

In December 2010 one million global students will set a new climate agenda – and deliver their visions for a sustainable society to the negotiators at COP 15 in Copenhagen.

This is the ambition behind a remarkable initiative taken by international student and youth organizations including AIESEC International, and Copenhagen Climate Council. Named PlanetCall, this movement is to mobilize young people from all parts of the planet in an innovative and compelling effort to influence the course of history.

The PlanetCall was launched at the World Business Summit on Climate Change, May 24th, as an alliance between the hosts of COP 15 and global youth organizations who are committed to mobilising young people to lead change in the climate cause, including AIESEC. Speaking at the press conference, Aman Jain, president of AIESEC International 2009/2010, called for leadership, partnership and a move from awareness to action. “We are the leaders of today who need to act on the promise of tomorrow and this is our chance. We have taken a step in the right direction and I appeal to industry leaders and policy makers to at least meet us half way on this journey”.



Photography ©Jay Chuah

Social entrepreneurship to target development goals

This year, 40 AIESEC alumni from presented their business plans that contribute to the Millenium Development Goals and that have a positive return on investment.

On April 22nd, a group of AIESEC Alumni organized a Dragons’ Den at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague, The Netherlands. With the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) Dragons’ Den, the TAP team (stands for Tapping into the AIESEC Alumni Professional Potential) aims to tap into the enormous potential of the worldwide AIESEC alumni network. Over 40 AIESEC alumni, divided in 5 groups, presented their business plans that contribute to the MDGs and that have a positive return on investment to the 8 Dragons.

These were: Minister Koenders (Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation) and board members of Philips, Douwe Egberts, Grolsch, VODW, FMO, United Nations Volunteers and Atos Origin. As true leaders, the groups pitched their ideas and after 5 minutes the bell gave the final signal, after which the Dragons could ask critical questions. The plan “packaging = education” was the winning idea. This is a simple but smart idea that was originally presented using a porridge carton. The print has an educational value, the subjects can vary between e.g. health, hygiene or nutrition. Meanwhile, children are creatively stimulated to read and write. The added value for the companies is creating consumer loyalty.

AIESEC and Kairos Future



About the Survey

International futures research and consulting firm Kairos Future has in collaboration with AIESEC International conducted a survey asking young people around the world about their views on climate change. Data was collected in the month of November 2009.

The questionnaire was distributed in English via e-mail and AIESEC web pages to AIESEC members globally. We have received 3,119 replies (48% women, 52% men) from 122 countries. Most of the respondents in the survey are students (75%) in the fields of economy, commerce, social sciences and technology.

83% of them were born in 1985 or later (most of them around 1988), 17% in 1984 or earlier. A majority of them are planning on becoming managers in the future (56% “yes definitely”, 32% “maybe”).

We have had spaces for open comments in the questionnaire, allowing respondents to add supplementary information, which many have chosen to do. We have quoted some of these additional comments in this article.

AIESEC is a particularly adequate collaboration partner due to its far reach. AIESEC is the world’s largest youth-run organization, present in over 100 countries and territories, with more than 38,000 members and 800,000 alumni worldwide. The aim of the organization is to provide a platform for youth leadership and development, for instance over 5,000 students were sent on internships during 2008. The name AIESEC was originally a French acronym for Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales. However, today the organization covers more academic disciplines and therefore the acronym is used as is.

Further Information

Would you like to know more about the survey or obtain supplementary analysis? It is possible to purchase data from the survey, special analyses, breakdown of data on regions, gender, academic disciplines etc. For instance, we have a sufficient number of answers in Brazil, China, India, Tunisia and Ukraine to be able to break down data for these countries.

For further information please contact:

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PRESS RELEASE

2 December 2009

CLIMATE CHANGE – WHO CARES?

THE TOPIC OF THE CENTURY THROUGH THE EYES OF TOMORROW'S LEADERS FROM OVER 120 COUNTRIES.

Climate change is the greatest threat of all, and the problem is manmade. That is the opinion of “tomorrow’s leaders”, more than 3,000 university students and young professionals in 122 countries. However, while almost all of them are very concerned about climate change, not so many feel engaged in climate change issues.

Next week today’s leaders will meet in Copenhagen to determine how to deal with future climate change challenges. Ultimately their success depends on the leaders of tomorrow. Young people’s views on climate change are key to understanding and shaping the future. Kairos Future, the international futures research and strategy development firm, and AIESEC, the world’s largest youth-run organization, surveyed global youth in November 2009 to find out what tomorrow’s leaders really think.

EVERYONE SHOULD GET MORE INVOLVED

– Young people are the leaders of today who will deliver on the promise of tomorrow. Let’s Act NOW!, commented Aman Jain, President of AIESEC.

Three out of four respondents feel that people and organizations who should do something about climate change are not doing enough. Nine out of ten respondents think that companies should take greater responsibility to limit climate change. They also think that everyone needs to contribute to solving the issue, but only 20% describe themselves as very engaged in climate change issues. There is no equal sign between attitudes and behavior.

– There is a tendency towards “Somebodyelseism”, someone else is expected to take action. Evidently fears and convictions do not automatically transform into action, says Mats Lindgren, CEO and founder of Kairos Future, and a former environmental researcher. They believe that politics and business have the power to act, and that they are obliged to do that.

More than six out of ten believe that the solution to climate change is political rather than technological.

GLOBAL NORTH SHOULD DEAL WITH PROBLEMS AT HOME FIRST

The notion of “climate debt” is often discussed in relation to climate change, whereby the Global North is expected to repay their ecological debt to the Global South, subsequent to a long history of over-exploitation and excessive consumption. It can be argued that the greatest marginal effect is achieved by investing in developing nations, where relatively small changes can have comparatively large impact on the environment. However, the majority of survey respondents does not share that view.

– The young people in our survey lean heavily towards the opposite perspective, that rich countries should deal with environmental problems in their own countries before focusing on environmental problems in the developing world, says Anna Kiefer, Project manager of the climate change survey and Director of Kairos Future International. There are not any big differences in viewpoint between young in the Global North and the Global South in this regard.

So what would make tomorrow’s leaders globally engage more in climate change? Well, lack of money, time and information are not the main obstacles to involvement in climate change issues.

– Tomorrow’s leaders would be more engaged if people around them got involved, says Anna Kiefer. It seems to be very important what your friends do and who sets an example.

In many countries, the absence of necessary infrastructure to support a climate smart living leaves people without options. It is not up to them if they choose public transportation or not, because it simply does not exist. Yet, the majority of actions taken even in the western world constitute discussions and intellectual involvement.

The recipe for saving the planet is a social act more than anything. Trust in science to save the world is vanishing, climate and seasons are more important issues than ever and opinions change with the change of seasons; people adapt to politicians and people around them. The Age of Reason is abandoned and we find ourselves in the Age of Season.

FURTHER REVELATIONS...

Further analysis and statistics will be revealed at a youth event at COP15 on the afternoon of December 11th hosted by PlanetCall (www.planetcall.org).

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Kairos Future, the international research and consulting firm dealing with futures research and strategy development, together with AIESEC, the world's largest youth-run organization, have surveyed young people around the world about their views on climate change. Data was collected in the month of November 2009.

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END

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information or to obtain a free report with survey results, please contact:

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