



The Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) continues to grow both in its regional network and in the establishment of national initiatives. A non-profit corporation, affiliated to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), YABT is creating the future of the Americas through young entrepreneurs. The organization draws on extensive support from the Inter-American young entrepreneur community that forms its regional network and a wide range of national and international partners and sponsors.

National YABTs bring together resources and people to advance this work. The next three years will consolidate and continue this growth but the organization will maintain its focus where it has proven experience and clearly demonstrated demand.

YABT's work follows four priority themes:

### I. Young Entrepreneur Leadership and Networks

The YABT will continue to develop the Young Entrepreneurs Leadership Network. This project links young entrepreneurs and national associations of young entrepreneurs in a regional communications and collaboration effort, supporting both national initiatives and the regional programs of the YABT.

- **Leadership Links:** Connect young entrepreneurs and business leaders for networking, development of business opportunities in the Americas, Asia, and Europe; organize leadership training and a 2006 coordination and planning meeting with national YABTs.
- **Trade and the Diaspora:** Create a technology-based trade education program, linking businesses in the Latin America and the Caribbean and overseas nationals in US and Europe. In partnership with the World Bank Global Development Learning Network (GDLN), US Small Business Administration (SBA) and others
  - **On Site:** Using locations across the US to train immigrant populations.
  - **On-Line:** Link with the SBA and other business websites to promote trade, bring awareness, and provide information and contacts for trade and business opportunities.
  - **Videoconferences:** Create a series of dialogues, linking countries to share best practices, contacts, and business information.
- **Business / Corporate Social Responsibility:** Offer World Bank Institute on-line courses and videoconferences to young entrepreneurs and small businesses on ethics and social involvement, plan national related events, and continue to promote and host online Spanish and Portuguese courses throughout the YABT network.
- **National Associations of Young Entrepreneurs:** Participate in and partner with national associations of young entrepreneurs (AJE's).
- **Y2Y, Young Connection (YC) and Youth Network of the America (YNA):** Support the activities of networks of young professionals at the World Bank (Y2Y), the Inter-American Development Bank (YC), and the Organization of American States (YNA).

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- **Young Americas at the OAS:** Work with Departments and Sections of the OAS General Secretariat in “mainstreaming” young people into the plans and programs across the OAS GS as young professional staff, participants, and beneficiaries.
- **Connections:** Continue to develop the technology mentoring program to link young entrepreneurs in the Americas with international technology and business mentors.

### II. Training and Practical Experience for Young Entrepreneurs

- **Business Labs:** Conduct national and regional training of trainers workshops in OAS Member States, giving priority to the Caribbean and rural areas. The Permanent Observer Mission of Israel to the OAS donated 15 additional seminars / consultancies that YABT is using to develop the sectoral versions of the Business Labs. By 2006, the program will have reached 29 countries across the Americas region, having trained 17,000 young people and teachers in more than 68 regional and national workshops. The program is self-sustaining in Panama, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Ecuador, with numerous national and regional seminars organized.
- **Internet and Entrepreneur Education:** Use the MyYbiz.net platform as an online platform that offers participants access to educational resources, networking communities, and business opportunities. It also enables the exchange of lessons learned from other projects and communication via online forums.
- **Agribusiness: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA):** In partnership with IICA, develop new agribusiness initiatives for young people, complementing each other’s programs and expanding training through the agri-Business Labs.
- **Entrepreneurship Education and the Internet:** With four universities in Latin America - the University of the Andes (Colombia), Universidad Rafael Landivar (Guatemala), Pontificia Universidad Catolica (Peru) and the Swiss Contact and Globatel (Ecuador) - YABT and the World Bank GDLN launched an online course on entrepreneurial education. The pilot phase of the course will conclude in 2006, the results evaluated and adapted to provide a more comprehensive offering for participants and countries.
- **Biotechnology and Young Scientist Entrepreneurs:** YABT is collaborating with the Department of Education, Science, and Technology at the OAS and with IICA to develop biotechnology entrepreneur training modules via online and on-site courses and networks of young scientist entrepreneur. A pilot “Science Business Lab” course will be piloted in Jamaica in August 2006.
- **Financial Education:** Design and adapt from existing materials a program of financial education, to be delivered on-site and through the Internet to teach young people money management skills.
- **Business Continuity: Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction:** The project will provide materials and tools to small businesses and entrepreneurs to help them prepare for and reduce the effects of natural disasters. The toolkit will help them document key records and business recovery information prior to a natural disaster or other events that could affect their continuity, e.g. fire, burglary, etc.

## Young Americas Business Trust: Draft Program Plan 2006 - 2008

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The materials would be:

- A basic desk-top folder to be stored in a safe place with key information needed in the event a disaster occurs.
- A 45-55 page manual / toolkit on vulnerability reduction and business continuity for small to mid-sized business owner.
- A web portal to offer easy access and quick reference containing an online version of the 45-55 page toolkit, folder, and other resource national and international links on vulnerability reduction and business continuity.
- **Business Incubators:** Promote exchange of best practices for business incubators and work with Octantis in Chile and World Bank InfoDev to organize a regional network of biotechnology incubators. Continue to develop the concept of business resource centers and incubators as follow-up steps in the continuity of the Business Labs training.
- **Young Indigenous Circle:** Collaborate with indigenous communities to create a culturally appropriate version of YABT's Business Lab and to promote the development of young indigenous entrepreneurs with networking in the Americas, US and Canada.
- **Work Study at the OAS and National YABTs:** Offer opportunities for internships / study visits at YABT and partner organizations for young entrepreneurs / professionals.

### III. Technology

- **Ybiz.net / myybiz.net:** Use YABT's website, ybiz.net, as the focal point for Internet based resources and networks, including the further development of myybiz.net as a portal with access to distance education, entrepreneur and trade communities, and space for dialogue, information, and connections.
- **InfoBiz:** Aid entrepreneurs in the startup process by consolidating essential business related information from all OAS Member States in a one-stop on-line resource center, including legal / licensing requirements and links, as well as other regional resources.
- **Directories:** Continue to develop with IDB Youth, SBA, and others the online directories of young entrepreneurs, organizations, government services, and donors to provide support to young entrepreneurs and their programs.
- **Americas Technology Innovation Competition:** Organize an international competition and award program for enterprising college students and graduates centered on training, business plans, and projects through the prototype stage. Co-sponsor and follow-up with and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Global Start-up Workshop (MIT GSW) event in Argentina in March.
- **Caribbean Electronic Entrepreneurship Center:** Continue to build on the concept of offering entrepreneurial distance education materials to the Caribbean with GDLN videoconferences,
- **Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) Video Conferencing:** YABT will continue to develop videoconferences on e-business, agribusiness, trade, corporate social responsibility, business incubators, and business skills training and other issues important for young entrepreneurs in Latin America, especially biotechnology.

## IV. Strategic Alliances and Resource Development

- **Venture Capital for Startup Companies:** Continue to work with Agora Partnerships, a new NGO formed by MBA students from Columbia University Business School, with a unique model of venture capital for small business startups, coupled with ongoing technical assistance from MBA students and professionals. After piloting in Nicaragua, YABT will work with national YABTs and others to adapt it in interested countries.
- **Link with Banks and Business Finance Groups:** Work with financial organizations to mobilize financing for YABT's Business Labs and expanded resources to young people in business in general. Collaborate with the Inter-American Development Bank Youth Development and Outreach Program (IDB YOUTH) to develop the IDB Youth Fund.
- **Follow-up on the Summit of the Americas Foro:** Advance the recommendations from the *Foro for Young Entrepreneurs of the Americas*, held in Buenos Aires in August, in the Inter-American agenda. Over 160 young people from 28 countries of the Americas compiled recommendations from the 8,000 young people who took part in six months of preparatory dialogues by YABT and its partners and relevant to the IV Summit of the Americas theme of creating employment. YABT and GDLN will organize a follow-up international videoconference prior to the 2006 OAS General Assembly.
- **National Chapters of the YABT:** During 2006 YABTs national chapters will become the primary focal point for YABT's development and on-going operations. The goal is to build both their resources and national networks and increase their capacity to operate YABT's core programs and nationally identified and developed initiatives:

### **Current National Chapters**

YABT Argentina  
YABT Bolivia  
YABT Brazil  
YABT Colombia  
YABT Costa Rica  
YABT Dominican Republic  
YABT Ecuador  
YABT El Salvador  
YABT Grenada  
YABT Jamaica  
YABT Mexico  
YABT Nicaragua  
YABT Panama  
YABT Peru  
YABT Uruguay  
YABT Saint Kitts and Nevis

### **Priorities Countries for 2006**

Antigua and Barbuda  
The Bahamas  
Dominica  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Paraguay  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Suriname  
Venezuela

**The Young Americas Business Trust offers opportunities to connect with and advance exceptional young people in Latin America and the Caribbean. They work energetically and enthusiastically; they deserve your support. For more information and to support any of these activities, contact:**

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