



Impact Report

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Leaders Today

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Students and facilitators at the 2007 International Youth Leadership Conference.

2007 International Youth Leadership Conference (IYLC)

What was it?

As local leaders, the participants were equipped with the tools needed to foster a sense of social commitment within themselves and their own communities. The action-oriented nature of the conference will ensure the participants initiate positive change in their lives and the lives of their peers. The involvement of youth members from all over the world was a reflection of our shrinking globe and the increasing need to engage our contemporaries and peers in creating a different future for our world.



Leadership facilitator Jesse Jewell speaking to students about the impact of their actions as youth leaders.

Themes and Objectives

The Power of One
Youth Engagement
World Council
Multi-Culturalism and Inclusion
Leadership and Education
A Call to Action!
Youthfest

- ◆ To bring youth into contact with other youth from around the world to discuss and learn about the many dimensions and benefits of leadership.
- ◆ To share experiences and learn about diverse cultures.
- ◆ To develop the leadership skills necessary to achieve a life-long commitment to social engagement and community giving.
- ◆ To promote a model for youth engagement that is worthy of use around the world.



Youth leaders review the IYLC Curriculum provided by Leaders Today.

I learned that a child of 12 years can change the world.
Antoine Buter, 17, Lycée de L'Europe, Dunkurque, France

Leaders Today: Our role at the IYLC

Leaders Today is a world-renowned youth leadership organization, delivering innovative local and international training experiences to more than 350,000 youth every year. Founded in 1999 by international spokespeople for change, brothers Craig and Marc Kielburger, Leaders Today is the worldwide leader in empowering youth with leadership education, inspiration and action tools. Through our involvement in the 2007 International Youth Leadership Conference, we wish to foster a sense of accomplishment through volunteerism internationally and locally.

Our youth-friendly facilitation team led workshops with the participants, emphasizing peer-to-peer interaction in order to drive home the importance of the following leadership skills in social activism, volunteerism and youth leadership.



Leadership facilitator Long Le explains the most important factors in effective public speaking.

Leadership Skills

◆ Public Speaking

The three fundamental steps to becoming a great public speaker are good planning, great writing and even better delivery. These fundamentals of public speaking were taught and practiced by our facilitators and the participants in order to make them more comfortable when speaking to any number of people.

◆ Research

This is an invaluable skill when dealing with key social issues that affect our societies and the world. Facilitators incorporated different types of research techniques into their curriculum and conveyed the importance and value of accurate information in social activism.

◆ Time Management

Students were given four categories in which to prioritize their lives, varying from “not urgent and not important” to “urgent and important.” By participating in this exercise, students were able to streamline their daily activities in order to become more effective leaders.

Social Issues Education

◆ Choosing an Issue

Participants were asked to consider three issues that are prevalent in their communities and identified three ways they can affect change on these issues. They were asked to share their chosen issues and action plans with the rest of the group, which generated much discussion among the participants about common issues that exist across their diverse cultures and countries.

◆ Research

Research plays a key role in any movement for social justice. Reflecting this, participants were asked to sit down with their peers and share ideas about where they can go to obtain accurate information and how to effectively gather it. They were asked to think outside the box and look for other sources of information that would help them in their cause.

◆ World Council: An Invitation to the Table

This exercise gave participants a chance to bring a past world leader who has already left their mark on our world to life and take part in a conversation from that person's perspective. Participants were given background information on the persona they were to represent, as well as some time to think about how they might bring this person to life. They were not expected to know every single detail of their persona, but were encouraged to focus on learning what made him or her passionate enough to create change while he or she lived. "New world agreements" and "new me agreement" documents were drafted to make the conclusions reached at the council concrete.

Goal Setting and Action Planning

Goals are crucial for personal success; they allow us to create the future while still in the present. Participants were guided through the process of goal-setting in order to create a solid plan to set in motion. Setting goals, as well as knowing why the participants themselves would like to achieve them, was key to this exercise. Knowledge is power, and once they knew the reasons behind their actions, it became more important to them. Participants were also given the opportunity to envision what it would be like to achieve the goals they have set for themselves and what types of obstacles they would have to face in order to reach them.



Youth participants from Thailand showcase their penmanship skills and their "new me agreements."

I learned that a friend is anyone who is willing to care, leadership is not something hard and that a smile or a hug can change someone's life or even the world.

Savaira Khan, 17, Nelson High School, Burlington, Ontario, Canada

Youth Feedback

The following statements are samples of student feedback from the International Youth Leadership Conference of 2007.

“We have the opportunity as the youth of the world to make a bigger difference than any generation before us!”

Caitlyn Fletcher, 17, Notre Dame, Burlington, Ontario, Canada

“Even though we are from all different countries, families and backgrounds, we share the same ideas to help make this world a better place.”

Ryan Smith, 16, Mount Austin High School, Wagga Wagga, Australia

“I’ve learned how in need some parts of the world really are. I’ve learned that there’s no such thing as a language barrier!”

Tyler James Chong, 17, Burlington Central High School, Burlington, Ontario, Canada

“This conference really inspired me to open my eyes to the cruel things happening in the world. I feel like by coming from a country, where we are so lucky, I was a bit naïve and didn’t really realize what was going on.”

Suvi Anniina Lemetyinen, Ita-Suomen Koulun Lukio, Lappeenranta, Finland

“LEV3L is the way to always push yourself to be better than the best you can be. I have learned how to put my thoughts and dreams into action.”

Tara Bryan, 16, Koorringal High School, Wagga Wagga, Australia

“I know that I can make a difference for the world or my community too. I have learned that so many people in the world need help and not only people, but the environment needs help from people too.”

Suchatid (Jammie) Suwittum, 17, Udonpitayanukool School, Thailand

“I learned how to be a leader and make a difference. Not only on a community scale but on an international scale. I’ve learned that one single action can make someone’s day and a single smile can make a world of difference.”

Murray LeLievre, 16, Mount Austin High School, Wagga Wagga, Australia

“It has made me a leader, period. I have learned so many new things, and have been given the courage to lead and do anything, like speak in front of large crowds.”

Anthony Robert Vella, Robert Bateman High School, Burlington, Ontario, Canada

“After this conference, I have many friends, and I have had training on how to gather the people. I understand what it is to be a leader.”

Olga Budzynska Volodumusivna, 17, Gimnasium, Korosten, Ukraine

“It has made me more comfortable and built my confidence. I have learned SO MUCH, I love it! I don’t know where to start.”

Kenneth James Lukas, 16, Burlington Central High School, Burlington, Ontario, Canada

Youth Feedback (continued)

"This conference showed me that it wasn't so hard to do big thing or just little things who can help people or just protect the earth. I learned how to start a big thing like to plant trees or things like that."

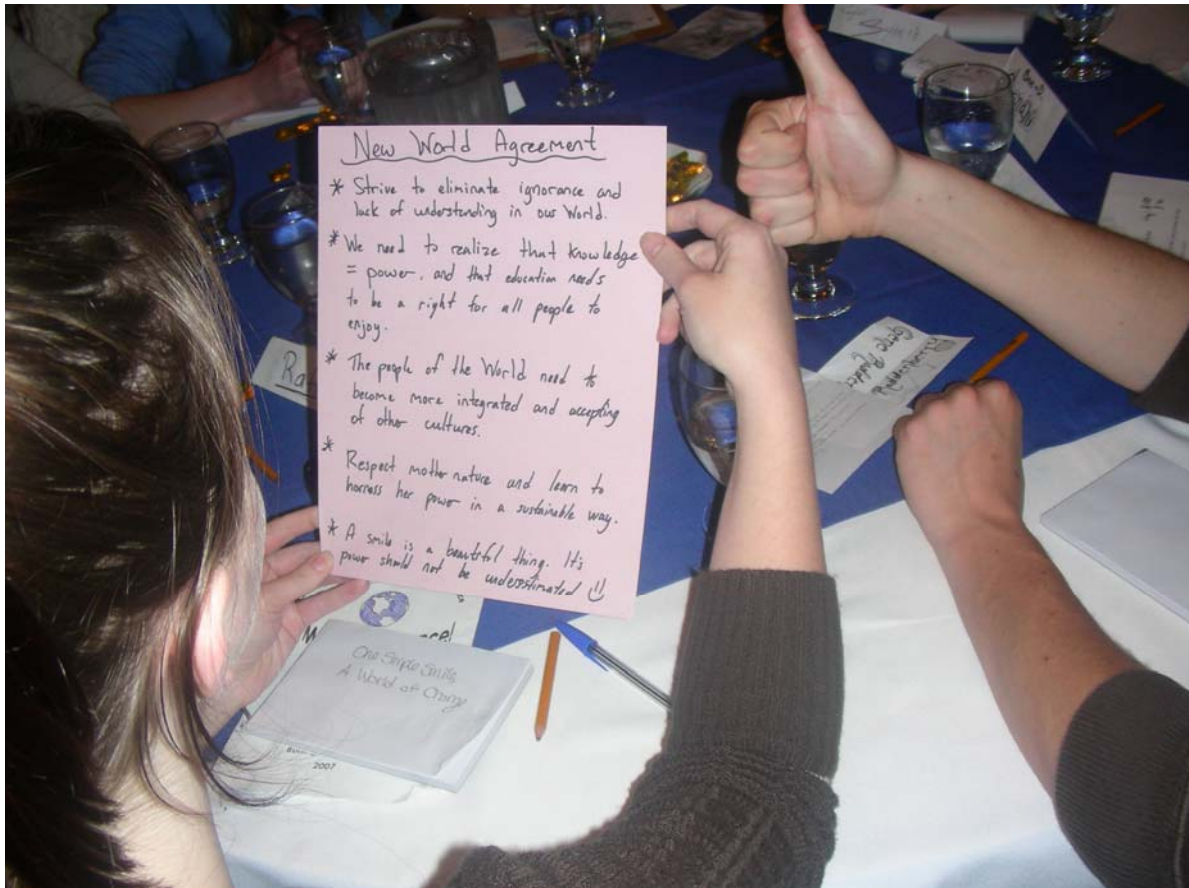
Matthieu Anchiere, 17, Lycée de l'Europe, Dunkerque, France

"I have learned a bit of public speaking, active listening and have learned about new cultures. Before I came here I thought I would learn skills needed for a leader like the leader of a group, like student council or political leader, it was however more like leader like "world improver."

Dorien Venhoeven, 16, Koninklyke Scholen Gemeenschap, Apeldoorn, the Netherlands

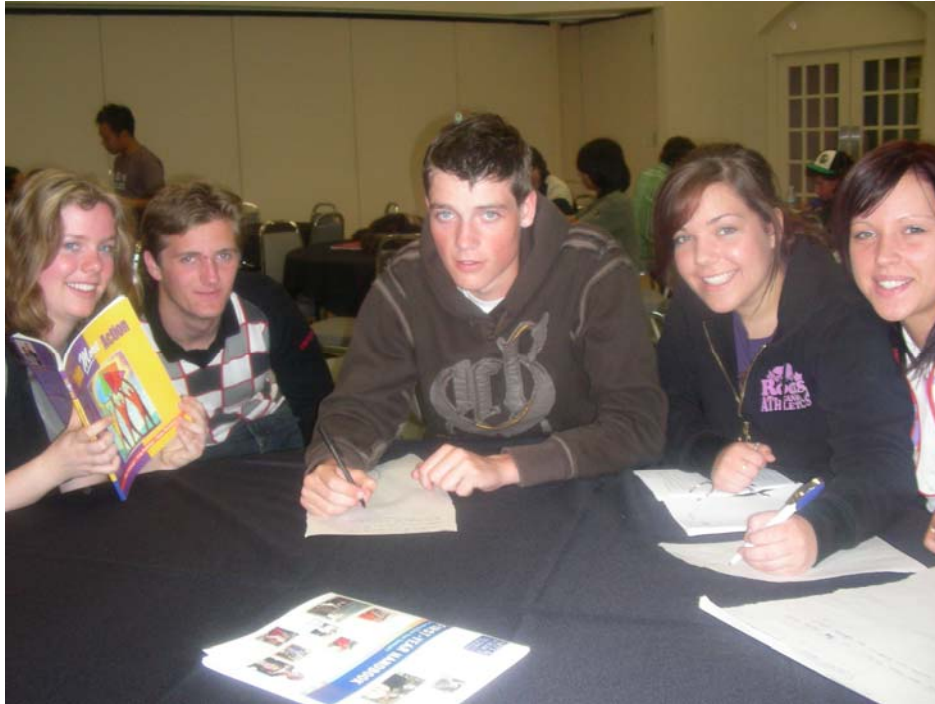
"This conference has inspired me tremendously. It has moved me from thought to action. I cannot express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to its organization. Thank you!"

Bogdara Dragomir, 18, Notre Dame, Burlington, Ontario, Canada



Students at the 2007 International Youth Leadership Conference set goals with their peers on how they will change the world in their own ways.

Students in Action



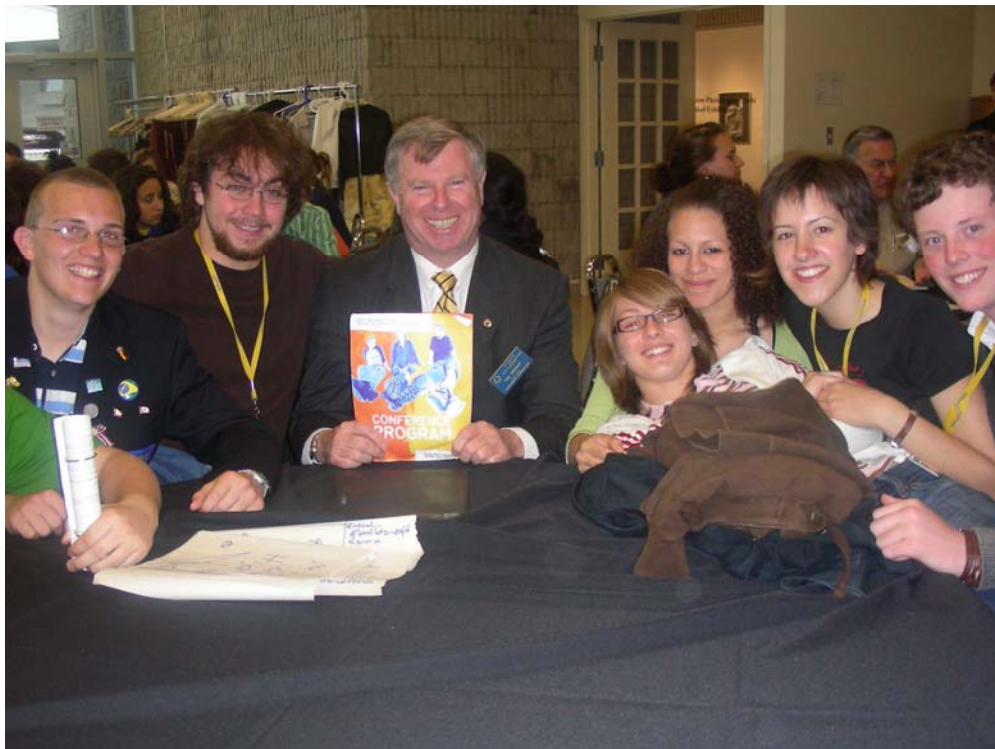
Participants at the IYLC work on their “new world agreement.”



The “We Generation” of the 2007 International Youth Leadership Conference.



Students at the IYLC completing the “lava pit” teambuilding exercise.



Tod Wright of Rotary International with youth leaders in Burlington, Ontario.