

Young Moroccan entrepreneurs attend USAID event

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1 Some 160 young men and women aged 18-35 attended a one-week entrepreneurial leadership seminar in Rabat through Saturday (August 28th). The Forum for Young People's Organisations aims to integrate youths in the process of economic development and familiarise them with business opportunities.



2 Forum director Karima Ghanem said, "The event is aimed at encouraging them to seize opportunities in various fields and gain skills needed to put their ideas into effect."

3 Youths from all 16 regions of Morocco took part in activities and workshops relating to entrepreneurship and planning, participatory democracy, citizenship and education for employment. Participants were selected following an online call for applications made in July. This second run of the event was planned on the basis of an assessment of last year's forum. "We hand out forms to the participants at the end of every workshop."

4 A number of conferences focused on investment and young people's involvement as citizens in local affairs. At the official opening of the event, Minister of Social Development Nouzha Skelli said that the Moroccan government's policy is to build young people's capacity and help them turn their plans into reality. She urged youths to have faith in themselves while also relying on support from the government.

5 Minister of Culture Bensalem Himmich commented that it is essential for youths to develop their skills and spirit of initiative, and also to know how to make use of these things. Young participants were eager to benefit from the activities organised at the forum. Youssef Hamdaoui, a young man from Missouri, said that the forum had proved to be an opportunity to meet others and gain a clearer idea of young people's vision of the future with regard to both employment and citizenship. Hafsa Yabou, who also attended the event, said that youths discussed their plans during the weeklong training session and will stay in touch after they all return to their own regions because they want to help each other to apply their ideas.

6 "For a long time, families and schools have been preparing children and young people for public-sector work or steady jobs in large firms, whereas society has changed enormously over the past few years and there is now a wide range of opportunities available," she told Magharebia. Kassimi said that perseverance, self-confidence and the battle against people's fears are the watchwords that young people must keep in mind.

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWER ON THE TEXT}

A Are the following sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY. (3 pts)

1 The event was open to Moroccan people of all ages.

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- 2 The 2010 event was the first one held in Morocco.
-
- 3 The government tries to prepare these youths to work in the public sector.
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B Answer these questions with information from the text. (3 pts)

- 1 How were the people who wanted to attend the event selected?
.....
.....
- 2 According to the participants themselves, what were the other additional benefits they gained from the training? (2 pts)
.....
.....

C Complete these sentences with information from the text. (3 pts)

- 1 The event is aimed at encouraging them to seize opportunities in various fields. In addition to that,
- 2 She not only urged youths to have faith in themselves, but she also
- 3 They will stay in touch after they all return to their own regions so as

D Find in the text words that mean the same as the following. (3 pts)

- 1 depending, counting (paragraph 4)
- 2 keen, willing (paragraph 5)
- 3 variety, diversity (paragraph 6)

E What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)

- 1 their (paragraph 2)
- 2 She (paragraph 4)
- 3 they (paragraph 5)

II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)

A Put the words between brackets into the correct form. (3 pts)

- 1 She's made an (audacity) decision.

- 2 Don't be so (nose) – it's none of your business.
3 It was (care) of me to leave the door open in such a dangerous neighbourhood.

B Put the verbs between brackets into the correct form. (3 pts)

- 1 I'm not used to (eat) so much at lunchtime.
2 He recommend me (read) the book before seeing the movie.
3 They made him (repeat) the whole story time and again.

C Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the list. (3 pts)

awarded provided granted earned got

- 1 I just took it for that he'd always be around.
2 Naguib Mahfouz was the first Arab writer to be Nobel Prize for his work.
3 She a living as a part-time secretary.

D Express the following ideas in the way indicated. (3 pts)

look for set up set out look after fall apart

- 1 Marriages _____ due to the couples' inability to get along with each other.
2 They tried to _____ their first business while they were still very young.
3 I'll _____ his affairs while he's in hospital.

E Replace the modal in brackets with an auxiliary which has a similar meaning. (3 pts)

- 1 I (must) go to the bank and get some money.
2 You (needn't) work tomorrow if you don't want to.
3 Some people (are able to) walk on their hands.

III WRITING (10 POINTS)

Write the biography of a genius. The following questions might help you:

- What's his / her name? What nationality is he / she?
- When / Where was he / she born?
- What is he / she like? (describe his / her personality, physical characteristics)
- What does he / she like doing in his / her free time? (hobbies)
- How does he / she try to develop his / her talents?
- What is his / her relationship with other people like?
- What would he / she like to do in the future?