



PRESS RELEASE

Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection Joins Citi Foundation and Plan International Initiate the “Career Development for Youth” Project

Citi Foundation also releases findings of the Accelerating Pathways global youth survey 2015

Samutprakarn – The Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, Citi Foundation, and Plan International have joined forces to create the “Career Development for Youth” Project. The project teaches disadvantaged youngsters to understand their rights to be safe and obtain equitable employment opportunities in daily life. Mr. Wisit Wisitsora-at, Director-General of the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection, presided over the presentation of certificates to the project’s first graduates at Ban Karuna Juvenile Vocational Training Center for Boys, Samutprakarn.

Also at the presentation was **Mr. Sakchai Khumchoo, Director of Ban Karuna Juvenile Vocational Training Center for Boys**, who said, “The center’s mission is to build the strengths and readiness of youths to enable them to survive in society, to build their career development skills and steer them away from a life of crime. We are delighted to be collaborating with Citi Foundation and Plan International Thailand to create the “Career Development for Youth” Project. Under the project we offer 5 vocational skills – carpentry & furniture making, air conditioner maintenance, welding, motorcycle mechanics, and computer graphics training. Citi Foundation provides the budget support for materials and the hire of professional instructors from Samutprakarn Institute for Skills Development Region 1 and Dhonburi Rajabhat University, Samutprakarn Campus, while Plan International helps improve the students’ potential and understanding of how to live a good productive life.”

Mr. Darren Buckley, Country Head and Citi Country Officer, Citi Thailand said “Globally Citi invests in efforts that advance economic empowerment and the financial inclusion of people in cities where we operate. We do this by putting the strengths of Citi’s business resources and people to work to help improve local communities. One of our mission’s focus areas is youth employment opportunities and support programs which help young people to link education goals with leadership skills training, professional networks, and on-ramps to employment. These programs aim to help low-income youths – those aged 16-25 – to get jobs or start an income-generating business. In Thailand, our partnership with Plan International Thailand has implemented the “Career Development for Youth” Project to enable disadvantaged young people in juvenile vocational training centers, Juvenile Observation and Protection programs, the Skills Development Institute, and The Hub under the Childline Foundation to claim their rights to be safe and obtain equitable employment opportunities. The initiative seeks to improve the technical skills of vulnerable youngsters, helping them to obtain hands-on work experience and secure gainful employment while at the same time instilling proper work ethics. The overall approach consists of an intensive training program focused on the provision of technical and life skills, followed by job placement and follow-up support. You could say that we follow a

philosophy of “Work earnestly with integrity, Contribute to your community and Live an honest life.”

Mrs. Dominga P. Viado, Acting Country Director, Plan International Thailand said “Plan International Thailand has been implementing the “Career Development for Youth” Project, which aims to transform the lives of the most marginalized youth in Thailand by equipping them with marketable skills to obtain decent work and make a positive contribution to society.”

“With support from the Citi Foundation and in partnership with Government Vocational Training Centers, 189 youth will complete their training course in March 2016 and are expected to get employment or start their own business. At least 610 youth will be trained this year.”

Mr. Nithinop Lowcharoen, a teacher at Ban Karuna Juvenile Vocational Training Center for Boys talked about the process of the training courses on offer. “The professionals from Samutprakan Institute for Skills Development Region 1 teach theory and practical skills to the youths. Once these skills have been acquired, center will send the well-trained youths to contacted establishments for work. The youths live in society but are required to return to the center periodically for discipline and progress reports.”

Representative youths from the center who spoke of their ambitions were:

- Mr. Fang (alias), a welding student, aged 19 years, said “After graduating I will start a job provided by the center. I hope to help ease my family’s burdens.”
- Mr. Neung (alias), a welding student, aged 18 years, said “When I graduate I hope to find a steady job that will allow me to save money and help my family have a better quality of life.”
- Mr. Do (alias), a welding student, aged 18 years, said “I have already graduated and with the help of the center I would like to establish myself as a self-employed welder. My ambition is to have my own welding business.”

The Citi Foundation also recently unveiled the results of its Accelerating Pathways survey, which examined the ambitions and economic prospects of some 5,000 youths from 35 cities across the world. Carried out by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the survey presented a comparative snapshot not only of the cities’ approaches to youth issues, but also youth perceptions of their economic prospects, identifying which factors contribute most to an enabling economic environment for young people. Approximately 75 million youths globally are actively seeking meaningful employment. To effectively compete for economic opportunities and succeed in the 21st century economy, these young people will require a mix of education, employability, entrepreneurship, and leadership skills.

Bangkok is one of the cities surveyed in the Citi Foundation initiative. It ranked 31 out of 35 and does not have a city strategy addressed specifically on youth economic opportunities, even though many youths are drawn to the city because of its economic pull. However, a large number of the jobs for youths in Bangkok are in the informal sector, and it can be difficult to find full-time jobs. In addition, the occupational environment in Thailand requires some improvements. There seem to be no strong youth business networks.

However, encouragingly youth in Bangkok ranks 1st from 35 cities in relation to civic engagement. 71% of respondents have participated in programs or activities that help their city, community or country in the last 2 years; 69% of respondents have moved to the city for school work or a better life in the last 5 years; lower income respondent are less likely to have move. Youth in Bangkok expressed high interest in online learning, however, there is still a gap in the

reality; the findings show there is a 22% difference between respondents who currently study over the internet and those who prefer this medium for learning (1st from 35 cities).

Youth unemployment in Thailand is very low (it stood at 3.4% in 2014), and there is some support for young people at the national level. For instance, the national government provides educational support programs and loans, and healthcare in Thailand is free. There are also scholarships available at local institutions.

In the Accelerating Pathways survey, Canadian city Toronto finished first in the Index. New York, in second place, ranked highest in the United States, while Chicago finished third in the overall Index, scoring among the top five across all four categories assessed. Three Asian cities – Singapore, Hong Kong and Sydney – finished in the top ten, reflecting the importance these cities attach to engaging the next generation. Washington DC scored among the top cities studied with regard to the presence and effectiveness of youth networks, while London ranked most highly for its local government support and institutional framework for youth.

“As the world becomes more urban, digital and globally connected, city leaders have an opportunity to develop new ways to catalyze economic growth and foster a better quality of life for all their citizens. Investing in youth is critical to ensuring the economic resiliency and long term competitiveness of cities, but is often overlooked. We hope this research strengthens and guides the discussion on programs and policies that can best support young people’s contribution to sustainable cities now and in the future,” Mr. Buckley concluded.

People can explore the interactive Index tool, report and video series of young people around the globe at www.citi.com/acceleratingpathways. Friend Citi on Facebook and follow @Citi and use the hashtag #Pathways2Progress on Twitter to view the videos and join in the discussion with those interested in youth empowerment.

###

Citi

Citi, the leading global bank, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions. Citi provides consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, securities brokerage, transaction services, and wealth management.

Additional information may be found at www.citigroup.com | Twitter: [@Citi](https://twitter.com/Citi) | YouTube: www.youtube.com/citi | Blog: <http://blog.citigroup.com> | Facebook: www.facebook.com/citi | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/citi.

Citi Foundation

The Citi Foundation works to promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world. We invest in efforts that increase financial inclusion, catalyze job opportunities for youth, and reimagine approaches to building economically vibrant cities. The Citi Foundation's “More than Philanthropy” approach leverages the enormous expertise of Citi and its people to fulfill our mission and drive thought leadership and innovation. For more information, visit www.citifoundation.com.

Media Contacts:

Citibank

Hassaya Hasitabhan
Tel: 0 2788 2904

E-mail: hassaya.hasitabhan@citi.com

Branded The Agency Co., Ltd.

Nirada Kaewthai / Walairat Ruamrak
Tel: 0 2650 9090

E-mail: nirada@branded.co.th / walairat@branded.co.th