**COMPETITION**

Innovative Ideas to Feed the World - Young Professionals Conference

**With special guests:** H.E Dr José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General and Dr Amir Abdulla, WFP Deputy Executive Director

*21st of May, FAO Headquarters, Rome*

We would like to invite all young professionals of the three UN Rome-based agencies to join us at a special event to discuss innovative ideas and strategies for meeting the challenges of global food insecurity.

The purpose of the event is to open up a space for FAO, WFP and IFAD young professionals (including volunteers and interns), up to 35 years old, to share your innovative ideas to overcome world hunger and malnutrition. With the support of the **Young Professionals’ Forum for International Development (YouFID)**, the **Volunteers and Interns Committee of FAO (VIFAO)** and the **Young Professional’s Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD)**, the event is also an opportunity for you to make personal and professional connections among attendees, and establish a platform where we can learn from each other and help new talent and ideas to emerge. While competition applications are limited to young professionals up to 35 years old, **all FAO, WFP and IFAD staff are welcome to attend** and contribute to the discussion.

**Due to popular request, we are now opening the competition up to young professionals outside the UN System**

**Innovative Ideas to Feed the World**

**Date:** Tuesday, 21st of May - 9:00 – 10:45am, Rome time

**Location:** FAO Headquarters, Rome – Room SHEIKH ZAYED CENTRE (ground floor)

**Registration:** Email Feed-The-World@fao.org, with your full name, email contact, organization name and position. In addition:

- **For competition entry:** Subject: COMPETITION, and attach your essay and/or other application materials;
- **For attendance:** Subject: ATTENDANCE

**Deadlines:**

- Competition entry: Please submit the materials by Sunday 12th of May – 18pm, Rome time.
- Attendance only: Registration until Friday 17th of May – 18pm, Rome time.

**AGENDA**

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Competition application
If you are a young professional (including Volunteers and Interns), up to 35 years old, and wish to submit your entry for the chance to present your innovative idea at the event, **individually or in a group (up to four participants)**, please submit the following:

- a short essay max. 500 words (mandatory);
- supporting materials (optional), such as:
  - video (max. 3 minutes) – Formats: wmv; mpg; asf; avi (formats that can be opened with Windows Media Player);
  - posters or photos (up to five).

Your essay must provide an outline of your innovative idea and/or work that you have been doing to promote local, national, regional or global food security. Only essays in English will be accepted.

**Please note:** In order to be eligible for the competition, young professionals who do not work for a UN agency must be linked to a relevant university course or organization working on development issues.

Evaluation procedure
The essays and visual materials will be evaluated by a selection committee composed of FAO, WFP and IFAD staff.

Candidates who wish to submit their entries as a group must note that, if selected, only one group member will make the oral presentation at the event.

We encourage presentations from groups composed by members of the three organizations.

For more information about the selection, please consult Annex 1, “Selection Criteria”.

Results and Prizes
The authors of the five most innovative proposals will be invited to make a six-minute presentation at the event; a great opportunity to share and promote your ideas/work. You will also receive a letter of congratulations signed by the FAO Director-General, Mr. José Graziano da Silva. All other submitted essays will be published online at the YPARD webpage [http://ypard.net/](http://ypard.net/).

Webcast and videoconference
The event will be webcasted. If you are working in the field and are unable to attend the event, you can stay connected through Facebook. We will update you about this very soon. We also encourage you to submit your entries and participate in the competition! If your idea is selected, you will have the opportunity to make your presentation during the event via video link.

Language:
The event will be in English. All entries submitted and the presentations that the selected candidates will do during the event must be in English too.

** For more information, please write to Feed-The-World@fao.org.

Follow us on Facebook and keep up-to-date with the event:
[https://www.facebook.com/events/443890145703535/](https://www.facebook.com/events/443890145703535/)

Organizing Committee
Cynthia Lima (NRD) – General Organization; Communication and Partnership Management - [Cynthia.Lima@fao.org](mailto:Cynthia.Lima@fao.org)
Luo Wenjun (NRD) – Administrative Management - [Wenjun.Luo@fao.org](mailto:Wenjun.Luo@fao.org)
Rebeca de Souza (ESW) – Knowledge Management - Rebeca.CarmoBatistaDeSouza@fao.org
Tommaso Carboni (NRD) – External Visibility Management - Tommaso.Carboni@fao.org

**Partners**

VIFAO – Volunteers and Interns Committee of FAO (website under construction)

YouFID – Young Professionals’ Forum for International Development in Rome, Italy
[http://youfidrome.wordpress.com/](http://youfidrome.wordpress.com/)

