

Revolutionary Change: The Power of Youth

Wednesday, April 21, 2004, Lafayette College, Easton, PA - There is a significant correlation between the size of a nation's population between the ages of 15-29 and the stability of that nation. In the 1990's, nations with a young adult population that was less than 30% of its total population had a 11% likelihood of experiencing an onset of civil conflict. Nations with a young adult population that was greater than 40% of its total population were three times as likely to experience such an outbreak. This program explored the role young adult cohorts have historically played in producing significant social change and discussed the issues in which the opinions of today's youth are likely to make a difference. The characteristics of young adult cohorts from major economic powers were also compared and discussed in the context of a changing global economy.

Welcome and Introduction:

Raisa Sheynberg, Coordinator, Lafayette Educational Program

Speakers:

Jane S. De Lung, President, Population Resource Center

Jeffrey T. Gaffney, Fellow, Population Resource Center

Co-Sponsors:

Lafayette College

Quick Facts:

"In 1970, youth aged 15-29 represented 24.5% of the U.S. population. In 2000 this age group represented just 20.8% of the population. This is effectively a drop from 1 in 4 people being in the category to 1 in 5."

Jane S. De Lung, President, Population Resource Center

"Despite the fact that American youth attend college at six times the rate that Indian youth do, Indian still produces a far greater number of college graduates each year than the U.S. does."

Jeffrey T. Gaffney, Fellow, Population Resource Center

"The United States has become increasingly diverse over the past generation. In 1970, 88.1% of the U.S. population was white. In 2005 that percentage is expected to have dropped to 78.8%"

Jane S. De Lung, President, Population Resource Center