

Employment Network (YEN) which is focusing its resources on curbing the unemployment rate among youth.

And Farmanesh was there ready to offer what he could when an opportunity arose for his fellow countrymen.

TOWARD YEN

YEN was created under the impetus of the Millennium Declaration where Heads of State gathered and agreed upon eight measurable goals for all member states to strive toward through 2015. It was at this historic, largest gathering of world leaders that United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan first proposed the Youth Employment Network.

“Together with the heads of the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, I am convening a High-Level Policy Network on youth employment drawing on the most creative leaders in private industry, civil society and economic policy to explore imaginative approaches to this difficult challenge,” said Annan. “I will ask this policy network to propose a set of recommendations that I can convey to world leaders within a year.”

When Farmanesh heard of this plan, he wanted his home country of Iran to take a leadership role.

“I saw it as a major chance for Iran,” he said. “The World Summit on Information Society was coming up, and I knew the Iranian president, the acting Iranian Minister of Youth, and an Iranian high-ranking delegation would be in Geneva for the Summit. I arranged a meeting between head of YEN secretariat and some of these top representatives from Iran.

“As a result of that initial meeting, and about four months of work, Iran joined YEN as a lead country,” he added.

Since taking the role as a lead country, the Iranian delegation has created a National Youth Policy and continues to create internal policies to support the development of youth in all aspects of their lives so that they all have employment opportunities available as they get older and seek jobs.

Farmanesh has been serving as a volunteer since he was 18 years old. For 7 years, he has maintained a steady focus on the future and what needs to be