

and youth in general.

“The UN is one of rare active international agencies in Iran which has a global perspective when setting proper, acceptable goals and activities worldwide,” he said. “For me, supporting these efforts was a natural step, as the UN has an open door to young ideas.”

“I sought every chance for involvement with the UN. It was a very slow, step-by-step process and I learned a lot along the way.”

Farmanesh’s efforts at such a young age have been noticed by many adults who want to contribute to his momentum. He has been awarded a full scholarship from the World Bank to earn his master’s degree from Syracuse University, and continues to be tapped by the UN as an advisor.

He currently maintains an active schedule with three projects with the UN: an environmental program with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the youth employment project discussed previously and authoring a book with a team of youth about young involvement in the Millennium Development Goals with UN Youth Unit.

The UN has made it a point to seek out and enroll some of the best and brightest youth in the world. This description of the UN policy on youth is from their website:

EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Young people are a major force in the contemporary world. They are at the forefront of global, social, economic and political developments. In addition to their intellectual contribution and their ability to mobilize support, young women and men have a unique perspective. How our societies progress is determined, among other things, on how much we involve youth in building and designing the future. But in many countries, it has become more difficult for young people to be involved in the life of their societies.

The problems facing youth challenge not only today's societies, but future generations as well. They include: limited resources available for funding youth programmes and activities; inequities in social, economic and political conditions; gender discrimination; insecure livelihoods; high levels