

# THE MEMON



YOUTH SPECIAL



## YOUNG GUNS

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WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION NEWSLETTER

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# INTRODUCTION

*We must become the change we wish to see in the world.* – Mahatma Gandhi.

Given the opportunity, youngsters can be the driving force in bringing positive change in their communities, nations and the world.

Blessed with an aura of excitement, sheer brilliance and a tinge of innocence, the youth can overcome hurdles and provide revolutionary solutions.

The youth of the memon community is a united force. Still at it's infant stage, the team of individuals from 7 chapters have achieved many milestones. Under the guidance of visionary leadership, the youth is the absolute dawn of the tomorrow that WMO is preaching.

Since its birth in 2013, it has been a breeding ground for many young entrepreneurs. With conferences and events held in Colombo, Dubai & Johannesburg, the youth of the memon community has been provided a strong platform by WMO.

As Abraham Lincoln once said *'Don't worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition.'* The Youth based it's model on striving to conquer all it's challenges.

The revolutionaries have set foot to make a difference with aspirations of scaling the highest peaks of excellence, thus proving to be worthy heirs of the sublime WMO legacy.

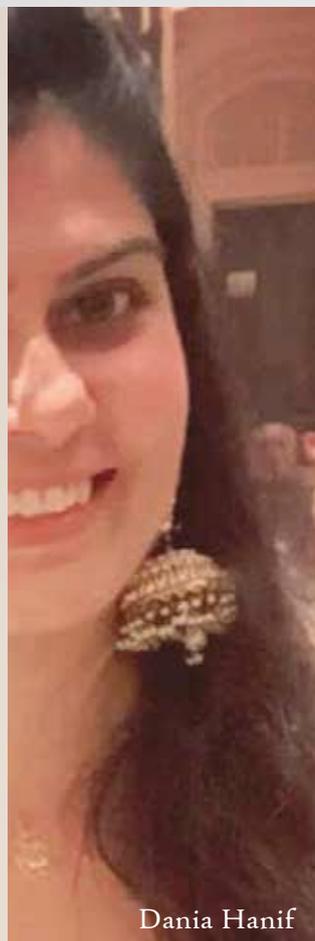


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Sana Shakoor



Dania Hanif



Osman Razzak



Salmaan Hussain



Raeesa Gutta

## International Youth Projects

There are five International Youth Wing initiatives that are working towards the betterment of the global memon community.

WOW - Wonder of Women; (Led by Sana Shakoor) is a Women Empowerment Program as Women experience a unique set of challenges on their path to success mainly because of lack of capital-traditional sources of finance and inadequate knowledge to start an enterprise, WOW program will conduct WOW workshops globally to inspire women to realize their optimum potential.

IYEP-International Youth Education Program; (Led by Dania Hanif) is a program which focuses on education as it's a powerful weapon of change. Program has plans of training youth in oratory skills, academic excellence and also provide vocational trainings and various projects are planned and executed such as Parliamentary Debate competition, WMO Wellness program, Buddy System, etc to ensure youth are fully equipped to face the challenges of this competitive world.

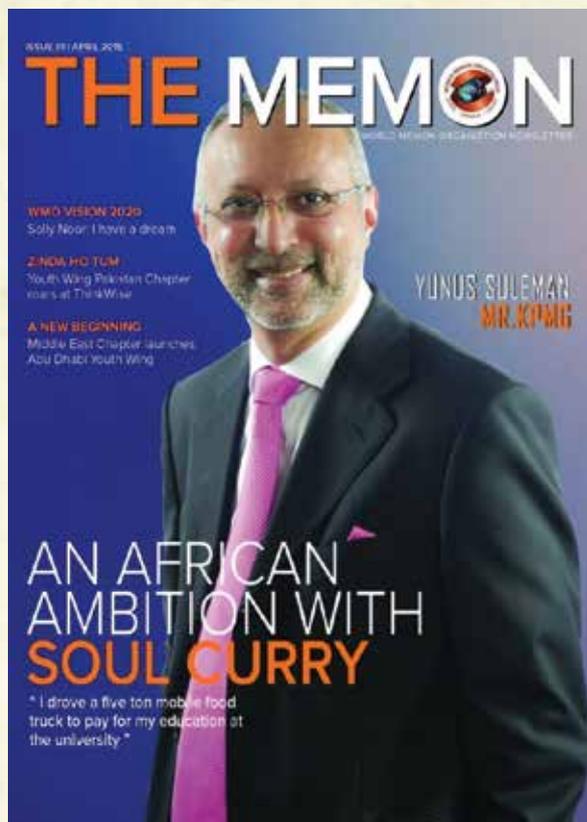
Memon Veypari (Led by Osman Razzak) is a program designed to not only create educated entrepreneurs by training them with entrepreneurial skills but also to provide a platform to facilitate the entrepreneurs of our community and connect them with investors to encourage shariah compliant Memon investment structures.

Sports (Led by Salmaan Hussain) "It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get up, Sports teaches teamwork, boosts self esteem, and even unites the divided. Projects like MPL and IYC are prime examples of unity within the community."

Projects includes MPL in India, An International Billiards Competition, Cricket Scholarship Programs & much more.

Memoni Language and Culture (Led by Reassa Gutta) a dedicated team is formed to work in bringing-out the first-ever Memonilexicon.

# The Man who Makes a Difference



He thrives on challenges and always rises above them. His professional accomplishments amongst many, including former Chairman of KPMG Africa mark his ascendancy to the top rung of the ladder and bear testament to his burning ambition and stout resilience.

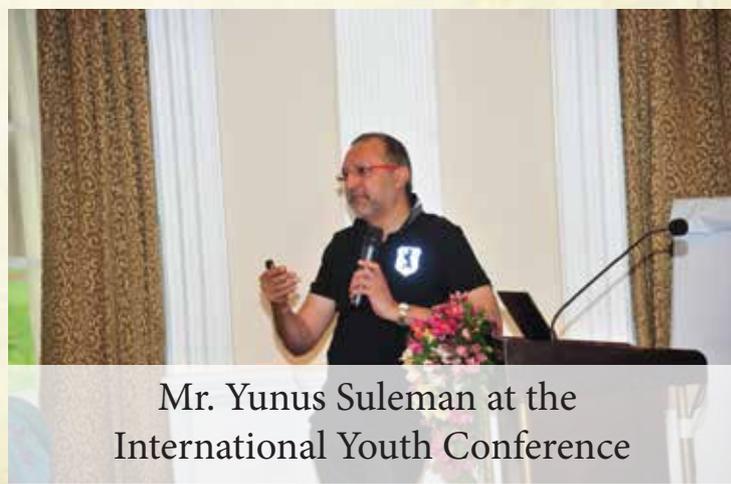
Donald Trump should pay him royalties for coining the phrase, "YOU ARE FIRED!" He is the only other individual who has used those three words more frequently than Trump. Shape up or ship out! The man lives by those words and means strictly business. He gets the job done. He expects no less from you. The buck literally stops here and he is single handedly accountable for the World Memon Organisation. After all he is their honourable Treasurer.

He takes up the toughest tasks because he firmly believes he can make a difference.

The man credited with galvanising the youngsters, rejuvenating the youth wing, invigorating it with positive energy and putting it on the right track. The impressive list of events around the globe include an international debates competition in Pakistan, an international billiards competition in Dubai, Empowering women in India, an upcoming world class cricket tournament in Mumbai, a sports festival in UK and a team relentlessly promoting the Memoni language in South Africa.

We salute the achievements of **Mr. Yunus Suleman** with unreserved admiration. He has instilled a sense of purpose within the youngsters and a pride of belonging to the Memon Community. A rare achievement but then Yunus is a very rare commodity.

As he pats the back of his young teammates from around the world for making phenomenal progress in record time, he reminds us of the quote, "Each one of us can make a difference. Together we make a change."



Mr. Yunus Suleman at the International Youth Conference

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

Since its inception, the World Memon Organisation has been striving to promote education in the Memon community. WMO has been providing financial assistance to the underprivileged segment of the community for the edification of their children. Enabling them to stand up on their feet, support their families and contribute to society.

However as a large portion of funds available within the organisation are zakat based, only those members of the community benefit who are compliant under the sharia for zakat assistance.

Due to the steep rise in the cost of education, the middle income group of the community too, has been facing formidable challenges to sustain the expenditures towards education. To meet the growing financial requirements of this strata of society, WMO has created The World Memon Organisation EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND based on non Zakat contributions.

Donors can endorse the program by acquiring certificates worth USD \$5000 (five thousand dollars) each. WMO hopes to collect USD \$3,000,000 (three million dollars) through the distribution of 600 certificates.

WMO has also issued special certificates wherein you can donate towards the cause on the memorable occasion of a marriage in the family. A sizeable sum is spent on weddings but just a fraction of the amount can set up a child for life. Bless the couple who are getting united in holy matrimony by supporting this noble cause. A perfect gift for your children and the community.

We acknowledge the sterling efforts of Mr. Peer Mohammed Diwan for pioneering the project and leading from the front. As he emphasises, "I would rather bless my children with eternal happiness by gifting an education to deserving members of my community than spend the same amount on an extravagant, lavish ceremony to mark their marriage. After all an education is for life, just as Allah willing their bond of marriage."

A thought provoking statement from a great humanitarian who has spent a better part of his life serving mankind.

## An Education

**EDUCATE MEMON YOUTH! DONATE TO THE EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND OF WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION (WMO) IN THE NAME OF THE COUPLE JOINING HANDS IN MARRIAGE.**

TO: MR. \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_  
Hearty Congratulations on the Wedding of MR. \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_  
The WMO wishes an everlasting happy, healthy and prosperous married life to the couple. It is our prayer that Allah blesses you to enjoy their love for ever.

WMO has floated the EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND to raise Rs. 300 million (Thirty Crores) to be generated by sale of 600 certificates of Rs. 500,000 (Five Lacs) each. This amount will be deposited with Islamic banks as Deposit and generate up to Rs. 25 million (Two and half crore) of Shariah Halal Income per year. This amount will be used to support the education of deserving and needy Memon Youths in form of scholarship, grants and other funding activities for non-zakat deserving student.

We request you to contribute in this fund on this happy occasion and keep an everlasting memory of this happy event. Please purchase two certificates of Rs. 500,000 each (Five Lacs) - One in the name of the Groom, MR. \_\_\_\_\_ and Second in the name of Bride, \_\_\_\_\_ thus making a total contribution of Rs. 1,000,000 (Ten Lac) in this noble cause. Your charity will bless the couple with continued Sawab and good luck for ever.

**FOR DONATION & INFORMATION  
PLEASE CALL 300 2407892 (GUL MOHAMMAD)  
OR 0300 8224422 (PEER MOHAMMED DIWAN)  
OR EMAIL: gulmohd47@gmail.com**

## Md Ghazi Vahedna Quran Competition 2016

The Md Ghazi Vahedna Quran Competition 2016 is scheduled to be held on 20th Of February 2016 at the Jumeirah CreekSide Hotel in Dubai.

The Quran competition was an initiative taken by the Ladies Wing of WMO Middle East back in 2014 to remember Shaheed Md Ghazi, a youth of the memon community and a very down to earth human being.

The Youth Wing of Middle East Chapter along with Ladies Wing will be organising the 2nd Edition of the Quran Competition which will feature more than 80 enthusiastic children between the age group of 7 to 16.

The competition will feature a knock out round from which only the top 6 from each of the three age groups will qualify for the final round.

In a discussion with Late Md. Ghazi's father, he stressed on the importance of Islam and Quran. In today's world the children have many distractions and it is imperative that we try and bring them close to our religion.

## MD GHAZI QURAN COMPETITION 2014



### Competition Format

- Category 1: Age 5 to 8
- Category 2: Age 9 to 12
- Category 3: Age 13 to 16

All Categories will take part in a preliminary round where a panel of judges will test all on the surah recited by the participants. The surahs will be given to the participants at the time of registration.

#### Round 2:

The top 6 participants from each category will qualify for the final round. The judge panel will once again test the participants on how the participants recite the surah given.

#### Cash Prizes & Awards:

- Winner : Winner Trophy & AED 500/-
- Runner Up: 2nd Place Medal & AED 300/-
- Third Place: 3rd Place Medal & AED 200/-

**FREE ENTRY FOR ALL MEMONS**





#bethechamp

International Youth Wing  
Sports & Culture



DUBAI	KARACHI
MUMBAI	COLOMBO
JO'BURG	LEICESTER

WMO International Youth Wing Sports Division proudly presents to you the First Memon International 8 Ball Championship starting from 29th January 2016 in Dubai. The top 3 from each city will enter an international tournament held during the Annual General Meeting in 2016. This initiative is taken with a vision of uniting the youth of the memon society via various social activities.

# From Pakistan to USA

## Fostering and Developing Women Leaders



The group of eight dynamic Pakistani females

I was privileged to be invited by the United States Department of State to participate in the IVLP – The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) which is the U.S. Department of State’s premier and highly selective professional exchange program through which, current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields get a chance to interact with their American counterparts to exchange ideas, collaborate and implement best practices. Globally, this program is said to identify future world leaders who would one day play prominent leadership roles on a national or international level.

My program was titled “Developing Future Women Leaders of Pakistan” where 8 females from all over Pakistan, who excelled in their various fields like banking and finance, media, journalism, women rights and public health, were brought together for three weeks and taken to various states in the US as a part of this program. The cities visited included; Washington D.C, Portland, Sacramento, San Francisco, Grand Island and Chicago. I was surprised at the kind of opportunities which this program presented and how women can identify and leverage their strengths to be a great leader.

Having had the opportunity to meet up with the officials from the U.S Department of State, several avenues of collaboration were identified for the benefit of Pakistani females. Similarly, in the State of Nebraska, we met with the Mayor of Grand Island who hosted us for lunch and then also with the Governor of Nebraska Mr. Pete Ricketts who interacted with us and was truly inspired by the way Pakistani females had conducted themselves in their various fields. Later on at a press conference we shared and elaborated upon our experiences.

Women there were celebrated; they held positions equal to men from being the head of the chamber of commerce to being a senator, a minister and even a high court judge. They were appreciated for doing their jobs and some did it even better than men. They had a family life and a professional life and were doing justice to both.

This is one thing which should be greatly stressed upon in our community that having a professional life and excelling at it does not mean that you would not have a family life!

Also, I visited a center for women empowerment there where women who; were homeless or had a history of substance abuse or were victims of violence were given the opportunity to attend classroom sessions, where they were given proper counseling and mentoring sessions to help them out. Once they got done with that module, they were moved to another module which taught them soft skills enabling them to find a job and earn a livelihood for themselves. I also met with an organization which helps women in starting their own small scale business by advising them on all fronts – from writing business plans to approaching banks for microfinance loans and other ways to raise capital.

All in all, it was an amazing and eye-opening experience and whatever knowledge I have gained in the 5 weeks that I was there I will surely implement it in the WMO for the betterment and the upliftment of memon youth and memon females.



Reeda Shaikhani with the Governor of Nebraska – Mr. Pete Ricketts

## Feminar 2015

Feminar is a program focused on female development and empowerment. Feminar 2.0 conducted in Karachi on 15 November 2015, broadened the canvas, not only in terms of the size of the audience but also in terms of content as well. Two Training sessions were conducted with the objective to “Explore & Unleash potentials & Possibilities”. Women from different walks of life were invited for a panel discussion where they answered questions from the audience. These women were self-made women who took initiative on their own, they helped to instill a feeling in the female audience that “Women are agents of change” .

Feminar also emphasised on educating females for a healthy marital relationship and for better Child Upbringing. Education of children depends a great deal upon mothers. Childhood is an impressionable stage and anything good or bad makes a great influence on child's mind. Every woman is a potential mother. The future of a child depends on how he/she is brought up and an educated mother is naturally

expected to bring up better human beings as Napoleon Bonaparte says "give me an educated mother, I will give you an educated nation".

Feminar was a successful event with a turn out of more than 250 females who attended this one-day conference. Motivational sessions delivered by renowned speakers encouraged the females to challenge the norms of the society, to ignite and empower themselves through their performance.



“ Good is perhaps the most wicked enemy of great. The problem with ‘Good’ is that you get comfortable (and occasionally happy) and to top it up, you have amazing people around you, appreciating your contentment. The challenge of moving from good to great is not that you end up will to do more. The problem is that we don't see the will to do more”-  
Sohail Zindani, motivational trainer



# Debate Championship

## Executive Summary

“Democracy must be built through open societies that share information. When there is information, there is enlightenment. When there is DEBATE, there are solutions. When there is no sharing of power, no rule of law, no accountability, there is abuse, corruption, subjugation and indignation”

First debate championship was conducted in Pakistan on 21/22 November. 10 teams, 30 debaters and an excellent Adjudication Core resulted in an outstanding debate championship which was witnessed by 200 youth of our community; indeed one of the most appreciated and informative event for the memon youth. Debate tournament was conducted in a parliamentary style of debating with initial two rounds being played by all teams and quarter finalist 8 teams were selected based on highest team scoring. Motions of the debate were carefully selected and discussed with adjudication core earlier to ensure good arguments can be made for either side. Umair Jaliawala, a renowned motivational trainer was invited on finale day who taught the youth to challenge status quo and taught them how each individual is unique in his own way and how they can thrive to achieve their desires if they only opt to choose a career they most definitely rejoice.

The core of competitive debate is to examine every side of important and controversial issues in an atmosphere of reasoned argument and respectful discourse. The enormous effort that a participant put forth to succeed in this intellectually exciting activity was truly inspiring. Efforts put into research and discussion on various topics during debate helped IYEP (International Youth Education Program) fulfill following objectives.

1. Instigate rigorous and critical thinking
2. Provides Mental and Emotional Maturity
3. Improves persuasive skills
4. Encourages Team work
5. Debaters today, Leaders tomorrow: The skills and experiences the youth gained through debate were essential for success in the today's world. The ability to think strategically, take on varying perspectives and persuade; can prepare our memon youth for leadership positions in the real world

Winning Team:

1. Faheem Sheikhani
  2. Osama Thara
  3. Bilal Masood
- 1st Runner Up:

1. Faizan Arafat
2. Mubeena Hanif
3. Shah Nihal Idrees

Best Speaker of the Tournament Award:

Osama Thara.





With the objective to bring out the best talent of the Memon Community in the field of cricket , the first edition of MPL - India will be played in March 2016.

The main aim is to promote quality of play and inculcate professionalism in players to play competitive cricket, hence building a strong team to represent India Chapter in the International editions of the Memon Premier League.

The league also unites the youths of the community residing in various cities in India, hence bridging a network between Memons across India.



MEMON PREMIER LEAGUE INDIA



International Youth Wing Sports

# Leicester Sports Tournament

MYA - Memon Youth of Leicester in collaboration with WMO Europe Chapter organized a World Class Sports tournament for Memon Youth to mark the MYA 25th Anniversary. Sports always engage and unite people and by receiving more than 500 applications from not just Leicester but other parts of Europe such as London, Coventry and Dundee, Mr. Shabir Jhakura (Chief organizer) has proved that sports has no boundaries and such sporting events play a vital role in bringing memons on a single, united platform.

This tournament was the first of its kind for memon youth which encapsulated various sporting activities ranging from FIFA Playstation to Pool tournament and from indoor Table Tennis, Pin Bowling to outdoor Cricket, Football and Badminton competitions. All testing contrasting skill-sets and expertise of memon youth. Prime objective of conducting such sports events for youth around the globe is to encourage fitness and discipline in order to build a united and healthy community.

The tournament was initiated on the 6th of November with FIFA and Pool table, followed by a 10-Pin Bowling competition which had a record score of 231. This 13-Day sports festival was conducted at various venues of the city. The inaugural rounds of the Badminton tournament, despite its novel appearance and lack of popularity, saw people turning-up in huge numbers and the arena was filled with anxious onlookers which resulted in organizers changing the venue to accommodate the ever growing crowds.

Men's indoor cricket was a nail-biting competition, it went down to the wire and in the end separated the men from the boys. Overall, the tournament was a block-buster success which can be gauged by the unprecedented numbers participating in the various sporting events.

They say "The more we increase the active participation and partnership with young people, the better we serve them. And the more comprehensively we work with them as service partners, the more we increase our public value to the entire community." By having the active participation of memon youth in this epic sports tournament Mr. Shahid Jhakura and his team have proved that despite all odds, the memon community of the Europe chapter have created a platform from where future athletes and leaders like the Virat Kohli, a Cristiano Ronaldo and the Messi of the Memon Community will be born.



## The Far East Memon Youth Conference

"Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort."- Paul J. Meyer

The Far East (FE) chapter arranged the Memon Youth Conference on 21st November, post IYC 3 to brainstorm ideas for all five international youth wing initiatives and to strategically plan its 2016 goals. The youth wing in this part of the world has always been diligent and taken proactive measures in organizing events. Once again it surpassed everyone's expectations as they chartered a course for the accomplishment of their goals for the upcoming year.

Mr. Ashraf Sattar, inspirational leader of WMO commenced the conference with his motivational words about the significance of giving back to the community. He stated that 55% of Memons around the world are still under the poverty line and the only way to change this would be through charity and community service. He set a goal to ensure that no Memons were living in poverty by the year 2025. He urged the youth to help achieve this by educating and nurturing the under privileged Memon children in Sri Lanka – a project that would be funded completely by WMO.

Toastmaster Gajan Suryakumar followed up, spoke about the necessity of aiming towards one's goals, being creative and constant in one's efforts but changing together with the constantly transforming world.

As the ambiance was set by the leaders for the most scholastic yet exhilarating conference, Mr. Kamran Bhaila took charge to set the norms and facilitated the conference by forming groups of youngsters to brainstorm ideas for the five youth initiatives; Sports, Education, Memoni Language and Culture, B2B and Women empowerment.

Mr. Shahid Sangani, Mr. Anjum Asmath and Mr. Aslam Sattar were delighted to review all committee proposals for 2016 as each team came up with unprecedented and innovative ideas, adding value to international youth objectives. FE youth emphasized on the need for health and nutrition workshops for ladies as improvement in women health will greatly benefit the community. Also, out-of-the-box ideas about Group Wedding plans for underprivileged memon families, introduction of WOW helpline for women in need, introduction of Motor sports team by encouraging young, skillful, talented drivers on the track, conducting training workshops and introduction of charity run fitness centers for youth were some of the brilliant initiatives which FE youth wing will focus on in 2016.

The successful and promising youth conference showed glimpses of visionary leadership amongst the youth, who in time will evolve and unfold as the future WMO leaders to bring in change for the betterment of our community.