

**M**ANY of IDB member countries, especially from the MENA region are facing acute youth unemployment. It has been estimated that nearly 25% of the youth in the Arab countries are unemployed, 50% of the population of which are aged below 25 years. IDB established the Youth Employment Support (YES) program to focus on:

- 1. Promoting employment by enhancing the employability of young people
- 2. Fostering youth employment through private sector development
- 3. Improving decent work prospects for the youth.

In order to assist in tackling this critical problem, IDB has allocated US\$250 million for the YES program to assist member countries in the region. In 1433H a total of US\$200 million was approved for projects aimed at generating employment opportunities for youth in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen. It is hoped that around one million jobs will be created under the program over a period of five years.

