

YCoP Links
Issue 10, August 9, 2007
YCoP: Youth Community of Practice

The Youth Community of Practice (YCoP) global listserv links professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to effective youth development ideas, information and best practices to help:

- *Design more effective, sustainable youth programs, and
- *Better integrate youth participation in USAID development projects

In this Links:

Announcement: International Youth Day 2007

The United Nations has declared August 12th the International Youth Day (IYD) for 2007 with the theme “Be Seen, Be Heard: Youth Participation for Development.” Events will be held in many countries across the globe as well as at the UN Headquarters in New York City. There will also be a global photo competition and a film created from short video clips of youth from the events held on IYD. For descriptions of the planned activities and other youth participation initiatives, visit <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyd2007.htm#unhq>.

Youth and Information/Communications Technology

An important aspect of enhancing youth development includes providing access to technology and the knowledge to take advantage of it. Youth are highly capable of learning and adapting to ICT, as well as expanding its horizons. Where populations lack technological resources and experience, they are further distanced from the global economy. These links thus relate to incorporating technology in youth programming and teaching technology as a way to improve opportunities for youth and their communities.

General References:

<http://www.takingitglobal.org/understanding/ict> - The ICT resource page for TakingITGlobal – an online community for youth who want to take action.

<http://www.unicttaskforce.org/> - Provides resources related to UN ICT initiatives and Task Force Series publications.

<http://www.un-gaid.org/> - This newly launched initiative by the UN, the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, features information regarding the up-coming Global Forum on Youth and ICT for Development from September 24-26, 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Projects and Initiatives:

Entra 21

<http://www.iyfnet.org/uploads/WBYouthDevNotesEntra21.pdf>

The International Youth Foundation (IYF) and Multilateral Investment Fund, through the administration of the Inter-American Development Bank, implemented the Entra 21 program

in 18 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean to prepare youth for the employment needs of the 21st century. The program affected about 12,000 youth between 2002 and 2006. Although about 78% of the youth served have completed high school, they lack many of the ICT and life skills necessary for employment. Entra 21 thus works on improving technical and social skills, and works with employers to create internships and job placement. For related links, visit <http://www.iyfnet.org/section.cfm/5/24/800>.

Youth for Technology Foundation (YTF)

<http://www.youthfortechology.org/frames.html>

YTF is a non-profit organization that uses technology to expand opportunities to marginalized youth, especially girls, in rural communities. Beginning with *Owerri Digital Village* in Nigeria, YTF has created many community technology centers and provides technology leadership and entrepreneurial training to youth. YTF uses increasingly advanced programs to teach children (*TechKids*) and empower youth to become information workers and peer educators (*Young Science and Health Tele-Academy*).

International Telecommunication Union

<http://www.itu.int/wisd/2007/about/theme.html>

The ITU, the UN agency for information and telecommunication technologies, promoted the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (May 17) with the topic “*Connecting the Young: the opportunities of ICT.*” Their initiatives involve providing hundreds of scholarships and internships to help young people gain access to ICT opportunities, as well as projects with Child Helpline International, an organization that establishes toll-free helplines, radio programming, and text messaging services to children and youth in over 150 countries.

Resources for practitioners:

YMCA: Youth and Technology

http://www.ymca.net/international/international_youth_and_technology.html

The YMCA recognizes technology as having the potential to improve the educational, economic, and social opportunities of youth. The strategy paper (http://www.ymca.net/downloads/technology_strategy_paper.pdf) provides general information and specific examples related to empowering youth through technology, as well as the impact that can have on democracy and youth development.

International Youth Foundation (IYF): Field Notes

<http://www.iyfnet.org/uploads/2007-01-11%20FieldNotes%20Tech%20Life%20Skills.pdf>

This document discusses the benefits and challenges of introducing technology into youth programming. It cites examples of how technology has the potential to teach life skills, like suggesting the use of different types of media to explore and address various issues, and also what to consider and be wary of when using technology with youth.

<http://www.iyfnet.org/uploads/FieldNotes%20E-Mentoring.pdf>

This Field Notes relates to developing e-mentoring programs where mentors and protégés communicate through the Internet. E-mentoring allows for an increased geographical distance between participants and can be less intimidating than face-to-face discussions, but must be targeted appropriately to the youth involved. The document also contains a checklist for beginning an e-mentoring program with youth.

EDC: YouthLearn Resource Manual

<http://www.youthlearn.org/guide/index.html>

The YouthLearn Initiative offers youth development professionals and educators comprehensive services and resources for using technology to create exciting learning

environments. *The YouthLearn Guide: A Creative Approach to Working With Youth and Technology* is a hands-on manual with more than 160 pages of lessons, worksheets, and sample activities on how to set up a new learning program or enhance an existing one.

Looking for YOUR input: We would like to hear from you! YCoP welcomes ideas, resources, and best practices on effective youth programs and youth participation. We would also like to encourage nominations of other youth practitioners or youth leaders to participate in the YCoP Links listserve. Hit “reply” to send information and feedback to YCoP Links.

To **unsubscribe** from the list, users should send an e-mail to listserv@info.usaid.gov with only “**unsubscribe youthcop**” in the body of the e-mail. (**No signatures please**).

Mission of YCoP: The Youth Community of Practice provides a forum for professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to gather, consolidate, archive, disseminate and exchange information, knowledge, ideas and best practices, particularly related to the incorporation of youth participation in USAID development projects. The Youth Community of Practice is an informal body of volunteer members, reached through a global list serve and Washington-based chapter. Both the list serve and DC chapter forums include USAID staff, youth practitioners outside of the Agency, and youth themselves. It is jointly sponsored by the office of education in the bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) at USAID and the Education Quality Improvement Program3 (EQUIP3), and implemented by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC).

Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in the materials provided through YCoP Links or posted by listserv participants is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Government or EQUIP3. For a copy of the guidelines and/or charter, put the request in the subject line of the email and send to: youthcop@lists.info.usaid.gov. Participants should be aware that the list is public and not private communication. When participants voluntarily disclose personal information on a list serve, that information can be collected and used by others and may result in unsolicited messages from other people.
