YCoP Links
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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:

Assortment of Current Youth Issues in Development

This issue of YCoP Links covers announcements, projects and resources in a variety of thematic areas, including sports, arts and youth policy.

Announcements:

UNESCO Americas Youth Forum
http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=11147&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
Youth from 36 countries in North, Central and South America will meet in Mexico City and Acapulco from September 9-15, 2007 for the UNESCO Americas Youth Forum. They will share experiences and propose new initiatives to tackle regional youth issues, focused on the theme of "Young People and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples." The work from this forum and the other Regional UNESCO Youth Forums will inform the discussions at the UNESCO Youth Forum, to be held in October 2007 in Paris, France. See http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=11084&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html for more information on the UNESCO Youth Forum.

Youth Microenterprise Conference
http://www.ymeconference.org/
This conference will be from September 10-11, 2007 in Washington, D.C. It will bring together the world's leading experts and practitioners in youth microenterprise, entrepreneurship, and livelihood development to address the following critical issues:

- The Role of Youth Microenterprise in the 21st Century: Facing the Challenge of Youth Unemployment and Vulnerability
- Strategies to Address the Needs of Youth Entrepreneurs
- How to Build Partnerships and Advance Youth Microenterprise to Support Social and Economic Development

Although registration is already closed, there is a waiting list; email ymeconference@makingcents.com to be added to the waitlist.

International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP) International Symposium
http://www.bankofideas.com.au/Goa/
The theme of this symposium is "Youth Participation and Empowerment - Getting beyond the Rhetoric and Slogans."' It seeks to bring together young people with youth policy and program makers to share experiences, ideas and aspirations and to identify what motivates and sustains successful youth-designed and led actions. This Symposium is limited to 125 participants. It seeks a balance of 75% youth activists (15 - 30 years old) and 25% youth policy and program makers (all ages). The deadline for registration is 1st September 2007.

Survey of Youth Civic Participation
Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP), a Washington-based NGO, is conducting a study of young people's civic participation in East Asia and the Pacific in cooperation with UNICEF. An important part of the study is a questionnaire for program managers, which will help map the types of existing programs engaging youth in the region and identify further opportunities for UNICEF to support young people's civic engagement. For more information about the project and to access the questionnaire, please visit ICP's website at
http://icicp.org/index.php?tg=articles&idx=More&topics=379&article=815.
Questionnaire submissions will be accepted until August 30th. If you need the form in Word format, or if you have any questions about the study, please contact Katy Hutter hutter@icicp.org.

Projects and Initiatives:

A Ganar/Vencer
http://www.partners.net/partners/Aganar_Home_EN.asp?SnID=1448811547
This project combines soccer with employability training for disadvantaged youth in Brazil, Ecuador and Uruguay. It works to build skills like teamwork, communication, respect and discipline. Classes combine a specially developed *A Ganar/Vencer* soccer and other sport activities along with group discussions and classroom activities so that youth can develop and improve their capacities in each area. The project is implemented by Partners of the Americas with support from the Inter-American Development Bank. In December 2006, the first cohort of *A Ganar* participants, 160 total, completed the training in Uruguay.

Art for Human Development Workshops for Adolescent Girls
This series of workshops for adolescent girls living in a shelter in Monterrey, Mexico is run by a Guadalupe Victorcia, a professor of Communications and Human Development. The workshops cover topics like self-esteem, teamwork and leadership skills. The young women use drawing, painting and sculpture to express themselves and prompt discussions. The workshops are covered in an article in the sixth issue of *art'ishake*, an e-journal that addresses interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and inter-sectoral issues in tandem with arts and development. *art'ishake* is published by Arts for Global Development, and is available through a (free) subscription from
http://www.art4development.net/artishake.html

Resources for practitioners:

International Youth Foundation (IYF): Field Notes
http://www.iyfnet.org/uploads/1-5%20FieldNotes%20Natl%20Agenda%20FINAL.PDF
This issue in the Field Notes series discusses how NGOs can influence national youth policies. It includes case studies from the UK and Brazil, lessons learned, and questions to consider for determining the best methods for influencing policy or working with governments.

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.