

YCoP Links
Issue 12, September 6, 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:

Youth Social Entrepreneurs

Social entrepreneurship is a rapidly expanding field, and youth are often involved. The School for Social Entrepreneurs in the UK defines a social entrepreneur as, "...someone who works in an entrepreneurial manner, but for public or social benefit, rather than to make money." Social entrepreneurs tackle social problems by examining them from a new perspective and creating innovative solutions to effect positive change. Youth can contribute fresh perspectives and ideas to existing social enterprises, or undertake their own. Numerous organizations offer assistance to young social entrepreneurs through networking, funding, and information-sharing. This YCoP Links discusses several projects and initiatives aimed at youth social entrepreneurs around the world.

General References:

http://www.fuqua.duke.edu/centers/case/documents/dees_SE.pdf - "The Meaning of 'Social Entrepreneurship,'" by J. Gregory Dees provides an extensive definition and a comparison between social and business entrepreneurs.

<http://www.fuqua.duke.edu/centers/case/knowledge/generalresources/index.html> - the Duke Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (CASE) offers a list of publications and organizations by topic, though most do not directly relate to youth.

Announcements:

Global Young Social Entrepreneurs Forum

<http://www.globalknowledge.org/ysef07/index.cfm>

Part of the GK3 Event on the Future, this youth forum will be held in Malaysia in December 2007. The forum will be developed through a "youth-2-youth" framework, where the content, communications, and thematic sessions of the conference will be shaped by participant input. The objective is to assist youth who combine an ICT business approach and a goal of social change with funding, mentoring, networking, and relevant knowledge.

Projects and Initiatives:

Youth Venture

<http://www.genv.net/>

Established in partnership with Ashoka, Youth Venture is an initiative to encourage and enable youth between the ages of 12 and 20 to pursue social entrepreneurship so they will become and remain changemakers throughout their lives. YouthVenture provides coaching, useful resources, and seed grants to help youth launch sustainable social ventures that benefit the community. The website offers information for every step of the process of developing a successful and sustainable youth venture. For some brief examples of youth ventures, visit: <http://www.ashoka.org/examplesyouthventureers>.

Youth Social Enterprise Initiative (YSEI)

<http://www.ysei.org/>

The Youth Social Enterprise Initiative offers resources to learn about social enterprising, an opportunity for mentorship and funding up to \$15,000, as well as networks for young social entrepreneurs. The projects encouraged and funded by YSEI are initiated by youth from developing countries, incorporate blended value components and ICTs, and address poverty reduction, improving disadvantaged/marginalized groups, environmental protection, gender equality, and human rights. YSEI offers a guidebook, a toolkit, and a variety of other links to assist youth in social enterprise development. YSEI also links youth to blogs and other forums to share their experiences and learn from each other.

Youth Action Net (YAN)

http://www.youthactionnet.org/yan_awards/index.cfm

YAN conducts a selective competition to award grants of \$500 to twenty youth every year to contribute funding toward their projects for social change. The YAN fellows also participate in a week-long capacity building workshop that facilitates peer-to-peer learning and networking. The website features brief descriptions of all the previous winning initiatives, or more detailed descriptions from 2002 and 2003 can be found through the International Youth Foundation's website at <http://www.iyfnet.org/section.cfm/5/26>.

Ubuntu Institute

<http://www.ubuntuinstitute.com/index.html>

The Ubuntu Institute is a newly established youth-led organization that is working toward providing financial resources, education, and leadership training to young social entrepreneurs working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. In late 2006, the Ubuntu Institute held its inauguration and first leadership conference, and currently offers service-learning opportunities and exchange programs in South Africa.

Community of Expertise on Youth Social Technopreneurship

<http://www.un-gaid.org/en/node/211>

The UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) is creating a Community of Expertise to provide youth with capacity-building and seed capital to establish social enterprises that utilize technology. It will encourage collaboration between youth in different geographical regions and connect them with sources of funding and business advising. This Community was proposed to UN-GAID by the Philippine Resources for Sustainable Development, Inc. in response to the Millennium Development Goals. The workplan for developing the Community can be found at: <http://www.un-gaid.org/en/node/231>.

Special Section: Where Are They Now?

Remember the young Canadian who started Free The Children in response to his shock over the plight and murder of 12-year old Iqbal Masik, a Pakistani carpet factory slave? His name is Craig Kielburger. Craig founded Free The Children in 1995 at age 12. Since then he has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times, and has a worldwide speaking schedule that

includes the World Economic Forum. He is a bestselling author of four acclaimed books and has a degree in peace and conflict studies. As a social entrepreneur he not only began Free The Children, but co-founded Leaders Today in 1999, an organization dedicated to capturing the energy and talents of young people to help others. For more information on Craig, Free The Children and Leaders Today, see <http://www.freethechildren.com/index.php> and <http://leaderstoday.com/>.

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.
