

YCoP Links
Issue 15, October 31, 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 and the Environment

It seems everyone is talking about the environment these days - even the Nobel Committee is in on the action! Across the world, youth are doing more than talking about the environment; they are participating in innovative environmental education programs, partnering with international NGOs and agencies, and taking action in their communities to protect the environment. This issue of *YCoP Links* highlights some of the environmentally-friendly initiatives that youth are involved in.

Youth for Environmental Sanity (YESI)

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

YESI is a youth-led environmental organization that challenges youth leaders to join forces and promote healthy ways of living and a sustainable environment. YESI sponsors the YESI Global Leadership Jams, which connect and empower young leaders, hold week-long networking and skills-sharing events, and develop community-building initiatives across the globe. YESI programming also includes Leveraging Privilege for Social Change (LPSC), which promotes transformative community dialogue exploring power, privilege, wealth, and philanthropy.

The Otesha Project

<http://www.otesha.ca/>

The Otesha Project is an Ontario-based charitable organization dedicated to mobilizing youth to create local and global change through their consumer choices. Otesha's annual bicycle tours enable youth volunteers to deliver informational theater performances to schools and communities about their social and environmental impact. Otesha's Triple H program (Hopeful High-school Hooligan program) involves training groups of youth to deliver comedic and educational theater-based presentations to communities across southern Ontario.

Friends of Environment Society

<http://www.foe.org.jo/home.html>

The Friends of Environment Society (FOE) is an independent non-profit organization that is dedicated to environmental education. Members are Jordanian volunteers interested in encouraging the younger generation to take an active part in conserving and improving their natural environment. FOE's DIALOUGE program initiates regional and international dialogue between youth to create awareness of the latest

environmental issues. The society also focuses on encouraging the private sector to become more aware of its environmental responsibilities.

TUNZA Youth Strategy

http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth/About_Tunza/index.asp

Tunza is an initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to engage youth in environmental activities related to capacity building, environmental awareness, and information exchange. It will also work to raise awareness and involve youth in decision-making processes. Its 6-year strategy can be found at

http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth/Documents/Strategy_E.pdf, and examples of environmental action taken by youth can be found at

http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth/Action_Around-the_World/index.asp.

EcoVentures International (EVI)

<http://www.eco-ventures.org/>

EcoVentures is an organization that develops and implements sustainable environmental enterprises. This is done through training programs and curricula, mentoring, and networking that will engage young people as well as the wider community. For example, a primary school club in Tanzania teaches youth age 13-14 environmental concepts and business skills by creating mini-tree nurseries while promoting environmental enterprise. EVI is also developing an “EcoPreneur” Database of technologies, enterprises, and support organizations that relate to the creation of environmental enterprises.

Conservation Trust-Uganda

www.contrustuganda.org

Conservation Trust-Uganda is an organization that involves youth in practical environmental conservation and addresses the Millennium Development Goals. Recently, a two month youth-led water and sanitation health project began in Kawempe, Uganda. The project is working to prevent waterborne and related diseases such as cholera and malaria among others that are exceptionally high in this area. Project activities include: school environmental education, communal cleaning of polluted water channels and wells, in addition to a Community Link program and clubs within local schools. Conservation Trust- Uganda has a monthly newsletter highlighting activities and current projects. For more information please contact Samuel Mabikke at info@contrustuganda.org.

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.
