

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*: Youth Media

When youth have the opportunity to communicate their perspectives directly through media such as radio, film or blogs, the results can provide a counterbalance to the often negative attitude in mainstream media towards youth. Media also provides young people with the space to express themselves and explore issues that are important to them. This issue of *YCoP Links* showcases media made by or with substantial involvement of youth, as well as some useful tools for practitioners who wish to support youth in creating new media work with a youth voice.

Announcements:

Youth Media Exchange launched on May 1st!

<http://www.Ymex.org>

Ymex.org is a space for youth interested in using digital media like video, audio, games, blogs and mashups to focus on major global issues. Youth are invited to showcase their passion for social change by participating in contests, collaborating with other youth on media projects, and finding resources to sharpen their skills. To get started, youth use an existing or new TakingITglobal password. Current site materials include a youth-made film from the “Youth Producing Change” film series, which was recently presented in New York City as part of the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival.

Projects and Initiatives

Timasukirane: Radio for Youth in Malawi

<http://www.comminit.com/en/node/269004/376>

Timasukirane, which means “Let’s talk openly,” was launched by the Story Workshop in 2007 to encourage open discussion of important youth issues. The radio initiative, for youth aged 15-24, consists of two radio shows- one edutainment drama series and a weekly talk show. Both shows encourage open discussion about HIV/AIDS, sexuality, and risky behavior. The talk show also includes a career guidance component and offers advice to listeners from young people who have achieved some level of career success.

Youth on the Airwaves in the West Bank

<http://www.ruwwad.org>

The Ruwwad Palestinian Youth Empowerment Program, an EQUIP3 project, has teamed up with Amwaj Radio to represent the under-30 age bracket that comprises two-thirds of Palestinians today. Amwaj, a Ramallah radio station, is doing more than just broadcasting youth voices: its two-month radio production training programs allow youth to learn by working alongside experienced staff in local studios, culminating in youth-produced weekly radio shows at the end of the program. The radio internship program, part of the Ruwwad Media Center's larger mandate to increase hands-on training opportunities for youth in a range of media outlets including television and news agencies, offers Palestinian media students the chance to gain on-the-job skills while offering radio listeners a fresh youth perspective.

Youth Made Media: I Make Media Because...

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/youth/news/video_20050505

Open Society Institute Youth Initiatives offers this video compilation, which features clips of youth-made radio, film, and other media, as well as interviews with young people on the impact their involvement with youth media has had on their lives. The clips explore difficulties faced by youth, such as unreliable parents and assumptions that urban youth are criminals.

Vibewire

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

The for-youth, by-youth web project Vibewire.net is designed to provide young Australians with a forum where they can comment on matters pertinent to their lives. It recognizes that local media is inaccessible to many young people and seeks to offer an alternative channel for those who are creative, political, or just plain interested. Their goal is to engage young people in active citizenship through their involvement with local arts, culture, politics, current affairs, poetry, fiction, ideas and beliefs. It's easy to upload commentary, and the site features current events such as a media/arts competition in Victoria and a production workshop for article pitches and podcasts in Melbourne.

Resources for Practitioners

Taking IT Global Youth Film Festival Toolkit

<http://www.takingitglobal.org/images/resources/tool/docs/229.pdf>

This youth resource toolkit is designed to guide youth through the process of creating, supporting and distributing their own media. It contrasts media monopolies with new opportunities for young people to present their own viewpoints through video and film. It is a "starter pack" of sorts, and suggests video co-ops and digital media youth projects, presents sample storyboards, and provides planning tips for organizing youth film festivals.

Young People in the Media: A review of young people's participation in the media in UNICEF projects for the East Asia and Pacific region

http://www.unicef.org/magic/media/documents/youth_media_in_south_east_asia.pdf

This report reviews UNICEF's media and communications strategies for youth, including a mapping of youth-in-media activities by country. Best practices are examined through case studies, including the Kabataan News Network, a youth news-magazine show in the Philippines. It also discusses challenges- such as tokenism and cultural acceptance- to increased participation by young people in the East Asian and Pacific region media.

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.
