

YCoP Links
Issue 30: July 31, 2008
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*: Regional Focus! Looking at Southeast Asia

This issue of *YCoP Links* spotlights youth initiatives in Southeast Asia and resources useful to practitioners in the region. These highlighted projects develop microfinance and agriculture programs, build leadership skills, encourage service learning, and use nonformal education programs to address issues such as gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS.

Announcements:

4th World Youth Conference: Regeneration 2008

<http://www.wyc2008.qc.ca/index.php?rand=1663942261>

The 4th World Youth Conference will take place in Quebec City August 10-21, 2008. The World Youth Congress brings together youth from around the world to discuss Youth-Led Development. The theme of the 2008 Congress focuses on youth and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Empowerment, Partnerships, and Sustainable Development are a few examples of issues to be addressed at the conference.

8th Global Conference on National Youth Service

www.icicp.org/ianys

Paris will host the eighth global National Youth Service Conference, to be held November 19-22, 2008. The conference, organized by the International Association for National Youth Service (IANYS), provides the opportunity for practitioners, policymakers, government officials and researchers to discuss possibilities for increased impact of national youth service in communities and the youth development field worldwide.

Projects and Initiatives

Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) Phase 2 Project

http://equalls.edc.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=118

EQuALLS Phase 2 Project is an EQUIP3 Associate Award that works to improve the education and livelihood skills of youth in the Muslim areas of Mindanao, which are conflict-affected and highly impoverished. In addition to improving access to quality elementary education, the EQuALLS2 project targets vulnerable out-of-school youth by providing them with livelihood skills training and alternative learning programs. The project also builds the capacity of a

wide range of stakeholder organizations including local parent/teacher associations, district and provincial governments, and local and regional NGOs. .

Social and Economic Developers Target Rural Laotian Youth

<http://seda-laos.org/education.htm>

The Social and Economic Developers Association (SEDA-Laos) organizes projects that target rural education. It addresses resources and access through building improved schools and starting scholarship programs. SEDA also works with single women and young women in livelihoods development and facilitates communities in developing microfinance and agriculture. New youth projects include training youth in HIV/AIDS education techniques, traditional medicine and the manufacture of organic beauty products.

Youth Star: Youth in Service to Cambodia

<http://www.youthstarcambodia.org/default.aspx?l=1>

Youth Star Cambodia is an organization that promotes service, civic leadership and social entrepreneurship among Cambodian youth. Youth volunteers have tutored and mentored more than 2,000 students to help lower drop-out rates, increased vulnerable populations' access to varied livelihoods, and conducted campaigns to promote safe migration after receiving training by the International Organization for Migration. Throughout their many projects in three towns, Youth Star volunteers reflect on their roles as citizens and encourage community members to join in volunteer efforts to improve rural conditions and meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The Learning Farm

<http://www.worlded.org/WEIInternet/projects/ListProjects.cfm?Select=Topic&ID=24#148>

<http://old.thejakartapost.com/weekender/7trend.asp>

In Cisarua, just outside of Jakarta, Indonesia, vulnerable youth leave the streets of Jakarta to come to the Learning Farm. At the farm, youth have the opportunity to learn technical skills in organic farming, as well as other skills ranging from math to enterprise development to arts and crafts. As they till the fields, marginalized youth also learn how to cultivate self-discipline and responsibility. After the farm, many start up their own businesses or return to formal schooling.

Resources for Practitioners

Karen Teacher Working Group

<http://ktwg.org/>

The Karen Teacher Working Group (KTWG) is a local organization supporting schools, teachers and students throughout the war-affected areas of Karen State, Burma. The KTWG supports the Karen Teacher Training College, a two-year, pre-service teacher training course for Karen youth who are interested in teaching in Karen State, Burma. The teacher training curriculum includes topics like student-centered approaches to learning and indigenous education. Approximately 20,000 community volunteers worked with the KTWG to help carry 94,000 kilograms of learning materials, student health support and sports equipment to local schools throughout Karen state from February-May of 2008. Their website offers information on teacher training initiatives, a short film of their work and more details about their Thai/Burma cross-border initiatives.

Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN)

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

SWAN is a founding member of the Women's League of Burma, an umbrella organization comprising eleven women's groups from Burma. Through its affiliation with other women's organizations, SWAN establishes common platforms to promote the role of women from Burma in the struggle for democracy and human rights in their country. Shan girls and young women are at risk of trafficking into Thai brothels, where they face a range of abuse including sexual violence, debt bondage, exposure to HIV/AIDS, forced labor and illegal confinement. In addition to reducing trafficking risks, SWAN works to increase awareness about Shan needs in education and provision of health services.

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.
