

YCoP Links
Issue 32
August 27, 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: Discovering Latin American and the Caribbean

Representing 40 different countries and multiple languages, the youth of Latin America and the Caribbean are an extremely diverse group of people, from indigenous communities to slavery's descendants to *mestizos*, or those of mixed European and indigenous ancestry. The youth programs discussed in this issue both reflect and cater to these numerous groups. LUNDU helps build the self-esteem of Afro-Peruvian youth via skills training and cultural forums. Caminamos Juntos betters the lives of indigenous girls and young women of Guerrero State, Mexico, by combining income-generating projects with health and healing. The San Francisco Agriculture School is an example of a sustainable education system that lifts young Paraguayans out of poverty by instructing them in both farming and agro-business. The Youth Portal for Latin America and the Caribbean offers a wide variety of resources and traverses ethnicities, languages, and boundaries to connect youth organizations across the two regions.

Announcements:

Education That Pays For Itself 2008, 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Education
<http://www.teachamantofish.org.uk/conference/index.php>

Karataru, South Africa hosts this year's Education That Pays For Itself conference from November 18-20. This year's theme is "The Long Road Towards Sustainability." The conference will cover three main topics: models, start-up, and funding; the what, why, and how of teaching; and technology, collaboration, and impact. This conference brings together practitioners, educators, business people, and others interested in sustainable education.

SEAMEO INNOTECH 11th International Conference

<http://www.seameo-innotech.org/ic08/index.htm>

This year's Seameo Innotech International Conference's theme is "Transitions for Youth Success: Creating Pathways for Work and Life." Seameo Innotech expects to host around 200 delegates—youth leaders, students, educators, ministry officials, and other guests from Southeast Asia and across the world. The three primary conference topics are: Emerging Opportunities for Youth Success; Engaging the Voices of Youth; and Designing Multiple Pathways and Destinations for Youth Success. The conference will be held from November 25-27, in Quezon City, Philippines, and is currently open for registration.

Projects and Initiatives

IDEJEN: Haitian Out-of-School Youth Livelihood Initiative

<http://www.equip123.net/webarticles//anmviewer.asp?a=628&z=123>

<http://idejen.edc.org/> (French)

An EQUIP3 project, IDEJEN conducted participatory assessments of Haiti's out-of-school youth population and then commenced several pilot projects to teach youth job and life skills and to give them access to nonformal basic education. The project also aims to build the capacity of community-based organizations that work with youth. Youth participation is a key component of IDEJEN, as youth play an active role in the implementation of the project. The youth participate as researchers, field agents, and youth center leaders. Through these and other projects, IDEJEN works to re-integrate marginalized youth into society.

San Francisco Agriculture School, Paraguay

<http://www.fundacionparaguaya.org.py/index.php?c=307>

The San Francisco Agriculture School, a Fundación Paraguaya project, teaches young Paraguayans the business of farming, from how to raise livestock or keep bees to how to market their products and become agro-entrepreneurs. The students who attend this organic farming school come from low-income families who are unable to continue funding their education. The school is self-sufficient as it uses income from the school's farming activities to fund the program.

Caminamos Juntos, Mexico

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

Caminamos Juntos, or Walking Together, began in 1997, and since then has worked to improve the community of Tlamacazapa, located in a highly-impooverished area in Guerrero State, Mexico. Caminamos Juntos primarily works with indigenous Nahua young women in the areas of income generation, water and sanitation, and health and healing. The organization trains young women, and sometimes men, in weaving, quilting, midwifery, and small business development, and adolescent girls learn health promotion. Approximately 80 percent of its programming is for youth.

Care for Adolescent Renewal and Education (CARE), St. Lucia

<http://www.carecentrestlucia.com/index.htm>

CARE is a community-based NGO that works with St. Lucia's out-of-school youth. It is a holistic program that combines the promotion of self-empowerment and general sexual, reproductive, and parenting education with formal training in vocational skills. CARE operates five different youth centers that teach everything from catering and hospitality to auto mechanics to computer and office skills. At the request of St. Lucia's government, CARE also helped institute the first year of Adolescent Development Programs into three schools in the formal education system.

LUNDU, Center of Afro-Peruvian Studies and Promotion

<http://madre.org/sister/Peru.html#lundu>

http://www.racismonuncamas.com/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1 (In Spanish)

Founded by activist and poet Mónica Carrillo, LUNDU works to combat racism and sexism, while simultaneously building the skills and self-esteem of Afro-Peruvian youth. LUNDU conducts skills trainings, teaches leadership skills and sexual and reproductive health, and holds forums to promote Afro-Peruvian culture. LUNDU has also held international workshops for Afro-descendant youth across Latin America.

Resources for Practitioners

Youth Portal for Latin America and the Caribbean

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

The Youth Portal for Latin America and the Caribbean is a one-stop shop for youth networks and organizations and anyone else interested in Latin American and Caribbean youth. The site offers links to resources, publications, and organizations related to youth in LAC. It also provides space for thematic exchanges on topics such as violence, ICTs, education, citizenship, and work. Finally, it gives brief overviews of the two regions' countries and their response to youth issues.

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.
