

YCoP Links
Issue 37
November 6, 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*: Youth Anti-Corruption, Democracy, and Governance

In the spirit of the U.S. Election week, this *Links* focuses on anti-corruption, democracy and governance. Find out what youth across the globe are doing to inspire free and fair elections, honest politicians, and increased civic engagement. Corruption happens both locally and globally, and the organizations and web sites listed in this *Links* work at all levels to ensure transparency and to promote democratic values. Read about online anti-corruption courses offered in Colombia and democracy trainings that are happening in Somaliland. Find out how you can participate in “Youth and Transparency” survey. Finally, hear what youth think about democracy in their countries by reading winning entries of the World Youth Movement for Democracy’s essay contest.

Announcements:

Global Entrepreneurship Week

<http://unleashingideas.org/>

Global Entrepreneurship Week, November 17-23, challenges people across the world to organize activities which recognize and encourage entrepreneurship. In Ghana, for example, Youth Enhancement is hosting a National Youth Entrepreneurship Summit. In the U.S., Russell Simmons hosts the Race to BE competition, which encourages youth to “leverage their artistic abilities in film, music and fashion into entrepreneurial endeavors.” In Bangalore, India, students will compete for the title of Best Young Entrepreneur and participate in a business simulation. Is your organization planning anything? UnleashingIdeas.org offers activity suggestions, promotional materials and logos, and a forum for exchanging ideas.

Transparent Education Network

<http://ten.edc.org/>

<http://www.equip123.net/webarticles//anmviewer.asp?a=650&z=123>

EDC is soliciting applications from qualified and registered organizations to serve as local partners in the coordination, management, and implementation of activities for the Transparent Education Network (TEN) of the USAID-funded Europe and Eurasia Region Social Legacy Program (SLP), an Associate Award under EQUIP3. This recently launched network focuses on corruption in education and brings together youth advocates and youth-oriented organizations in the Europe and Eurasia region to exchange ideas on this issue. One of TEN’s

objectives is to empower youth to create awareness-raising activities in their communities that address this issue. The web site includes corruption in education news, links to resources, and a forum for discussion. The RFAs are available on both the TEN and SLP web sites above.

Projects and Initiatives

Ocasa, Colombia

<http://www.ocasa.avanza.org.co/index.shtml> (organization web site, in Spanish)

<http://www.dgfoundation.org/news-events/stories-from-the-field/youth-working-to-reduce-corruption.html> (article about Ocasa, in English)

In one of Colombia's indigenous languages, Chibcha, "Ocasa" means "truth." The group's tagline is "Jóvenes Contra la Corrupción," or "Youth Against Corruption." Ocasa is an organization created by youth who place truth at the center of their fight against corruption. The group does this by promoting democratic values, raising awareness of the role of youth in democracy, encouraging citizen participation and accountability, and influencing public policies. Ocasa conducts much of its work online, offering virtual courses in transparency and civic engagement, and connecting youth via online forums.

Young America's Business Trust, Organization of the American States, U.S.

http://www.mybiz.net/projects/leadership/leadership_main/consultations/transparency021208/index

The Young America's Business Trust (YABT), part of the Organization of American States (OAS), is organizing a regional consultation on "Youth and Transparency" in order to prepare for OAS's XXXVIII General Assembly that will be held this year in Colombia. Visitors to the web site can follow a link to participate in the quick questionnaire about youth and transparency. The responses to the consultation will be developed into a report that will be presented by a youth delegate at the General Assembly, supporting the Assembly theme of "Youth and Democratic Values." The YABT webpage also leads to a video of a presentation given at the XXXVII General Assembly about youth involvement in public and private spheres. This presentation evolved from a previous consultation entitled: "Improving the Governance, and Fighting Corruption: The Youth Perspective."

Education Against Corruption

<http://www.vpu.lt/sdc/antikorupcija/en/index.htm>

Education Against Corruption highlights educational anti-corruption projects carried out by NGO Modern Didactics Center in Lithuania, and in the rest of Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia. For example, the Youth for Transparency Project conducted activities such as teacher trainings, study tours, and youth projects. The web site also contains numerous resources, such as *Youth for Transparency or 7 Steps toward Effective Communication*.

Solidarity Youth Voluntary Organization, Somaliland

<http://soyvo.blogspot.com/>

<http://orgs.takingitglobal.org/9790>

Solidarity Youth Voluntary Organization (SOYVO) uses sports, drama, and other activities to help improve the lives of young people and promote youth empowerment and democratic ideals. Through Baraarug Newsletter, published every two months, SOYVO educates youth about democratic principles, in addition to instructing readers in how to assess their needs and implement activities in their communities. This youth-led organization has also conducted workshops, which train youth in elections, youth participation and community mobilization. In addition to working for democracy and governance, SOYVO also encourages civic

engagement, as well as training in and offering aid related to human rights, emergency response, HIV/AIDS, and peace-building.

Resources for Practitioners

World Youth Movement for Democracy

<http://www.ymd.youthlink.org/ymd/index.html>

The World Youth Movement for Democracy is an online forum for youth activists and organizations to exchange ideas and resources related to democracy. The web site features an extensive list of resources, including toolkits, articles, and additional democracy networks. Check out this site for “how to” guidance on everything from running a workshop to networking. Additionally, the web site has recently published winning essays of a global contest that asked young people to respond to questions about democracy and civic engagement in their communities. Winning essayist, Philippino youth Dyan Aimee Mabunga Rodriguez, discusses how both wealth and poverty can often negatively influence democracy when Filipinos line up to vote. A 21-year-old anonymous winner from Belarus highlights the interplay between freedom of the press and democracy. Nigerian Adebayo Waidi Gbenro’s essay records his thoughts on the day after his country’s elections. More than 25 youth essays are available for download.

The Democratic Youth Network

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

Sponsored by USAID and institutions like the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), The Democratic Youth Network is an online forum that keeps European and Eurasian youth up-to-date with the latest political news, events, and resources related to building democracy in Europe and Eurasia. The idea for the site originated at a 2005 seminar of young political leaders from 17 countries, and it came into fruition during an additional seminar the following year. Currently administered by Balkan-based NGO Youth Initiative for Human Rights, the Network posts the latest political news on such topics as anti-corruption, constitutional reform, democratization, European integration, and war crimes. The Resource Links section works like an annotated bibliography, with a number of careful descriptions of useful web sites and organizations. A calendar informs visitors of election dates of various countries in the region, and the EYPL Seminars section provides information about upcoming USAID-funded seminars that target European and Eurasian Young Political Leaders.

Teaching Integrity to Youth, Corruption Fighter’s Toolkit Special Edition

http://www.transparency.org/tools/e_toolkit/corruption_fighters_tool_kit_special_edition_2004

Transparency International’s 2004 edition of the Corruption Fighter’s Toolkit specifically focuses on youth. The toolkit features 11 examples of anti-corruption initiatives that Transparency International (TI) hopes will inspire new ideas for anti-corruption teachers. The case studies described cover issues like ethics, financial literacy, leadership, and journalism. They include initiatives like anti-corruption essay contests, anti-corruption days, and trainings. For example, in Italy, TI brings everyday heroes who have fought corruption into classrooms in schools and universities both to raise awareness of the costs of corruption, and also to inspire more people to practice ethical living and become everyday heroes themselves. In Uganda, TI held a workshop to encourage young journalists to use investigative reporting techniques that will help hold the government accountable. Other case studies come from Macao SAR, Brazil, Colombia, Zambia, the U.S., Georgia, Cambodia, Argentina, and Moldova.

U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center

<http://www.u4.no/>

The U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center includes links to anti-corruption initiatives across all sectors. It also offers online anti-corruption trainings and information about additional trainings. The site contains a library of resources, including anti-corruption literature, an annotated guide to anti-corruption toolkits, a corruption glossary, and organizations and institutions that specialize in anti-corruption work. Check out the U4 Brief on transparency in Sierra Leone's education sector.

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 listserv. 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.
