

YCoP Links
Issue 41, January 29, 2009
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*: A Global World, A Global Exchange

Twice a month, YCoP brings you new initiatives and resources from around the world—from the grassroots, local NGO to the regional youth network. This *Links* focuses on the “think globally” aspect of the phrase “Think Globally, but Act Locally.” It centers on those initiatives that push beyond local and regional boundaries by bringing together globally-oriented minds to work on the world’s issues. The links below lead to organizations that foster global exchange—of ideas, of persons, of opinions, of resources. While some of this week’s offerings have extremely targeted populations or agendas, all of them work to create global citizens and global spaces.

Announcements:

Global UR Teach-In

<http://www.globalur.com/content/global-ur-teach-global-citizenship-amp-human-rights-february-16th>

Global UR is a development exchange network, where people from across the world can exchange ideas and work together on international issues. In February, Global UR is hosting a three-week Teach-In on the subject of global citizenship and human rights. The first two weeks of the course allow students and faculty to dialogue about global citizenship and human rights, tackling such questions as: “Are global and national citizenships mutually exclusive?” and “Do you need a world government to be a global citizen?” The final week culminates in a student project that addresses a topic previously discussed during the course. University students—both graduate and undergraduate—are the target population of the Teach-In and will receive a certificate from Global UR upon course completion. Faculty and students interested in participating in the GlobalUR teach-in on global citizenship should contact Nalini Chugani at nchugani@edc.org or Ron Israel at risrael@edc.org.

“Youth Financial Services: Implementing Good Practices in the Field” Course

http://www.makingcents.com/news/youth_financial_services.php

The “Youth Financial Services” course, designed and implemented by Making Cents International, aims to provide youth serving organization professionals with an overview of the importance of youth financial services and of the emerging good practices in the field. Using simulation exercises, case studies, and individual and group activities, the four-day course will provide training in the creation and implementation of youth financial services interventions. At the conclusion of the course, participants will leave with an action plan for implementing

youth financial services interventions. The course will be held in Washington, D.C., from March 2-5, 2009.

Projects and Initiatives:

People to People International (PTPI)

<http://www.ptpi.org/Default.aspx>

Founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, PTPI connects young people and adults from 135 countries through its student and university chapters, forums, travel exchanges, and humanitarian initiatives. PTPI student chapters are required to perform activities related to cultural and international education and humanitarian and service efforts. A student chapter in Croatia, for example, compared U.S. and Croatian government systems and organized an educational visit to Romania during 2007. Every year approximately 50 youth practice communication and conflict-resolution skills at PTPI's Peace Camp. Through its annual Global Youth Forum and Humanitarian Conference, youth participants from across the globe engage in activities aimed at strengthening cultural understanding and promoting peace and service. This year's Global Youth Forum will be held in November in Washington, D.C., and will begin accepting applications this spring. The Humanitarian Conference will be held in July in Costa Rica, and the deadline for applications is January 30, 2009.

Global Model UN

<http://www.un.org/gmun/>

The Model UN program has typically been implemented at a national level, with conferences in more than 70 countries happening every year. Now, the United Nations Department of Public Information has decided to take the Model UN program to the next level with the first annual Global Model UN conference, which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in August 2009. Between 600-1000 university-level students will be invited to participate in the conference via a competitive selection process. The Global Model UN conference will more closely resemble UN Assemblies in its rules and procedures than a typical Model UN, and participants will have access to UN officials before and during the conference. The goals of the Global Model UN include raising awareness of the UN's role in world affairs, enabling youth participation in the planning of the conference in order to inspire new global leaders, and encouraging the creation of new Model UN programs. The theme of this year's conference is "The Millennium Development Goals: Lifting the bottom billion out of poverty."

iEARN (International Education and Resource Network)

<http://www.iearn.org/index.html>

iEARN links together children and youth from more than 20,000 schools across the globe, with the aim of transforming youth into global citizens by enabling them to collaborate with peers on educational projects. Not only do students improve their skills in areas such as math and social studies, but they also have the opportunity to engage in cross-cultural exchange via online forums and other forms of communication. Via the site's Collaboration Center, visitors can search for projects by subject, age level, and language. For example, students representing two countries work together on the BEST project; together, they conceive virtual companies that sell recycled products. As part of the CATALYST project, students in the U.S., Pakistan, and Uzbekistan work together to create animated public service announcements about emergency preparedness, in addition to participating in community service activities. iEARN works in more than 115 countries and 30 languages.

NextGEN and GEN

<http://www.nextgen.cc/> (NextGEN)

<http://gen.ecovillage.org/index.html> (GEN)

NextGEN is the Next Generation of the Global Ecovillage Network, a youth-led community that aims to support and inspire youth “of all ages” to create a sustainable future. NextGEN is a fairly new organization that is currently in the process of building its organization and its website. The Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) is the parent organization to NextGEN and serves as the “adult” model for what NextGEN intends to become for youth. With a network that spans the globe from GEN Oceania and Asia to GEN Europe (which also covers Africa and the Middle East), GEN is the primary network for the ecovillage community. NextGEN projects, some of which are still in the early stages, include NextGEN circles (i.e., support networks), an online directory of youth-friendly ecovillages and sustainability projects, a pilot project that introduces youth to the ecovillage concept and experience, and an online mentor program.

Resources for Practitioners:

Global Youth Action Network (GYAN)

<http://www.youthlink.org/gyanv5/index.htm>

Founded in 1999 at the United Youth Conference, GYAN is a UN-affiliated, youth-led organization that connects thousands of youth-led and youth-serving organizations around the world. Currently, GYAN boasts member organizations from over 190 countries. In 2001, GYAN merged its database with www.TakingITGlobal.org, thereby forming what is generally considered to be the most comprehensive database of youth organizations and events. GYAN collaborates with a variety of agencies to implement several programs, such as the Global Youth Service Day, Youth and the Millennium Development Goals, and Youth in Global Governance. GYAN publishes a monthly e-newsletter that provides the latest information in youth news, events, and professional opportunities (e.g., jobs, training).

International Youth and Public Space Network (YSpace)

<http://www.yspace.net/index.php>

Where do youth spend their time, and how much of public space is youth-friendly? YSpace is an online network that seeks to answer these questions. Researchers, city planners, young people, and youth service providers come together on this site to share research, ideas, and strategies for transforming public and community-accessed spaces into child- and youth-friendly spaces. YSpace challenges the idea that youth who are hanging out in public spaces constitute a threat to society. The network allows users to search tools and research according to types of spaces (e.g., libraries, youth-friendly cities, streetscapes), inclusive strategies (e.g., activities, policing, legislation, design), available uses (e.g., cultural, play, political, sports), and sub-populations (e.g., females, indigenous, gangs, homeless). The Links section connects visitors to a variety of organizations and sites related to young people and public spaces.

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.
