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*: Modern Multimedia as a Vehicle for Change
In the increasingly fast-moving global world, technology in developing countries is advancing in leaps and bounds—young people in small villages may have a cell phone or access to the Internet before they ever receive a landline. Radio has long been used to reach rural locales, but more modern media, such as television and computer games, are becoming more prevalent, even in the most far-reaching places. The projects and organizations featured in this *Links* highlight ways in which youth around the world are both teaching and learning through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

**Announcements:**

**2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference**
[www.youthenterpriseconference.org](http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org)
The 2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference will take place in Washington, DC September 29-30, 2009. This participatory and demand-driven learning event will convene 350 leading stakeholders in the fields of youth enterprise, employment, and livelihoods development; microfinance; education; and health. Members from all sectors will share their promising practices, unique approaches, and groundbreaking ideas that help youth develop the necessary skills and opportunities to start their own businesses or seek quality employment. Registration for the conference is open, and Making Cents is accepting presentation proposals during the Call for Proposals process, which will launch February 16th. For more information, please visit the website or contact Whitney Harrelson at whitney@makingcents.com or 202-783-4090.

**Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) 2009 International Youth Essay Competition**
[www.cipe.org/essay](http://www.cipe.org/essay)
The 2009 CIPE Youth Essay Competition is an opportunity for youth around the world to get involved in a global civic discussion on issues that concern them. The contest is open to young people ages 18-30 and has three general topics: Citizenship in a Democratic Society, Educational Reform and Employment Opportunities, and Entrepreneurship & Leadership. Essays should be 2,000-4,000 words in length and must be submitted by March 1, 2009. CIPE is offering a $1,000 honorarium for the winners, and will publish the top three winning essays via its Economic Reform Feature Service, which is distributed to more than 3,000 subscribers.

**Projects and Initiatives:**

**Young Asia Television (YATV)**
[http://www.yatv.net/index.html](http://www.yatv.net/index.html)
Initiated in Sri Lanka in 1995, Young Asia Television’s work has two primary goals: 1) to engage young audiences in discussions surrounding sustainable development, peace and
conflict, social justice, and human rights; and 2) to train youth in television production. YATV’s programs are produced in three languages and broadcast to Sri Lankan audiences weekly. In the war-torn country, YATV’s Peace Casts “have been the only TV programmes to regularly bring to Sri Lankan audiences images, views and perspectives from various parts of the country – especially the conflict zones of the North and the East – as the country has gone through periods of war and peace.” Produced for and by youth, YATV is recognized as a revolutionary medium for producing quality edutainment. The YouTube video accessible on YATV’s home page offers an excellent overview of the network.

Computer Clubhouse
http://www.computerclubhouse.org/index.htm
Established in the U.S. in 1993, the Computer Clubhouse has grown from one to over 100 clubhouses in countries across the world, from Costa Rica to the Philippines. The Clubhouse acts as an after-school learning environment where young people can “explore their own ideas, develop skills, and build confidence in themselves through the use of technology.” From the Computer Clubhouse Locations page, links lead to Puerta 18 Computer Clubhouse in Argentina or Museo de los Ninos Computer Clubhouse in Colombia (Note: links to outside Clubhouse sites may not be in English). Youth who visit the Clubhouses have access to adult mentors who support them as they develop projects in computer game design, computer simulations, multimedia creations, electronic media, and other technological areas.

Education Development Center (EDC) Asia HIV/AIDS Project
http://main.edc.org/newsroom/articles/game (article)
http://asia.hhd.org/indProj.php?pID=4003 (main project site)
EDC’s Health and Human Development Program in Asia has harnessed the power of computer games to educate Thailand’s youth population. Youth in Thailand are particularly at risk for HIV/AIDS, where half of all new infections are in young people. In a place where many youth are plugged into media mainstream via cell phones and the Internet, computer games are an easy way to reach this risky population. As young players fight against Diga, whose mission is to spread false information regarding HIV transmission, they advance through nine levels, learning about HIV/AIDS prevention as they play. The game was released in 2008.

Ajegunle.org, A Paradigm Initiative Nigeria project
http://www.ajegunle.org/ (Project Page)
http://www.pinigeria.org/projects.php (PIN project page)
Ajegunle is “a notorious slum in Lagos, Nigeria” where “thousands of young school leavers are street-hawking or engaged in one juvenile act or the other.” Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (PIN) chose Ajegunle as the name for a project that attempts to refocus young people’s energies into more positive ventures. Using a Relay Training model, Ajegunle.org trains youth in ICT and entrepreneurship skills and supports them as they fulfill the second part of the program, which requires them to train other youth in the skills they have just learned. Eventually, the trainees are expected to earn money through training others in ICT and entrepreneurial skills. Additionally, the program has an internship component that matches trainees with participating corporations. Finally, the program allows trainees to utilize its work space and technology in order to pursue their entrepreneurship activities.

Slums Information Development and Resources Centers (SIDAREC)
http://www.sidarec.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1
Working in the slums of Nairobi, SIDAREC uses a variety of media to reach out to the youth community. Begun as a youth group in 1996, SIDAREC became an organization a year later that aims to build on existing skills and talents of youth to benefit slum dwellers. Youth are considered an “untapped” community, and the use of ICT is one way in which SIDAREC hopes to build youth leadership. The organization’s Media and ICT pillar uses both traditional (e.g., inter-generational storytelling, puppetry, and community theatre) and modern (e.g., radio, computer and Internet training, guided thematic video shows) forms of communication.
SIDAREC will soon be launching a community radio station, 99.9 Ghetto FM, to create a forum for slum dwellers to ask pertinent questions about their daily lives and the world.

Resources for Practitioners:

Survey of ICT and Education in Africa
http://www.infodev.org/en/Publication.353.html (Volume 1, Survey)
infoDev’s Survey of ICT and Education in Africa is made up of two volumes. The first volume contains the survey and “seeks to gather together in a single resource the most relevant and useful information on ICT in education activities in Africa.” The second volume contains country reports of the 53 countries surveyed. The survey attempts to answer questions regarding the current use of ICT in Africa’s education sector, the strategies and policies related to such use, the common challenges and constraints regarding ICT use in Africa, and the role of donors in ICT development.

Using Radio to Help Communities Talk
Published by Straight Talk Foundation (STF), “Using Radio to Help Communities Talk” is a manual designed to help practitioners develop radio programs that encourage community dialogue. Straight Talk Foundation, located in Uganda, has been using radio as a means of reaching out-of-school and hard-to-reach youth with information regarding life skills and sexual and reproductive health education. The manual is a practical guide that addresses everything from conceptualizing the types of radio shows that will help create community dialogue to editing interviews and using sound effects. The bulk of STF’s radio shows include youth participation, both as reporters and producers. Consequently, the language of the manual is easy-to-read and accessible to youth populations who may have no previous exposure to radio production.

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 listserve 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.