YCoP Links
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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: National Youth Service & Service Learning
Although the definition and implementation of national youth service varies from country to country, it is an increasingly important tool alongside education and work to positively engage youth. Despite their variation, one shared feature of national youth service programs is the involvement of youth in service to their community for a year or more. Common areas of service include health, education, the environment and conservation, and community development. Many national youth service initiatives have begun to embrace the concept of service learning (S-L), a teaching and learning strategy that integrates community service with instruction to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Defined by the National and Community Service Trust Act (1993), S-L is an “innovative instructional strategy that actively involves youth/students in curriculum and non curriculum activities through service to their community.” This YCoP Links examines these two innovative approaches—national youth service and service learning—to engage youth in civic participation and contribute to the development of their communities worldwide.

Announcements

New National Youth Service Launched in the Philippines
In April 2009, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed an executive order to establish two branches of national youth service. The programs include the National Service Corps and the Youth Conservation Corps. The National Youth Corps offer unemployed Filipino youth (including college graduates) an opportunity to contribute to education and community service, while the Youth Conservation Corps links unskilled Filipino youth with service opportunities related to conservation and infrastructure development. The Conservation core integrates a previous program called OYSTER (Out of School Youth Serving Towards Economic Resistance), that offered out-of-school youth modest pay in exchange for work in the environmental, government infrastructure and road maintenance sectors. Both programs recruit Filipino youth ages 18 – 24 to commit to two years of service in exchange for an opportunity to participate in community development while simultaneously developing skills and earning a stipend.

http://www.icicp.org/ht/d/sp/i/1206/pid/1206
The Global Conference on National Youth Service is a biennial event organized by the International Association for National Youth Service (IANYS), in partnership with the New Bibliotheca Alexandria, the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at the American University in Cairo (AUC), and Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP), the
IANYS Secretariat. The conference provides youth service practitioners and policy makers from around the world with a forum to share information and current developments in the field, foster networks, and explore the possibility of scaling up national youth service for greater impact on community and youth development. The 2010 conference will build upon the upsurge in public interest in citizenship and service in the MENA region.

**Global Youth Service Day, April 2010**

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is organized by Youth Service America with the Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) as its key partner, and a consortium of national and international partner organizations. GYSD is an annual global event that highlights and celebrates the ongoing contributions of youth to their communities through volunteer service and service-learning. April 24 – 26, 2009 marked Youth Service America’s 21st Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) and the implementation of 1,950 GYSD projects around the world. The 22nd GYSD will be held on April 23–25, 2010. The GYSD website offers resources and toolkits for planning projects, and an online registration portal for next year’s GYSD.

**Usher Pledges $1 Million to the launch of new youth-service initiative 'Powered by Service'**

On September 24th at the Clinton Global Initiative, Usher's New Look (UNL), a non-profit organization supporting youth to use their talents and become corporate and community leaders, announced a new initiative called Powered By Service. The project is aimed at rebranding service and engaging the world's youth in efforts to address challenges such as public health, gang violence, and development in their communities. Powered By Service aims to mobilize over 5,000,000 youth in a global call to service. UNL’s Chairman and Founder Usher Raymond IV pledged $1 million to Powered By Service in support of its programs.

**Projects and Initiatives:**

**National Youth Service, South Africa**

South Africa’s National Youth Service Program (NYSP) was initiated in October 2003 to address the country’s high levels of youth unemployment. The aim of the NYSP is to create opportunities for voluntary service and skills development for youth, and to support community and national development. To date more than thirty National Youth Service projects have been registered with the NYSP, and 16 NYS projects have been implemented to reach nearly 13,000 unemployed South African youth. The NYSP model takes a holistic approach to youth interventions with three interrelated components: service, learning, and individual development and exit opportunities aimed at addressing the personal, social and economic challenges confronting youth in South Africa. The NYS model is premised on the idea that young people have the potential to develop and succeed, and the ability to become valuable contributing members of South African society.

**National Youth Service, Jamaica**

The National Youth Service (NYS) was re-launched in Jamaica in 1995 to address concerns about the high level of youth unemployment, academic underachievement, and a lack of training opportunities for Jamaican youth. The NYS mandate and its programs are primarily focused on Jamaica’s nearly 140,000 out-of-school and unemployed youth. NYS has numerous youth service projects including the Corps Program, a four-week career training and socialization initiative that is followed by a six-month job placement for high school graduates,
ages 17 – 24 years. The Corps Program is focused on fostering positive behavior, volunteerism, and career development skills among youth. It offers training in Early Childhood Education, Health Promotion, Uniform Service, Clerical Administration, Conservation, Micro-entrepreneurship, and Sales Administration and Customer Service. The NYS is a government funded initiative with additional contributions from the private sector.

**Youth Initiative, Nepal: National Youth Service**
Youth Initiative (YI) is a youth-led volunteer organization based in Kathmandu, Nepal. YI established its National Youth Service program to serve as a “hub of young volunteers” and to foster a culture of volunteerism amongst Nepalese youth at the local and national level. NYS promotes of volunteerism through school and college visits, the training and development of a pool of youth volunteers between the ages of 15 – 29, and by linking youth with opportunities to volunteer with YI partner organizations across Nepal. In addition, NYS offers recommendations to educational institutions, NGOs and the government with a goal to permanently link voluntary service to Nepal’s education system. NYS areas of volunteerism include humanitarian and community service, education, health, the environment, human rights, differently-able and marginalized groups, and organizational development.

**Latin American Center for Service Learning (CLAYSS)**
http://www.clayss.org.ar/ingles/index.htm
The aim of the Latin American Center for Service Learning (CLAYSS) is to promote the development of service learning (S-L) methodology in the region. The center provides training to principals, teachers, and community leaders for the development of S-L learning projects in schools and universities. The center also supports youth organizations and other NGOs interested in investing in social responsibility programs. Training services include S-L seminars and on-line education courses, as well as technical support for S-L project development and implementation. The center also supports S-L research and fosters local and regional networks. CLAYSS publications and monthly newsletters are available on the Center’s website.

**Youth Engagement Services Pakistan (YES): “Youth as a Solution, Not a Problem”**
http://www.pnys.com/index.html
The goal of Youth Engagement Services (YES) Network Pakistan is to promote the concepts of youth service and youth social entrepreneurship among Pakistan’s public and private organizations, as well as educational institutions. Through its asset-based approach, YES has trained and engaged youth and youth-serving institutions in the design and implementation of youth-led service projects throughout Pakistan. In addition, YES provides technical and financial support to community-based youth-led social entrepreneurship and youth service initiatives.

**Ruwwad: Palestinian Youth Empowerment Program**
http://www.ruwwad.org/
Ruwwad, which means pioneers in Arabic, is a youth-centered, community-based service-learning program in the West Bank/Gaza. The goal of this EQUIP3 project is to build youth leadership skills through: 1) catalyzing positive civic participation among young Palestinians through community service and grassroots youth-led initiatives, and 2) enhancing life and employability skills via the design and delivery of community service projects. Ruwwad’s approach includes the establishment of a National Youth Corp (NYC) to help at-risk youth who cannot find jobs and are in need of livelihood skills. Ruwwad’s NYC assists marginalized Palestinian youth to learn positive leadership skills by engaging them in the design and implementation of grass-roots community development projects. Through this
process, youth in the NYC acquire new knowledge and skills such as research and communication skills, self-confidence, and self-discipline.

**Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP): Green Youth Service**
http://www.icicp.org/ht/d/sp/i/1208/pid/1208

The aim of Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP) is to facilitate opportunities for youth to positively impact their communities while building essential skills for future success through civic engagement. ICP works globally with individuals, organizations, and groups to support the development of innovative approaches to two civic participation strategies: national youth service and service-learning. The Green Youth Service is one example of ICP’s efforts. Aimed at fostering citizen mobilization around global climate change and sustainability, the Green Youth Service initiative collects information about existing scalable models that use youth service as a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as promising approaches to national service or service-learning that combat global warming.

**Resources for Practitioners**

**International Association for National Youth Service (IANYS)**
http://www.icicp.org/ht/d/sp/i/1206/pid/1206

Established in 1996 at the 3rd Global Conference on National Youth Service, the International Association for National Youth Service (IANYS) is a global network of professionals working to promote youth service around the world. At present, IANYS includes members from 48 different countries on six continents. IANYS collects and disseminates information about global National Youth Service (NYS) programs. The network also provides assistance to countries and organizations interested in establishing NYS programs through exchanges, coordination, and training. IANYS also collaborates with the United Nations and other international bodies on NYS activities; conducts NYS research, monitoring, and evaluation; and organizes global conferences on National Youth Service.

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**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.