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 and Sustainable Development Series Part II: Education for Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (International Institute for Sustainable Development). Youth, who represent both present and future generations, must therefore be an integral part of this process. Part I of this *Links* Series on Youth and Sustainable Development focused on the links between youth, economic development and climate change. Part II of this *Links* Series continues this theme with a broader focus on projects that seek to directly incorporate and educate young people on different approaches to sustainable development, whether social, economic or environmental. A number of the projects and initiatives highlighted here were also featured at the 2009 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development for their innovative approaches to incorporating youth and sustainable development.

**Announcements:**

**Young Education for Sustainable Development Voices Documentary now on YouTube**


March 31st to April 1st, 2009 marked the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Prior to the official opening of the World Conference, 25 youth activists selected from a pool of 500 applicants from around the world gathered for a one-day workshop designed to share their views on ESD. The workshop and youth participation in the UNESCO World Conference was documented in a film now available on YouTube.

**Projects and Initiatives:**

**Middle East Youth Initiative (MEYI) Ambassador Youth Think Tank**

[http://www.shababinclusion.org/content/blog/detail/1445/](http://www.shababinclusion.org/content/blog/detail/1445/)

MEYI’s Youth Ambassador Think Tank is an online forum for the initiative’s Youth Ambassadors to educate one another and to discuss topics of relevance to young people in the region. The aim of the forum is to encourage an exchange of diverse perspectives and new ideas from youth on youth-related research and projects in the Middle East. Forum topics include a focus on sustainable development and how it can be effectively pursued in the Middle East. MEYI’s Youth Ambassadors point to the need for greater public support and
participation in the planning and implementation of sustainable development initiatives in the region. Discussants also identify key obstacles, such as corruption and weak education systems. MEYI's Youth Ambassador Think Tank contributes to a growing number of online spaces where young leaders can connect and exchange ideas on the issues that impact their lives. Although Youth Ambassadors provide initial responses to each topic, the discussion is open to the public and can be accessed via the Point of View page on the MEYI website.

Unitearth: Sustainable Development, Youth & ICT
http://unitearth.net/
Founded in 2008 by a group of young French environmentalists, Unitearth is an international non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the involvement of youth worldwide to address urgent environmental challenges and to achieve sustainable development. Trained in marketing, outreach and education, visual communication, and ICT management, Unitearth volunteers foster sustainable development by building the capacity of youth and youth-serving organizations in the public and private sector. The Unitearth website also offers users educational resources on website and communications development for youth projects and initiatives. Unitearth will be present at this year’s United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15) where the organization will work to promote better cooperation between UNEP, young environmentalists, and civil society.

Culture of Care & Water for Life: Life-Link Friendship Schools Program
http://www.life-link.org/home.php
The Life-Link Friendship Schools program promotes sustainable development through stronger networks and cooperation among young people and their schools around the world. Life-Links has developed range of shared projects focused on the environment, human rights, conflict resolution, and constructive collaboration. Life Link's ‘Culture of Care’ and ‘Water for Life’ initiatives in particular have been used to mobilize youth between the ages of 13 and 17 at schools in 13 Arab countries and in 10 countries world-wide. Each program is designed around two-hour, once-a-week lessons integrated into the school’s curriculum. The Water for Life project has also incorporated a “Dialogue-Schools” initiative that links each participating school with two partner schools, one in a neighboring country and the other on another continent. Throughout the project, partner schools share program experiences and results.

The Sandwatch Project
http://www.sandwatch.ca/
Sandwatch is a volunteer network of schools, youth organizations, non-governmental and community-based organizations that work together to monitor and protect their coastal environments. First established in the Caribbean in 1999, Sandwatch now works worldwide to raise awareness among children, youth and adults about the importance of conserving the marine and coastal environments on which their communities depend. Sandwatch takes an educational approach, encouraging students and educators to work cooperatively to evaluate and measure changes in the environment, and to develop sustainable solutions to address these issues. Sandwatch is supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and coordinated by the non-profit organization, The Sandwatch Foundation.

Chanuka Express, Kenya
Chanuka Express, Kenya is a UNESCO-sponsored youth-to-youth advocacy program that provides practical learning and outreach services aimed at improving health and the environment. The program’s motto, “learning for sustainable living”, embodies its approach to youth and sustainable development. The project uses a monthly educational newspaper called Young African Express—an educational tool aligned to the Kenyan curriculum and filled with
illustrated articles, cartoons, facts and games focusing on essential life skills—to reach young people across Kenya. The newspaper is combined with interactive, hands-on training by the Chanuka Express team that travels the country to educate Kenyan youth on how to promote peace in their communities, improve their health, and protect the environment. The team visits selected sites two to three times a year and works with pre-selected groups of teenagers, teachers, and other members of community. Participants engage in games, demonstrations, role-play and discussions designed to identify local challenges and sustainable solutions. Youth also form Chanuka clubs in participating schools (60 out of Kenya’s 5,000 secondary schools, and 150 out of 20,000 primary schools). Between visits by the Chanuka Express teams, Chanuka Clubs stay actively engaged with issues related to health, water and sanitation, safety and peace, and the environment, and work to mobilize others in their community.

Resources for Practitioners:

“Engaging Youth in Sustainable Development: Learning and Teaching Sustainable Development in Lower Secondary Schools”

Published in 2008, “Engaging Youth in Sustainable Development” is a tool developed by the Council of Europe and the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. Aimed at students in grades 5 - 9 and between the ages of 10 - 15 years, it is designed to help students and teachers alike integrate Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into their school curriculum. Examples are drawn from school activities implemented across Europe and elsewhere. The selected case studies reveal a diverse range of ESD programming, and address ecological, cultural, economic and social aspects of sustainable development.

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 Lists.

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 listserv and Washington-based chapter. Both the listserv 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.