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 Business and Entrepreneurship Training in South Asia: At ten percent, youth unemployment in East Asia is among the lowest in the world. Youth unemployment remains a major concern, however, for many in South and Southeast Asia, where unemployment remains high in many countries. In Nepal, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, for example, youth unemployment stands at more than thirty percent. Many of these countries already suffer from social and political instability, and youth without jobs in these areas are more likely to engage in risky behaviors that can further destabilize their communities and countries. When employment opportunities are lacking, self-employment is often the best hope that youth have for a livelihood and a career. This edition of YCoP Links focuses on programs that aim to provide youth with skills in business and entrepreneurship that will provide them with the tools they need to start their own business or find jobs in small enterprises.

Announcements:

5th Annual Global YES Summit – “Rework the World”, June 2-5, Leksand, Sweden
The Rework the World summit, to be held by the Youth Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (YES) organization, will focus on the confluence of the financial, social, and ecological crises facing our world. The Rework conference will present a variety of forward-looking businesses and projects in the areas of energy, water, land, cities, and people. The overall aim of the summit is to generate investments and connections across borders that will provide two million new, constructive, sustainable, and meaningful jobs and livelihoods for today’s youth. More information on this conference, including projects to be showcased, current participants, and information on registration, are available at the link above.

Center for International Private Enterprise Youth Essay Contest 2010
The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) is sponsoring the Youth Essay Contest 2010, accepting essays from youth ages 18-30 the world over in the topical areas of “Democracy that Delivers,” “Entrepreneurship and Society,” and “Women and Participation.” In the second category, CIPE is looking for essays of two to three thousand words exploring the role that entrepreneurship can play in creating prosperous societies and addressing key developmental challenges. Additionally, youth are encouraged to ponder the role that entrepreneurs should play in society, whether they should be purely profit-seeking or have other goals, and what prevents entrepreneurs from playing more active roles in society. In each
category, first, second and third place finalists will receive a $1,000 honorarium and have their essays published by CIPE. The deadline for submissions is June 18, 2010.

**Summer Academy on Sustainable Enterprise Development with a special focus on youth entrepreneurship**

http://enterpriseacademy.itcilo.org/en/home

The International Labor Organization (ILO) will host the Summer Academy on Sustainable Enterprise Development with a special focus on youth entrepreneurship June 21 – July 2 in Turin, Italy. The ILO Summer Academy will provide participants with an overview of existing tools and information on the enterprise development field, with an emphasis on the role of the private sector in social and economic development. Four different week-long courses will be offered in the field of Youth and Women Entrepreneurship, including Youth Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Business, Social Enterprises, and Strengthening Creative Industries. More information on the Academy, program costs, and application information is available at the link above.

**Projects and Initiatives:**

**Paragon Fellowship**

http://www.paragon100.asia/

Through the Foundation for Youth Social Entrepreneurship’s annual Paragon fellowship program, 100 young entrepreneurs and social change makers will be selected for a one-year fellowship that will allow them to spread their ideas and make connections through speaking engagements, interviews, and online profiles. Fellows will also receive mentors who will support them in their development as entrepreneurs and will take part in capacity and leadership building activities and workshops. The workshops, activities, and mentorship allow each fellow to develop their own skills and vision, while the outreach activities allow the fellows to spread their knowledge and inspire other young aspiring entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs in the fields of business or social change from the Asia Pacific region under the age of 30 are eligible to apply. More information on the fellowship program, including specific selection criteria is available at the website listed above.

**Youth Business Sri Lanka (YBSL)**

http://www.ybsl.lk/about_ybsl.php

Modeled after Youth Business International based in the UK, YBSL seeks to address the socio-economic exclusion of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds by providing marginalized youth with the support they need to turn their ideas for a business into their own enterprise. YBSL provides youth with funding, mentorship, and connections through existing institutional frameworks and business mentors, giving them the resources they need to make their idea a reality. YBSL also recently began its District Credit program, through which it made one-year loans of less than $500 each to selected youth in four districts to start their own businesses. YBSL programs that encourage opportunities for youth employment are especially important in a post-conflict environment such as Sri Lanka, where unemployed youth are more prone to recruitment into violent organizations.

**Shell Tameer – Building on Young Business Ideas, Pakistan**


The Shell Tameer program encourages young people ages 18-32 to see starting a business as a desirable and viable career path by providing information, training, mentoring and other support to youth. Part of the broader LiveWIRE initiative, Tameer Pakistan gathers youth participants from a wide variety of backgrounds to participate in events such as the “Bright
Ideas” workshop, where youth learn to become successful owners or managers of a business. The Tameer website offers online tools such as downloadable lessons for youth to help them generate business ideas, write their first business plan, and market their service or product. The website also includes success stories from youth who have started their own businesses with assistance from Tameer in Pakistan.

Youth Education Project, Thailand Securities Institute
http://www.tsi-thailand.org/EN/Youth/Youth_index.html

The Youth Education Project, managed by the Thailand Securities Institute and the Thai Ministry of Education, promotes financial management skills among Thai youth, ranging from elementary to university students. The Project educates young people in economics and management principles to increase their abilities to plan for a successful career and a better life. The Project includes several different programs. In the Middle School program, students spend one day each on the topics of Personal Economics, Business Matters, and the International Marketplace, building on knowledge as each day proceeds. Higher level programs for high school and university students include Fundamentals of Market Economics, as well as Management, Business, and Stock simulations. The Youth Education Project also runs an annual Youth Camp where youth are taught financial, savings and investment principles in a fun and interactive setting.

CARE International’s Small Economic Activity Development (SEAD) Programs
http://www.care.org/careswork/whatwedo/sead/

Of the world’s 500 million micro and small enterprise owners, less than two percent have access to financial resources and business training. CARE’s Small Economic Activity Development (SEAD) programs, active in nine Asian countries and many more across the globe, are working to remedy these problems by providing program participants, many of whom are young women, with access to financial and business services, training tools, and resources that will help their businesses thrive. Specifically, services provided include access to bank accounts and credit, and training in marketing and accounting. SEAD services like these are used to help young dairy farmers in Bangladesh integrate themselves into value chains that make their business more lucrative and to give victims of the 2006 Tsunami access to microcredit in India.

Bangladesh Youth Employment Pilot (BYEP)
http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=677

Since October 2008, the Bangladesh Youth Employment Pilot (BYEP) program, and EQUIP3 Associate Award, has been working to recruit and train out-of-school youth to be placed into jobs or self-employment in the prawn farming industry. Participating youth learn how the prawn industry operates, and are given training in work readiness, technical, and entrepreneurship skills. Connections are made with employers during training to ensure that the skills taught in training sessions are most relevant for the needs of the local job market. BYEP recruits local experts to serve as trainers in the program, providing the trainers with any additional skills they need to develop and sustain the training activities. To-date, BYEP has trained 420 youth.

Resources for Practitioners:

Incubating young entrepreneurs – opportunity or challenge
http://www.idisc.net/en/Article.38975.html
The World Bank estimates that by 2015, three billion people will be under the age of 25. With the growth of the youth population outpacing the emergence of new opportunities for youth employment, InfoDev, a global development financing program run by the World Bank, began an “incubator” initiative that includes a working group on Youth and Business Education. The Outcomes of the working group revealed many insights about youth business education. Based on those insights, the working group recommends that youth entrepreneurship can best be fostered by providing youth with social capital in the form of connections and market access, facilitating collaboration with universities and vocational schools, improving access to finance, building up youth capacities, and helping youth to discover their life objectives. The full report of the working group is available at the link above.

**Foundation for Youth Social Entrepreneurship Blog**
http://www.fyse.org/blog/

This blog, maintained by the Foundation for Youth Social Entrepreneurship (FYSE), discusses topics related to entrepreneurship in the Asia Pacific region with an emphasis on youth and social entrepreneurship. Blog post topics range from participatory development initiatives in Pakistan to success stories from Singapore’s young social entrepreneurs.

**Facts on Youth Unemployment**

Published after the Fourteenth Asian Regional Meeting of the International Labor Organization, this two-page brief contains useful facts and figures regarding Youth Employment in Asia.

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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.