



“Youth for Change” Program Phase III – Inspiring, Informing and Involving Arab Youth as Agents of Change

In December 2010, TakingITGlobal in partnership with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and with the cooperation of other local organizations in the MENA region will be launching phase III of the “Youth for Change” program –**Dialogue and Mutual Understanding-Take Action**. This phase aims to encourage cross-cultural dialogue and support youth-led development projects in all Arab countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE and Yemen.

The launching of the third phase comes to coincide with the International Year of Youth and following the implementation of phases I and II from 2008 till 2010. The two previous phases of “Youth for Change” laid the groundwork for greater engagement among Arab youth, and made it possible for over 800 youth to participate in the programs’ knowledge sharing events and open forums and for over 400 to participate in the online live chats and activities. The program also provided mini-grants and online training to support 40 projects in the targeted countries as well as scholarships to attend the Fourth and Fifth Arab Youth Forums in Alexandria in 2009 and 2010. Selected winners were also offered scholarships to attend the World Youth Congress in Quebec 2008 and in Istanbul 2010!

The success of phases I and II demonstrated that much more can be done to support Arab youth to be Agents of Change in their communities, as well as empowering them to bring their voices to a global audience; hence the need for this third phase which includes the following components:

- Facilitating ongoing cross-cultural dialogue through the use of online community tools and spaces provided by [TakingITGlobal](#) and [InfoMall](#)
- Organizing four online live chats to encourage discussion among the program participants
- Conducting a Panorama and Global Gallery contest where participants from the Arab World and other regions can express their ideas
- Supporting youth-led action projects through providing Mini-Grant Awards and a project management e-course in Arabic
- Organizing knowledge-sharing events to showcase the mini-grants winners’ local projects in cooperation with host organizations in their countries
- Offering the potential mini-grant winners scholarships to attend the 6th Arab Youth Forum in Alexandria, Egypt to present their projects ideas and share experiences
- Offering selected award winners scholarships to attend an International Youth Conference in order to receive additional support, training and access to international networks focused on supporting youth-led development
- Producing a publication to showcase the initiatives of the Youth for Change mini-grant winners and the impact they reached in their communities

TakingITGlobal (TIGweb.org) envisions youth everywhere actively engaged and connected in shaping a more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable world. Headquartered in Toronto, Canada, this international charitable organization enables a collaborative learning community which provides youth with access to global opportunities, educational programs, cross-cultural connections and meaningful participation in decision-making by:

- Harnessing internet technologies to cultivate youth leadership and engagement in social issues.
- Bridging the continuity gap that causes fragmentation between and within generations of youth movements.
- Championing the role of young people as key stakeholders in all aspects of society.

Bibliotheca Alexandrina (www.bibalex.org) The Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) is an Egyptian institution of international character, devoted to the promotion of enlightened values, good governance, and sustainable development in Egypt and the Arab world, as well as elsewhere in the world. It is governed by an international Board of Trustees. Amongst its numerous initiatives, the BA gives special attention to Youth activities and programs in the belief that they are the future and the leaders of tomorrow.

The BA, the New Library of Alexandria, is dedicated to recapture the spirit of the ancient Library of Alexandria. It aspires to be:

- The World's window on Egypt;
- Egypt's window on the world,
- A leading institution of the digital age; and, above all;
- A center for learning, tolerance, dialogue and understanding.

For more information about the "Youth for Change" Program please contact:

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