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Subject: Make a Connection Monthly Update (April 2007)
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Make a Connection Monthly Update April 2007

In this month's issue:

- [Make a Connection Learning and Evaluation Plan Challenge Grants](#)
- [NEW IYF Boilerplate \(IMPORTANT!\)](#)
- [Make a Connection Annual Meeting](#)
- [Make a Connection Program Fact Sheets](#)
- [Call for YouthActionNet™ Fellow Nominations](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [US\\$1 Million Alcan Prize for Sustainability 2007](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Staffing Transitions](#)
- [Partner Profile: The Education Volunteers Foundation of Turkey \(TEGV\)](#)

Make a Connection Learning and Evaluation Plan Challenge Grants

This is a reminder that limited Learning and Evaluation Plan Challenge Grants are now available through IYF. Partners who have an interest in conducting more in-depth studies and/or utilizing more innovative, rigorous measurement techniques that their program budget would otherwise not allow (i.e. utilizing mastery skill testing, control groups, comparison groups, etc.) are encouraged to apply for these supplemental funds. More information on the grants can be found on the Extranet at (<http://www.makeaconnectionextranet.org/ProgDocsMonitoring.htm>). If you have any questions please email Susan Pezzullo (spezzullo@iyfnet.org) or Michelle Szechenyi (mszechenyi@iyfnet.org) and copy your regional manager.

NEW IYF Boilerplate (IMPORTANT!)

IYF has updated its boilerplate language. From now on, please use the following text in press releases and other publications when referring to IYF.

The International Youth Foundation is a global non-profit organization uniquely dedicated to preparing young people to be healthy, productive, and engaged citizens. Founded in 1990, IYF's worldwide network of partner organizations has grown to 70 countries, helping young people to shape their futures through proven programs that tie education to work, improve employability, and enable and inspire them to play a positive role in their communities. IYF collaborates with businesses, governments and civil society organizations to build effective, sustainable, and scalable programs that positively impact the lives of young people worldwide. To learn more about IYF, please visit: www.iyfnet.org.

If you have any questions on when to use this boilerplate, please consult the Branding and Communications guidelines which can be found through the Make a Connection Extranet at: http://www.makeaconnectionextranet.org/documents/CommsandBrandingGuidelinesMay2006_000.doc

Make a Connection Annual Meeting

A number of partners have inquired about the Make a Connection Annual Meeting for 2007. For planning purposes, please be informed that we will not be holding a global meeting this year. We'll make a decision for 2008 plans late this year.

Make a Connection Program Fact Sheets

Individual country program fact sheets are now available through the Extranet at (<http://www.makeaconnectionextranet.org/Contacts.html>).

Call for YouthActionNet™ Fellow Nominations

You will soon be receiving an email from IYF requesting your assistance in nominating outstanding young leaders for the 2007 YouthActionNet™ Fellowship Program. Recipients of this fellowship will receive a grant for their project and will be invited to spend a week together in Washington, D.C. – learning from one another and participating in training workshops customized to meet their learning needs. Due to the nature of your programs, we would encourage each of you to nominate at least one extraordinary individual for this fellowship. The deadline for application is April 20th, 2007. For more information please consult the YouthActionNet™ Website (www.youthactionnet.org) or email Ashok Regmi at ashok@iyfnet.org.

Upcoming Events

The New Perspectives Foundation (NPF) is co-hosting the 2nd International Festival of Volunteers in the Tver region of Russia from 17-20 May 2007 **and you are invited to attend**. The festival is an opportunity to showcase youth-led initiatives and celebrate volunteerism. More details about the event are included in this formal invite <http://www.makeaconnectionextranet.org/NetworkMessages.html>. Contact Victoria Davrukova with questions at V_Davrukova@npf.ru.

US\$1 Million Alcan Prize for Sustainability 2007

The US\$1 million Alcan Prize for Sustainability 2007 is now open for entries. In addition to the annual Prize, the nine short-listed organizations will be awarded a US\$15,000 Alcan Grant to invest in capacity building training for the organization.

The Alcan Prize, in partnership with IBLF, is awarded to any not-for-profit, civil society or non-governmental organization based anywhere in the world that is demonstrating a comprehensive approach to addressing, achieving and further advancing economic, environmental and/or social sustainability.

For more information, to enter or to nominate another organization, consult the website at www.alcanprizeforsustainability.com. The closing date for entries is 12th April 2007 midnight GMT.

Resources

From Assets to Agents of Social Change: Social Justice, Organizing, and Youth Development: Young people are joining together to demand a voice in the decisions that affect their lives. In the process, they are transforming policies and making institutions more accountable. Read the article at <http://www.makeaconnectionextranet.org/NetworkMessages.html>.

National Youth Development Information Center: The National Youth Development Information Center is a great resource for youth workers with interest in any and all of the following areas: funding, programming, research, policy, job and training opportunities. In addition, check out the online library for the latest news in the youth development field at www.nydic.org.

Staffing Transitions

Zugey Crespo, Program Manager for Conectate Venezuela, has left Oportunitas to pursue other professional opportunities. Ana Vila Brito, who already works for Oportunitas, will assume the Program Manager position. Welcome Ana and good luck to Zugey!

Monica Hernandez has left Fundación Rostros y Voces and has accepted a job with the Ministry of Education in Mexico. Luz Elena Aranda (who has worked on the program for the past year) will assume responsibility for the Education area of the organization. Good luck to Monica and we look forward to continuing our work with Luz!

Partner Profile: The Education Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV)

Please read the attached profile of Mehmet Sirin Erbul a participant in the Dreams Workshop program implemented by the Education Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV). This story was written from a youth profile that TEGV submitted to IYF.

