

Karin Akins

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Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2005 4:23 PM
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Subject: Monthly Check-In (#2, June 2005)

Dear Partners,

It's hard to believe we are mid-way through the year! Here in Baltimore, we are finally seeing some sunshine and chances are it will be a hot and humid summer for us. Below you will find a few updates from the Make a Connection team at IYF and from some of our Make a Connection partners around the world. As always, if we can provide any further information or clarification on the items below, please don't hesitate to contact your Regional Manager.

On-line Reporting:

We are making some changes to the on-line report format and questions for the January-June reporting period. The updated report will be forwarded to you in mid-June, so that you have sufficient lead time to complete by the **August 1** deadline.

4-Way Collaboration:

We wanted to share with you a tool we developed to more effectively communicate the collaboration between all parties involved in the Make a Connection program – IYF, Partner Organization, Nokia's Global Community Involvement Team and Nokia Local. The attached chart describes in general terms our various roles and responsibilities and will be primarily used in establishing the 4-way relationship for new projects. The specific nature of the collaboration will differ from country to country but we hope this serves as a useful resource in articulating the “basics” of how we work together (attachment).

Outcomes Measurement Project:

Eight projects are in the process of collecting baseline through web-based and conventional (paper) questionnaires in Spanish, Turkish, Polish, Hungarian and Portuguese. Planning for the two in-depth studies in Mexico and the Czech Republic is underway. The Consuelo Foundation of the Philippines is in the process of editing the final report of their retrospective study for local dissemination. Copies of the draft report from Brandeis on the Philippines program is available for download on the Resource Center of the Make a Connection Extranet. The second retrospective study will focus on South Africa and will yield a publication similar to the Filipino report in late 2005.

Opportunities for Program Exchanges:

We have revised the guidelines for the Make a Connection Exchange Program, which are attached here for your reference. As a reminder, this program is available to all Make a Connection partners. Applications for the remainder of 2005 are due by **August 31**. For exchanges in 2006, we will accept applications during the months of December 2005 and again in June 2006. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please speak with your Regional Manager. (attachment).

The Netherlands Joins Make a Connection:

The Make a Connection family continues to grow. With its official launch in April, the Netherlands became the 20th country to join the Program. The project, implemented by IYF partner Jantje Beton, will establish “Youth Press Agencies” around the country to train disadvantaged young people as “journalists” and in the process equips them with key life skills, such as teamwork, communications and critical thinking while at the same time promoting their active engagement in the community. The project was piloted in Amsterdam and Emmeloord, with great success. Over the next few years, activities will expand to additional communities throughout the country

Life Skills Essay Contest:

Building on the momentum created by last year's “Moments That Matter” Photo Contest, on June 10 the Make a Connection website will launch a "Skills for Life" Essay Contest. Individuals, ages 16 and up, are invited to submit essays of no more than 500 words that explore the importance of life skills in today's rapidly changing world. The Contest ends on **September 9**, with winners announced on September 27. First prize will be a Nokia 6101 phone, with 2nd and 3rd prizes consisting of \$200 and \$100 gift certificates to Amazon.com. Winning essays will be published on the site. Please help us spread the word!

Other Updates:

Fundación Vamos in **Mexico** has officially changed its name to *Fundación Rostros y Voces*. There have also been some staff transitions within several of our Make a Connection partners and we'd like to take this opportunity to bid fond farewell to Fely Rixhon, executive director of the Consuelo Foundation in the **Philippines**, Ely Harasawa, executive director of Abrinq in **Brazil**, Pieta Hytti, managing director of FCYF in **Finland**, Feza Sengel, Education Department Manager at TEGV in **Turkey**, Tere Lanzagorta, program director at Fundación Rostros y Voces in **Mexico**, and Zsolt Pethe, program director at DIA in **Hungary**. We are grateful for their meaningful contribution to the program and for their outstanding commitment to youth issues. At the same time, we'd also like to welcome, Attila Kaszas, the new executive director of DIA in **Hungary** and Ira Carpelan, the new managing director of FCYF in **Finland** to the Make a Connection family.

Reminder:

You should have received the draft agenda for the *October Annual Meeting*. We want to make this meeting truly of benefit to our partners, so your input in developing the agenda is very much valued. Please remember to send any feedback you have to Susan and Kim by **June 17**.

Best wishes,
IYF Make a Connection Team