



The Middle East Partnership Initiative *Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders*

"It will be the young people brimming with talent and energy and hope who can claim the future that so many in previous generations never realized."

U.S. President Barack Obama - July 11, 2009

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) works to inspire youth to become actively engaged citizens, community leaders, and entrepreneurs.



EDUCATING ACTIVE CITIZENS

Leadership trainings and civic education provide youth the skills and knowledge needed to foster change in their communities. MEPI projects encourage young people to be stakeholders in their own society, to support civic culture, to tolerate different views, to respect democratic institutions, and to protect ethnic and religious diversity.

Student Councils Project - Implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), the MEPI Student Councils project established student (and parent) councils in 410 schools in 7 governorates in Yemen. By the end of 2010, 150 additional schools in 3 governorates will establish councils. The project promotes youth leadership and community participation, while exposing young people to the fundamentals of democracy. As a result of the project's success, the Yemeni Ministry of Education has revised its bylaws to require student councils in every high school.



MEPI Student Leaders -

This intensive leadership training program brings university students from all over the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to the United States. Students expand their understanding

of civil society and democratic processes through specialized classroom training at U.S. universities, community service activities, and exposure to American government at the local, state, and federal levels. Upon completion of their U.S.-based activities, participants join the MEPI Alumni Network and create and carry out civic engagement programs in their home communities.

Empowering Moderate GCC Youth Leaders -

Throughout the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, there is a cohort of politically moderate youth leaders whose voices and current activities provide an alternative to extremist factions contending for power and influence in the region. Jusoor Arabiya, a Kuwait City-based leadership consultancy, and the International Youth Foundation (IYF), an international not-for-profit organization, implemented a MEPI local grant project focused on training and supporting the voices and actions of moderate youth leaders in the GCC region and increasing their engagement in civil society. The project develops the leadership skills of regional youth to help them participate in community life, business, and government. These young leaders learn how to develop their entrepreneurial vision, strengthen their technical leadership skills, and increase their personal efficacy.





INCREASING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

When young people receive a quality education, they have a strong foundation on which to become active and engaged participants in social, political, and economic life. MEPI scholarship opportunities, career development initiatives, and education-for-employment projects empower young people to become constructive contributors to their communities.

Education Opportunities for Palestinian Youth - The American-Palestinian Local University Scholarship (A-PLUS) project, implemented by the America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST) and launched February 2010, provides promising, but disadvantaged, students scholarships to attend universities in the West Bank and Gaza. Each scholarship averages approximately \$15,000. This grant program will provide at least 50 academically qualified, socio-economically disadvantaged Palestinian students with scholarships that cover local tuition and fees, books, and transportation costs for the full length of a 4-year undergraduate program at an eligible college or university in the West Bank or Gaza. In addition to this, a second, corollary objective enhances the employability of A-PLUS scholars by providing each of them with career counseling, basic professional skills training, and internships at local firms, organizations, or institutions.



Tomorrow's Leaders - The Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program provides more than 50 scholarships to high school students in the Middle East and North Africa who are economically disadvantaged, but who have the drive and energy to be leaders in their communities. Selected participants attend one of three U.S.-accredited universities in the region. Scholarship recipients receive specialized civic education to include a semester abroad in the U.S., and perform community service through internships with local public, civil society, or private sector organizations.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUTH

MEPI's professional development projects for youth focus on promoting skills that lead to jobs and opportunity. Through MEPI-funded teacher training, curriculum improvements, and technology skills development, youth acquire the expertise they need to compete in today's changing environment.

Supporting Civic Responsibility and Private Sector Job Creation - Implemented by the Education for Employment Foundation (EFE), this highly scalable and replicable model for employer-driven education links training directly to jobs. The project creates partnership foundations led by education, business, and civil society leaders that are dedicated to youth education and employment. For example, in Yemen, the WorkPlace Success training and program activities are creating skilled and confident young leaders capable of effectively participating in their communities and strengthening Yemen's economic infrastructure.

