UNESCO Youth Peace Ambassador Training Workshops

Darryl Macer, Ph.D.
Regional Advisor on Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific,
Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific (RUSHSAP),
UNESCO Bangkok
920 Sukhumwit Road
Prakanong, Bangkok Thailand 10110
Email: d.macer@unesco.org
Website: http://www.unescobkk.org/en/rushsap/youth/youth-peace-ambassadors/

UNESCO is building peace in the world through empowering youth from different countries across Asia and the Pacific, and across the world, to share experiences of working to promote the culture of peace and to develop practical action plans with the inspiration of the young people. Since 2010, UNESCO, in cooperation with partner institutions has organized five Youth Peace Ambassador Training Workshops across the Asia-Pacific with 420 youth from many countries and circumstances. Together, the youth have worked to identify issues that can promote a culture of peace, and developed 160 action projects promoted at making a difference in their communities.

Through the Youth Peace Ambassador Programme, UNESCO is harnessing the power, optimism and influence of young people to promote action and change for Peace. The outcomes include:

- Strengthening the youth peace ambassador network of young people as a forum for the exchange of ideas and good practices for effecting social change for peace;
- Reducing the suffering from conflicts and violence;
- Broadening aspects of participant life plans from a multicultural perspective;
- Support for specific youth-led projects to be implemented in different countries;
- Expand the integration of security and peace activities into policy making, with special relevance to young persons;
- Developing non-formal peace education programmes.

The programme is especially for youth who have already started to make a difference in their community to overcoming the challenges for their communities, and persons who are actually doing things to rebuild communities. The action plans include themes Environment, Animal Protection, Events, Concerts, Peace Education, Sports, Inspirational/ Motivational, Student Peace Clubs, International exchange of ideas, Film, Radio, Poetry/ Art, Social Problems, Women’s Rights/ Gender, Poverty eradication, Human rights and refugees, Help with challenged communities, HIV, Nuclear weapons/ issues. There are also 6 national Groups of YPAs established, and many other events under the programme.