



SHAREK Newsletter

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Sharek Overview

Sharek Youth Forum, a leading Palestinian organization run by youth and for youth, works to enhance Palestinian society through youth empowerment.

There are three core programs that Sharek implements in the field. The first one, "Bridges", focuses on establishing services in remote areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip for child development. "Partners" is our second program which is devoted to the capacity building of youth organizations and to the support of youth initiatives. Lastly there is the "A Step Forward" program, which aims to empower youth through facilitating their entry into the labour market. In addition, the "Youth Business Support Unit" [YBSU], has been launched under the "A Step Forward" program to foster entrepreneurship and business incubation. Lastly, Sharek Youth Forum has also launched an "Advocacy Unit" to campaign, both locally and internationally, for better youth rights in Palestine.

Sharek's Latest News

YouthTalk coming soon...

Keeping up with new, interesting, and relevant topics is what the **youthtalk** is all about. This periodical publication at Sharek Youth Forum provides an opportunity for young practitioners to bring to the table development issues faced by Palestinian youth. Do take the time to read it, and do not hesitate to explore the issues further. It won't take much of your time; we try to keep it short and sweet.



Palestinian Youth delegation meets with former US president Jimmy Carter

A Palestinian youth delegation met with former US President Jimmy Carter in Ramallah during his recent visit to the region. As part of the meeting the delegation highlighted the economic, political and social issues faced by Palestinian youth in the context of the ongoing occupation. The delegation also highlighted the geographical and political division of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Mr. Carter and how it continues to affect the socio-economic development of all Palestinians. It proved to be a very enlightening exercise for all the participants and Mr. Carter expressed his admiration for the complete honesty of the Palestinian youth delegation in presenting their cases, concerns, struggles and future aspirations.



Bridges Program

Halhoul Municipality, Sharek Youth Forum and the UNDP celebrate the opening of the municipality of Halhoul "Sharek" Youth Centre

The municipality of Halhoul, Sharek Youth Forum and the United Nations Development Program celebrated the opening of the new "Sharek" youth center in the municipality of Halhoul in Hebron, which was mainly financed by the UNDP. The signing of a partnership agreement between the municipality of Halhoul and Sharek Youth Forum for the operation of this centre will ensure that a high level of social, educational and cultural activities will be available for the benefit of local youth and children. To begin with, an "enrichment and recreation" *Homework Center* has been established to provide a range of educational and social activities for youth and children. The Mayor of Halhoul, Dr. Ziad Abu Yousef, attended the ceremony as well as the general director of the Local Government, Omar Al-Umleh, with Chikako Kodama, Program analyst at the UNDP/Program of Assistance to the Palestinian People, the Executive Director of Sharek Youth Forum, Bader Zamareh, a delegation from the Belgian



State and a number of private organizations and non-governmental institutions.

Sharek celebrates Palestinian Child Day

On the occasion of Palestinian Child Day a number of events and festivals were organized by Sharek for children in participation with a number of institutions in different areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Furthermore a conference was organized in partnership with the Al-Dameer Foundation for Human Rights, Sharek Youth Forum, Cubs Magazine, and The Flowers. During the conference twelve working proposals dealing with various areas of child development were discussed and debated by the participants. The conference was attended by 120 people including academics, professionals and child workers. A number of academics who participated in the conference urged both Palestinian civil society organizations and other local, regional and international organizations to make concerted efforts to highlight the suffering faced by all those in the Gaza Strip and to bring pressure to bear on the Israeli Government to lift the unjust blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Gaza Sea Camps

In the framework of the implementation of the "Sea Camps" project Sharek Youth Forum in



partnership with the international relief agency "UNRWA" has announced that the project will provide 600

opportunities for young graduates to be involved in the organization, supervision and implementation of water sports activities, training and education. The "Sea Camps" project will see Sharek, in partnership with UNRWA, create 15 beach activities centres in the Gaza Strip providing safe and enjoyable beach recreation for nearly 24,000 youth and children as part of the UNRWA *Summer Games 2008* project which will take place during the forthcoming summer holidays.



A Step Forward Program

First Career Day in Salfit

In the presence of 280 beneficiaries and in collaboration with 15 companies, foundations,

and Banks, Sharek Youth Forum and the International Relief in partnership with Al-Quds Open University recently organized the first "Career day" in the province of Salfit. This took place at the headquarters of Al-Quds Open University where students had the opportunity to meet with representatives from various local organizations and companies and to partake in mock interviews and training workshops.

Launch of the first Palestinian Heritage Exhibition in the city of Jenin

Sharek Youth Forum and the Relief Foundation in cooperation with the Museum of Bissan, recently launched the first Palestinian heritage exhibition in the town of Jenin. The idea for the exhibition came from the need to protect Palestinian heritage and memory from various external



cultural influences and to emphasize the importance of Palestinian culture, roots and history in the formation of Palestinian identity. As this heritage is in danger of disappearing due to the current circumstances imposed upon the Palestinian people, the exhibition was launched with the aim of heightening the awareness and education of Palestinian history and heritage which is of great importance in the unity of Palestinian people against the continuing occupation of their land.

Sharek Youth Forum launch the project "Media Youth for Human Rights"

Sharek Youth Forum launched the project "Media Youth for Human Rights" in cooperation with Al-Quds University in Abu Dis and with the participation of students from Al-Asriyeh college in Ramallah. The project includes a training program (theoretical and practical) to train media students in Palestinian universities as well as new graduates allowing them to acquire journalistic skills needed for research in human rights issues and to become active participants in the promotion, enhancement and monitoring of human rights in the oPt, thus increasing the awareness of Palestinians at large of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.