



UNESCO Regional Bureau  
for Education in the Arab States - Beirut

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization



## UNESCO Beirut Newsletter - Issue N° 6

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# Foreword

### UNESCO's Vision to Develop Education in the Arab States

Embarking upon a new biennium and moving closer to 2015, it is noticeable that States in the Arab Region have made considerable efforts in expanding access to education in the recent years. Enrolment and participation in primary and secondary education has increased considerably. However, wide regional variations remain despite progress, and as we get closer to the 2015 Education for All (EFA) target, the region continues to face considerable challenges that need to be addressed.

The regional pre-school gross enrolment rate stands at approximately 18%, making it one of the lowest in the world. The majority of early childhood care and education (ECCE) provision is private and little public sector services are available. Still some 6 million children of primary school age, 61% of whom are girls, are deprived of education. The region is also marked by demographic pressures, particularly the high percentage of youth within the overall population, high youth unemployment, violent conflicts, and political instability – all of which weigh heavily on the education development efforts of several Arab countries.

It is within this context that the Medium-term Regional Strategic Framework (RSF) for Education in the Arab States was conceived by UNESCO Beirut Office in close consultation with the other Field Offices in the region. The Regional Bureau and the Cluster and National Offices in the region are committed to ensuring the sustainability of the region by assisting Arab Member States in achieving UNESCO's global vision in education. By providing EFA and lifelong learning programmes, this vision aspires to construct a sustainable world with just societies that value knowledge, promote a culture of peace, celebrate diversity, and defend human rights.

Thus, UNESCO's role is to support Arab States in strengthening capacities in educational policy, planning, and management in order to introduce and manage appropriate reforms tackling some of the most pressing aforementioned challenges. This is what defines our mission; to strengthen the capacities of the Arab States in delivering quality and relevant EFA at the national level; and to provide expertise and technical support, foster partnerships and set standards in order to assist Arab States in building learning societies by creating educational opportunities for all communities, with a special focus on vulnerable and excluded groups.

**Abdel Moneim Osman**  
Director - UNESCO Beirut Office

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Recently Published

## **Gender Experts Workshop**

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States-Beirut organized an "Experts Workshop on Gender Issues in Education in the Arab Region" on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979) (Beirut, 5- 6 November 2009).

The Arab Region, as many other parts of the world, missed the gender parity target for 2005 as the goal of eliminating gender disparities by 2005 in primary and secondary education was not achieved in most countries. This workshop brought together Arab experts on the right to education and gender equality - lawyers and education experts, UN agencies and Regional Human Rights organizations- who discussed issues relating to gender and the right to education, gender-based discrimination in education and equality of educational opportunities in the Arab States.

They suggested concrete recommendations for Member States for legal and policy change in order to promote girls' education as a fundamental human right. The Experts workshop was organized in close collaboration with UNESCO Headquarters, Section for the Promotion of Rights and Values in Education and with the kind support of UN-OHCHR and ESCWA.

**Contact: Theophania Chavatzia**



## **Arab States Regional ED Staff Seminar**

**Zahlé, Lebanon, 10 -13 Dec 2009**

On 10 December 2009, some 30 UNESCO staff ranging from Directors and Heads of Field Offices, HQ Division and Institutes as well as ED programme specialists from Africa, Arab States and Asia-Pacific converged at the Grand Kadri Hotel in Zahlé, Lebanon, for a two and a half day ED Staff Seminar organized by UNESCO Regional Office for Education - Beirut.

It was part of a series of regional seminars to replace the global ED Staff Seminar which had been cancelled. The main objective was to discuss the collaborative modalities and common approaches for the implementation of the 2010 - 2011 workplans in the Arab States region, particularly in the 4 priority programme areas established for the 35 C/5 – literacy, teacher education, TVET and educational policy, planning and management.

The discussions on workplans were enriched by the participation of key representatives from the UNESCO Institutes (IIEP, UIL and UIS) and HQ units (Division of Education Strategies and Capacity-Building and the Executive Office).

ED programme specialists in the region were updated on the initiatives currently being undertaken as well as activities planned for the new biennium by the various UNESCO entities while participants from outside the Arab States region learned more about the achievements and activities of the Field Offices and the Regional Bureau. Other regional participation, namely representatives from UNESCO Bangkok and UNESCO Dakar, enhanced inter-regional collaboration within the context of South-South Cooperation.

**Contact: Min Jeong Kim**

## **Joint UNESCO-ISESCO Sub-regional Training Workshop for Teacher Trainers on HIV and AIDS Education**

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States-Beirut and ISESCO organized a joint training workshop on the integration of HIV and AIDS into teacher training, in collaboration with the UNESCO International Bureau of Education. The four-day workshop (26 - 29 October 2009), hosted selected Arab and African countries with demonstrated interest and intent to integrate HIV and AIDS into teacher training programmes and curricula. This joint activity promoted North-South and South-South Cooperation, enabling partners from Institutions and stakeholders in Europe, the Arab and African Region respectively to meet, discuss and learn from each other about the issue of HIV prevention through teacher training. This training workshop was organized as a follow-up to the Regional Meeting on 'Integrating a comprehensive HIV and AIDS education into teacher training curricula for the Arab Region' that took place on 29 - 30 July 2009, organized by UNESCO Beirut, in collaboration with IBE. The theme of the training was selected based on the recommendations and priorities participants had identified in relation to HIV and AIDS and teacher training.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- build/enhance the capacity of country representatives (teacher trainers) on HIV and AIDS education based on interactive teaching and learning approaches and practices;
- foster South-South cooperation and share good practices among participating countries with relation to teacher training on HIV and AIDS education.

The activities aimed at supporting and strengthening country responses towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 6 "Combat HIV and AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases" and contribute to the attainment of the EFA Goals promoting good quality education for all learners.

The training workshop enhanced national capacities to provide HIV and AIDS education of good quality through the training of teacher trainers which will ultimately improve the HIV and AIDS education provided at the classroom level.

**Contact: Theophania Chavatzia**  
**Link: HIV & AIDS Education**

## **UNESCO and Children in Lebanon Celebrate the end of a Dialogue Project**

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States-Beirut organized a "Festival Day – Closing Ceremony for Phase 1 Activities of Building Dialogue and Communication Skills Project" (Beirut, 6 November 2009) in collaboration with the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) under the patronage of the Minister of Education, H.E. Bahia El Hariri and the Ambassador of LPDC Mr. Khalil Mikawi. The festival was held in UNESCO Beirut Office marking the end of Phase I activities of the UNESCO & LPDC "Building Dialogue and Communication Skills" project which is being implemented in various areas in Lebanon. The main objective of this ceremony was to highlight the inter- and intra-community dialogue skills that the children and youth acquired during their summer training in an interactive mode of performance through choir, folk dance and art exhibitions. Around 80 children participated in a choral performance with the Maestro of Al Fayha Choir followed by fascinating folk dance performances by both Lebanese and Palestinian children and youth from different regions in Lebanon. At the end of the ceremony, there was an art exhibition for a selection of handcrafts, which were done by the children during the summer vacation. This ceremony was attended by local implementing partners and NGOs, stakeholders within the communities and trainers.

**Contact: Hegazi Idris**

## Joint ISESCO - UNESCO Experts Meeting on Literacy and NFE Strategies and Policy Options

*Damascus, Syria, 16- 18 November 2009*

This joint experts meeting was organized within the framework of the CapEFA regional support programme and the ISESCO-UNESCO cooperation agreement. Some 35 participants from Egypt, Iraq (Baghdad and Erbil), Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sudan and Tunisia participated and exchanged experiences in national literacy policies, planning and implementation in the context of EFA.

Among the thematic areas discussed by the heads and staff of literacy departments participating in the meeting were as follows: integration of formal and non-formal education; literacy assessment through standard setting and improved data collection and analysis, monitoring and evaluation; partnership and community mobilization for literacy and non-formal education; and capacity development needs in planning and implementing literacy and non-formal education programmes.

A number of sessions on specific thematic areas were led by experts from Egypt and Morocco who were involved in the CapEFA LIFE projects in these two countries. The aim was to allow other countries in the region to capitalize on the experiences and outcomes of these national projects. Follow-up to the meeting in Damascus is foreseen within the CapEFA regional support and South-South Cooperation Programme/Fund in the following areas: development of regional guiding principles for monitoring and evaluation for literacy and FE; workshop for practitioners in community mobilization and partnership; and development of a regional curriculum framework for literacy.

UNESCO Rabat Office provided technical expertise and support for the preparation and facilitation of the meeting in close cooperation with UNESCO Beirut Office. The Syrian National Commission and the Syrian Ministry of Culture provided logistical support for the meeting.

**Contact: Min Jeong Kim**



## National Seminar on Promotion of Entrepreneurship Education in Lebanon

Beirut, 26 November 2009

UNESCO has implemented a regional project to support the initiative and leadership in education and training programs (formal and non-formal); the First Phase of the project included four Arab countries: Jordan, Tunisia, Oman, and Egypt. It is expected that subsequent phases, will include all Arab countries. The International Labor Organization is implementing a programme: Know About Business (KAB) in a number of Arab countries including Lebanon. UNESCO's strategy and focus of the new education and technical and vocational training on the importance of the interrelationships between the education and training institutions and sectors of work and production in the development of learning skills and education related to the world of work, and introducing it in the concept of lifelong learning. UNESCO Regional Bureau-Beirut and ILO Regional Office-Beirut joined efforts during the technical preparations for the National Seminar. The seminar focused on a number of initiatives and projects that are implemented on the international, regional, and national levels in the area of entrepreneurship and leadership, which include:

- UNESCO Regional Project for EPE: How to Start my Own Small Business;
- ILO programme: Know About Business (KAB);
- A range of initiatives in the area of job skills and employment (National, Regional).

The objectives of the Seminar were to:

1. Share experiences and information on a number of initiatives and projects related to Entrepreneurship Education (EPE) Projects and initiatives in Lebanon and the Arab Region; and
2. Develop mechanisms for cooperation and coordination between educational and training institutions and employment sectors in the area of Entrepreneurship Education (EPE).

### Programme

The agenda of the meeting included four main sessions on EPE in Lebanon and the Arab region:

1. The Regional Project on EPE for the Arab States, UNESCO;
2. Know About Business (KAB), ILO;
3. Regional and International Cooperation on EPE and MDGs; and
4. Results, Conclusions and Closure.

### Participants

The participants in the Seminar were 19 officials, specialists, and experts responsible of education and training programme, as well as representatives of NGOs, industry and business.

**Contact: Sulieman Sulieman**



## Building the Future: Investing in Teachers Today

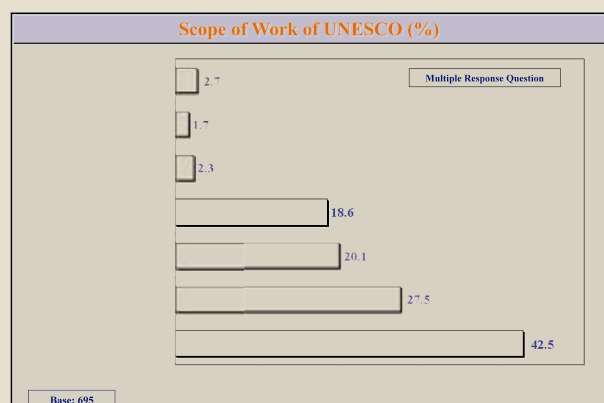
Seventeen scholars from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and higher education establishments across the West Bank and Gaza today received PhD scholarships from UNESCO under a programme financed by the European Union with the aim of supporting teacher training. UNESCO's Ramallah Office, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), awarded the 17 PhD scholarships, and designed to allow students to continue their studies in the field of education. The initiative is part of UNESCO's Quality Systems for Quality Teachers Programme, financed by the European Union.



The grants were awarded during a ceremony held at Grand Park hotel in Ramallah on Monday October 5, 2009 under the patronage of H.E. Minister of Education and Higher Education, Mrs. Lamis Al-Alami, Mr. Christian Berger, Representative of ECTAO, and Ms. Louise Haxthausen Head of the UNESCO Ramallah Office. This initiative is part of a broader goal to support the implementation of the National Teacher Education Strategy. It seeks to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to manage the reform of the teacher training process. These scholarships also support teacher education faculties within higher education institutions. Today's Awards Ceremony coincides with the annual World Teachers' Day. This event marks the anniversary of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, which comprehensively addresses policies, rights and responsibilities as they relate to the teaching profession. It serves to underline the important role that teachers play in ensuring everyone's right to quality education. In the Palestinian context, teachers not only have the responsibility to ensure that students acquire solid skills in basic subjects, but that they also become responsible citizens, who are technologically literate and able to contribute to the process of national state building. With this in mind, both the European Union and UNESCO reaffirmed their commitment to support the development of a well-trained and motivated teaching force. This commitment was further strengthened by the signing of a three-year technical assistance programme entitled Quality Systems for Quality Teachers in support of the implementation of the National Teacher education strategy.

## UNESCO Ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in UN Perceptions Survey in Lebanon

UNESCO ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of the 23 UN agencies working in Lebanon in an opinion survey conducted by the United Nations in November 2009. Some 1535 respondents were interviewed from all regions of Lebanon. When asked about the scope of work of UNESCO, 42.5 % believe that UNESCO works mainly on cultural awareness and education, 27.5% perceive development as the main scope of UNESCO's work, 20.1% believe the scope to be development while 18.6% think it is in emergency and humanitarian response. The aim of the study was to measure how the United Nations is being perceived by the public in an attempt to improve the overall image of the UN and its work in Lebanon.



## ***Regional Experts' Meeting on the "Role of the State in Social Development"***

Social and Human Sciences Section of UNESCO Beirut organized a regional expert meeting entitled "The role of the State in Social Development" in Beirut on 1 and 2 October 2009 at American University of Beirut in cooperation with The Arab Association of Sociology and Doha International Institute for Development Studies. Within the Programme MOST (Management of Social Transformation), the meeting aimed to understand the changing role of the State in social development in the double crisis of neoliberalism in the context of Arab region.

Presentations and discussions on 20 country case and comparative sub-regional studies were made around 5 themes:

1. Citizens and the State: Social Services provisions
2. Role of Non-government institutions and organizations
3. Change and continuity of the Arab family
4. Young women's employability: School and work transition
5. The social science research and social policy formulation in the Arab States

This meeting brought together 35 experts - researchers (sociologists, political scientists, economists and jurists) from universities, research institutes, key governmental institutions, Civil Society Organizations, UN organizations and media, from Arab countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait and UAE).

**Contact: Seiko Sugita**

## ***Sub-regional Consultations Meeting on youth strategy and Regional priorities***

A sub-regional Consultations meeting on the draft UNESCO SHS Strategy on Youth and the priorities of the Arab-States region was held at UNESCO Beirut (10 -11 December 2009).

The meeting aimed at validating the draft global strategy on youth and developing the corresponding regional priorities and concrete implementation plans at a regional level. It involved 40 key stakeholders including government officials, youth organizations, national commissions, UN agencies, civil society organizations, academia, research institutes and the private sector from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and OPT as well as UNESCO Offices in Amman, Iraq and Ramallah.

**Contact: Seiko Sugita**

## ***New Museum Practices: a UNESCO Beirut Workshop***

UNESCO Beirut regional office organized a cultural workshop for museum professionals from 26 to 29 October 2009, in Beirut entitled « New Museum Practices: Scenography and Communication».

The workshop was carried out in close cooperation with the Lebanese National Committee for the International Council of Museums (ICOM) . In the opening, Joe Kreidi UNESCO Beirut Culture Programme Officer, gave welcome remarks and emphasized the importance of this training for museum professionals, as it is necessary to bring out the best in scenography and exhibitions and to better communicate with the public.

This seminar, which brought together 25 Lebanese museum professionals, aimed to equip them with skills and knowledge needed for their work. It followed an initial workshop held in Beirut from 22 to 26 October 2007 on the theme «Managing the Preventive Conservation of Museums».

This seminar enabled participants to better understand all stages from conception to completion of exhibitions, whether temporary or permanently, thinking of exhibitions as a whole where each component (time, space, object, support, information, text, still and moving images, sound composition) participates in the project designed and completed. The topics discussed clarified the thinking that governs an exhibition, evoking notions such as posture, positioning, appearance, and other issues, and taking into consideration communicating with audiences.

The training was led by Mr. Philippe Delis, architect and professor at the National School of Arts in France. It ended with a final evaluation of the work done during the training.

**Contact: Joseph Kreidi**  
**Link: [UNESCO Website for Movable Heritage and Museums](#)**



## UNESCO Fighting Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property

Under the framework of UNESCO's project "protecting cultural property" UNESCO Beirut organized a seminar on the "Prevention and Fight against Illicit Traffic of Cultural Properties" in Brumana Lebanon (9 -11 November 2009). 30 participants representing regional Ministries of Culture, departments of antiquities and customs from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority participated in this three-day seminar. The event was under the patronage of the Lebanese Minister of Culture and in cooperation with the EUROMED Heritage.

The objective of this seminar was to compare the existing legislations and specialized services in the partner countries with the norms set by major international conventions, such as the Hague Convention of 1954, the UNESCO Convention of 1970, and the UNIDROIT Convention of 1995 as well as the codes of ethics for the management of collections, whether private or museum collections, and for the trade in cultural properties (Codes of ICOM and UNESCO). The seminar examined how these norms have been implemented in the national legislations, how the database of UNESCO of cultural heritage legislation is being updated and consulted and the mode of cooperation with the services of INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO). Experts from UNESCO, Interpol, ICOM, UNIDROIT WCO, and EUROMED gave lectures and presentations at the seminar.

### ***World Heritage in Young Hands, UNESCO Workshops in Lebanon***

UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut and the Lebanese Ministry of Education with the Lebanese National commission for UNESCO organized three workshops for school teachers on using the educational kit "World Heritage in Young Hands". The aim was to integrate the values of World Heritage in educational policies and practices, especially among youth through a wider diffusion of the "World Heritage in Young Hands" kit. The three workshops took place in the areas affected by the July 2006 War in Lebanon and included the following themes:

The World Heritage Convention

- World Heritage and Tourism
- World Heritage and the environment
- World Heritage and a culture of peace

Over 30 teachers benefited from each workshop, in which three experts delivered presentations, lectures, and hands-on training with the training kit. The participants undertook technical visits to the World Heritage Site of Tyr, in Lebanon.

Dates and venue: Marjeyoun- South Lebanon 30 - 31 Oct.09, Saidon- South Lebanon 3- 14 Nov. 09, Tyr - South Lebanon 4- 5 Dec.09.

**Contact: Joseph Kreidi**  
**Link: [World Heritage Website](#)**



## **«Writing for TV and radio» a UNESCO Beirut Workshop in Tunisia**

Within UNESCO priorities to support women journalists, UNESCO Beirut conducted a four-day specialized media training workshop on writing for TV and radio in Tunisia (10 to 13 November 2009). The training workshop was implemented in cooperation with the Arab Women Organization and was led by two media experts in addition to the UNESCO Programme Officer for Communication Information in Beirut. Over 32 participants from 16 Arab countries benefited from this four-day event with stress on writing for TV and radio, the training sessions were divided into TV and radio covering several topics such as creative thinking, elements of writing, content of radio and television programmes and production of programmes.

This training is under the framework of the Communication Information Programmes for capacity building and media development for media professionals. UNESCO mainly focuses on providing people with the skills and abilities of critical reception, assessment, and use of information in their professional and personal lives through information literacy programmes. UNESCO also focuses on training and lifelong learning for media and information specialists, especially in developing countries.

## **«Media for Sustainable Development» A Workshop at UNESCO Beirut**

UNESCO Beirut and the American University of Technology organized a training workshop for journalists and media specialists under the title Role of media in Education for a sustainable development.

The workshop, which lasted for three days (7 - 9 October 2009), brought together 15 journalists, representing a variety of media vehicles. The workshop presented the trainees with a training kit in two sessions, one for journalist and one for senior media students. The aim was to emphasize the importance of the following environmental topics: a) Climate Change, b) Biodiversity, c) Pollution, d) Fresh water and e) Forest and Fishery. The training kit, produced by UNESCO, was translated into Arabic and was customized for the Lebanese environment as it is perceived by Media and Environment experts.

The aim of this training workshop was to introduce the five concepts to journalists and assist them in tackling the topic in written, heard, viewed and online media and to assist them in selling and convincing editors and editorial boards with publishing environmental stories. The training manual with many other resources was distributed to the participants. The event was animated by a media expert and an environmental expert.

## **UNESCO Opens Regional Media Training Centre in Beirut**

UNESCO Beirut and the Arab Union for News Agencies launched the new training facility of the Regional Media-Training Center for Journalism and News Agencies in Lebanon on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2009. The training institute was inaugurated by the Lebanese Minister of Information, H.E. Tarek Mitri and attending were most of the Arab news agency heads and many journalists. This comes as direct support from UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

The first training seminar was also launched and journalists from Lebanon and the Arab States attended the training sessions. The head of the Arab press union Ramadan Rawashdeh spoke at the opening and hoped that the training centre would serve its purpose and lead the way for increased cooperation among the Arab States, and he thanked UNESCO for its contributions which lead to the establishment of this centre. UNESCO hopes that the centre would open the door for more development of communication in the Arab region in addition to press freedom and better pluralistic media within the overall scope of the media development that UNESCO aspires to accomplish all over the world.

**Contact: George Awad**

**Link: Education for Sustainable Development**

## Launching the Arab Regional Centre for Open Source Software in Lebanon



Under the patronage of Lebanese Minister of Education, H.E. Bahia El-Hariri, the Arab Regional Centre for Free & Open Source Software was launched in Beirut in a ceremony at UNESCO Beirut on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2009.

Ma3bar is the Arab Support Centre for Free and Open Source Software. Since its inception by UNESCO, UNDP-ICTDAR, and the University of Balamand, the centre strived to disseminate free and open source software as a philosophy and culture in academia and Arab societies. Ma3bar is committed to contributing to social and economic development in the Arab region by promoting the use and development of free and open source software and by developing and conducting training programmes on this software to ensure that more Arab communities have affordable access to information technologies.

As part of the action plan of Ma3bar and the recommendations of the “kickoff coordination workshop” held at the University Of Balamand on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2009, Ma3bar held its first “**Train the Trainers Workshop**” entitled: “**Open Source Training for the Arab Region**”. The workshop was held at the University of Balamand, El-Kurah, Lebanon, (3 - 4 November 2009).

UNESCO and the United Nations Development Program – Information and Communication Technology for Development in the Arab Region (UNDP-ICTDAR) cooperated to initiate MA3BAR, the Arab Support Centre for Free and Open Source Software. The objectives of MA3BAR are three-fold:

training and assistance in developing the essential skills and competences in the public and the private sectors as well as in non-governmental organizations and encouraging the inclusion of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) courses as part of the standard course offerings in universities and networking the various FOSS communities that exist in the Arab Region.

2. Support the creation of applications (or toolkits) that will meet the needs of the local market and lead to the strengthening of local and regional expertise.
3. Raise awareness at the government and business levels on the potential and viability of open source solutions and applications as solid alternatives to proprietary software.

Faculty members of computer science and engineering schools, software trainers, and computer professionals from leading Arab and regional institutions gathered in this two-day event to do the training, share experiences, and devise a delivery strategy for the FOSS training throughout the Arab region. Regional and renown international speakers conducted the various training sessions of the workshop in an interactive mode of discussions.

**Contact: George Awad**  
**Link: [www.Ma3bar.org](http://www.Ma3bar.org)**

# Upcoming Events

## January

**28 January 2010**

Opening ceremony of launching "Audio Books for the blind in Public Libraries", Beirut - Lebanon

## February

**3 February 2010**

Opening of the "Model School Library" at Subhi Mahmasani School, Beirut - Lebanon

**4 February 2010**

Press conference for the "Launching of the Youth Forum in Lebanon", Beirut - Lebanon

**17 - 18 February 2010**

INEE Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crisis, and Early Reconstruction Seminar, Beirut - Lebanon

## March

**21 - 23 March 2010**

Regional Seminar on Strategic Planning in Education and Capacity Development, RCEP-Sharjah, UAE



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## Greening UNESCO Office Environment

In an effort to encourage all UNESCO staff members to participate keenly in greening UNESCO and spreading environmental awareness, the staff at UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States - Beirut started a paper recycling initiative to promote reusing papers and encourage all to become more environmentally conscientious.

This initiative started as of October 2009 in collaboration with TERRE – Lebanon, a Lebanese organization that strives to spread environmental awareness in professional institutions which can make a difference. This organization's profit goes to planting new trees in different areas in Lebanon and taking care of Lebanese forests. A few weeks after implementing this initiative which was fervently welcomed by UNESCO employees, some staff members started coming up with their own unique ideas for "greening" UNESCO premises such as placing cacti in all offices.

