



QUEEN RANIA TEACHER ACADEMY
أكاديمية الملكة رانيا للتدريب المعلمين

EDUCATING FOR
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
IN JORDAN



ABOUT QRTA

Many of us can recall a special teacher who motivated or inspired us in a way that made a difference in our lives. I'm sure we fondly remember those special teachers and the characteristics that made them so unique. Obviously teachers need to know their subject matter, but the factors that cause students to really connect with teachers are often tied more to the heart than the mind. Teachers that really care and are extremely motivated by their subject matter are noticed by students and often have profound influence on changing their student's perceptions, behaviors and attitudes about themselves, their school, their community and the world around them.



The Queen Rania Teacher Academy (QRTA) is an independent, non-profit institution committed to her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah's vision of empowering teachers with the skills, knowledge, recognition and support necessary for them to excel in the classroom and become memorable and positive influences in their student's lives. Cultivating the professional capacity and academic capability of teachers is the corner stone of QRTA's mandate. A mandate that has prompted QRTA to specifically design training programs that promote excellence and quality in teaching practices.



ABOUT EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) program was created in partnership with the USAID funded, Public Action Project (PAP) and draws on the experience and knowledge of QRTA's signature Networks program initially designed by Teachers College Columbia University. The ESD program was designed to enhance the academic and professional capabilities of teachers by incorporating three of the most critical environmental risks to Jordan (water, energy and solid waste) into an inquiry based, interdisciplinary, project based training program.

The overarching goal of QRTA's ESD training program was to foster behavioral change and respect for the environment by training teachers in specific pedagogical approaches and practices that were conducive to changing students' perceptions and attitudes towards the environment. To date QRTA's ESD project has been successfully implemented in 50 schools across 6 directorates in the Central Governorates of Jordan. The inclusive nature of the program design (teachers from various disciplines and grade levels) allowed for the training of 200 teachers, and 30 education supervisors within a two year period. The program was unique in that it encompassed two special components to encourage student participation in the program to enhance their learning and involve them in school/community activities.



The initial success of the first cohort prompted QRTA and its partners to further develop the program to include a Master Teacher component to the original training. The focus of the Master Teacher project was to concentrate on developing teachers professional capacity by training them in how to establish professional learning communities (PLCs) and professional development within their schools; how to coach teachers in relevant pedagogies; and how to reach out and include parents and community members in conversation practices and environmental awareness activities.

QRTA'S APPROACH TO ESD PD TRAINING

Given the international discourse and priority placed on education for sustainable development (ESD), there are numerous strategies that teachers can apply in their classroom that require very little effort. What distinguishes QRTA's ESD training program from the plethora of programs is the pedagogy teachers are trained in. Pedagogy that is easily applicable across academic disciplines and grade levels that develop specific teaching and thinking skills geared to enhance students learning in classrooms and influence students attitudes and behaviors towards the environment.

QRTA academic team leads and facilitates the delivery and presentation of the training sessions by incorporating adult learning principles and active training pedagogy. Workshop training sessions are conducted in a responsive and collaborative way by following specific guidelines during the delivery of the workshop training sessions which include:

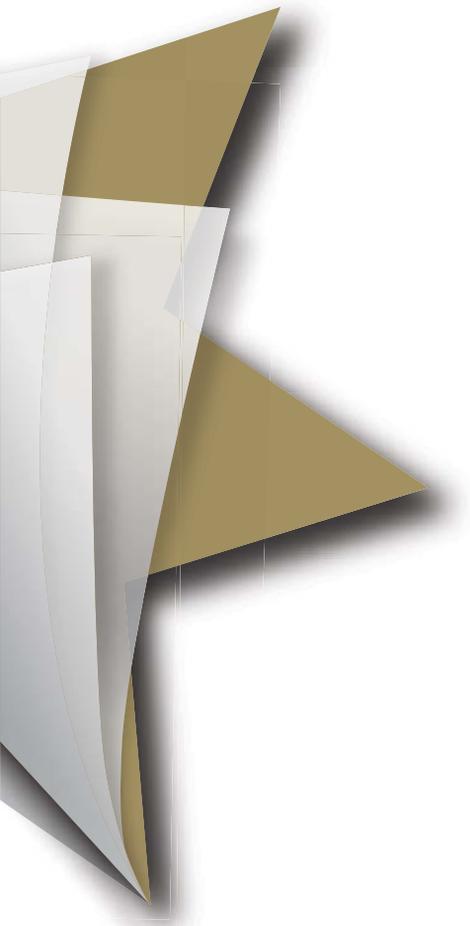
- Create a learning environment where participants feel comfortable and safe,
- Provide supportive feedback to teachers throughout the course of the training sessions to motivate teachers and reinforce key concepts and ideas,
- Use effective communication and presentation skills during the training to engage teachers and keep them interested,
- Use effective facilitation skills such as summarizing, clarifying, paraphrasing and acknowledging teachers contributions,
- Provide opportunities for practical application of knowledge and skills based on classroom realities to ensure that teachers can apply what they are learning with their students,
- Support and guide teachers as they prepare and implement their portfolio activities for final evaluation,
- Monitor the process of training and make adjustments to training and workshop guidelines accordingly,
- Determine the teachers' satisfaction with the training sessions after every session to determine whether the learning objectives for that day are being met by asking teachers to fill out a Feedback form,
- Utilize the information from the feedback forms to improve the quality of the training and the resources.

Each workshop in the ESD program addresses a specific topic and pedagogy that can be applied across academic disciplines and grade levels with special attention given to grades 4, 6 and 9.

1. Education for Sustainable Development
2. Inquiry based Learning Cycle
3. Interdisciplinary teaching and learning
4. Community Mapping
5. Project based teaching and learning
6. Professional learning communities (PLCs)



For further details regarding QRTA's Education for sustainable development program or to learn how your organization can benefit from the program, please contact Dr. Norma T. Nemeh, Senior Program Manager, at n.nemeh@qрта.edu.jo or Dr. Ahmed Qablan, at a.qablan@qрта.edu.jo



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