

LEARNING FOR WELL BEING FORUM PILOT 2008

Purpose and Concept

The Learning for Well Being forum will provide a unique space for international and local experts in the fields of education, media, healthcare and ICT to come together for mutual enrichment and learning, so that they can generate new knowledge and initiatives to promote education by all for the well being of children.

The Forum will create multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary meetings to further a transdisciplinary approach to the wellbeing of children and to encourage greater responsibility, creativity and co-operation from key sectors in society.

The purpose of UEF is to inspire people to listen more to children and young people and to take more initiatives to implement change for their well-being. Towards this purpose of a radical, global reorientation of education, UEF carries out numerous complementary activities; LEO, the Voice of Children Initiative, the Elham Process and the Learning for Wellbeing Forum.

The activities are designed to implement UEF goals, that children and young people in more and more countries experience improved wellbeing in their lives thanks to:

- Education and healthcare systems, which are effectively promoting and monitoring wellbeing for children and young people.
- ICT and media which are invested in the wellbeing of children and are increasingly able to measure the impacts of their activities in those terms, and adjust accordingly.
- Education, which is increasingly perceived as a healthcare delivery system (prevention of disease and promotion of health).
- The fact that wellbeing of children is increasingly recognized and assumed as a responsibility shared by health care, education, media and ICT as well as by all adults in their personal and professional roles
- The resources gathered, created and disseminated by UEF, which are valued and used by our partners, as well as by an increasing number of individuals and institutions worldwide.
- We speak the language of children and young people.

LEO: The Learning Environment Observatory:

The Learning Environment Observatory will develop a toolkit that will provide the basis for the Voice of Children Surveys and will contribute new perspectives and opportunities for researchers in the field of wellbeing. The LEO toolkit will be

designed to measure the impact of the prioritized learning environments (education, health, media and ICT) on the wellbeing of children. The toolkit will provide a set of indicators for wellbeing as well as qualitative and quantitative surveys for measuring the impact of the different learning environments on the physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual dimensions of the child's wellbeing. The indicators and surveys will have global relevance but will be adapted as needed in each specific, cultural or regional context.

The Voice of Children Initiative

The Voice of Children Initiative supports an ongoing program of international quantitative and qualitative surveys based on LEO that study the ways in which learning environments (education, health, ICT and media) impact children's well being. This is done so that the voices of children are increasingly taken into account by policy makers and professionals in different sectors of society. The results of the Voice of Children pilot initiative conducted in Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine will be presented at the forum, together with the LEO toolkit. The results of the pilot will be showcased in ways designed to inspire practical initiatives and reform in the various environments.

The Elham process

The Elham process is a high profile nomination and award program that brings activities designed to support the well being of children to public awareness. It encourages more and more initiatives in this direction by identifying and recognizing people from the different learning environments for outstanding initiatives that contribute significantly to the well being of children and disseminating related information.

The Learning for Well Being Forum is a learning, development and advocacy platform brings together international experts from the different learning environments to further their knowledge and inspire co-creative initiatives. It is a high profile conference that catalyses new knowledge and action by bringing people together to explore the possible directions of "Education by All for the Well Being of Children. It also showcases the voices of children as heard in the Learning Environment Observatory surveys, as well as the work for the well being of children done by the Elham Nominees.

To maximize the impact of these activities, UEF will initiate a National Well Being Campaign. Upon announcing the forum and Elham, and in cooperation with the school system or through selected NGOs, the foundation will launch a national well being campaign for Palestinian children. The foundation and local partners will call parents, artists, media and ICT stakeholders to contribute writings, stories, research, artistic designs, paintings, drawings and media programs, all focusing on the well being of Palestinian children. In the forum, an exhibit will showcase the fruits of the campaign

The first pilot forum will take place in the Middle East in 2008 in the context of the pilot Elham and LEO in the Mena Region. UEF will in parallel conduct a regional pilot cycle

of activities in Wales, and will explore how to best create an interface between the two regional pilot processes. The concept of the forum will be developed through a series of consultations with professionals and young people and will constantly be refined and developed as we continue to learn from the experience of our different activities.

Pilot Learning for Well Being Forum to be held in Palestine 2007

Various international forums have identified education in the Arab states as a priority area for regional and national reform. This theme has attracted great interest and investments from various stakeholders including business, government, civil society and the international community. Several education reform initiatives have been launched in the Arab region, including in countries like Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Palestine, among others. The Learning for Well Being forum will emphasize children's well being as central to the health and educational reform agendas

The first Learning for Well Being forum will take place in Jericho or East Jerusalem in 2007, within the context of the other UEF activities in the Mena Region that are designed to catapult children's well being to a prominent place on national, regional and also international education and health reform agendas. The forum will bring together 150-250 global, regional and national actors from business, government and civil society, representing different learning environments including media, ICT, education and healthcare. The forum will create a space for a multisectorial dialogue on how different sectors can work together to transform the learning environments so that they become more conducive to children's well being.

Engagement of children and youth in the forum

Special effort will be made to securing an effective participation and representation of children and youth. We hope to have youths as speakers and or respondents on the different panels, and also to have a number of presentations of local and international youth who have been involved in initiatives for the wellbeing of children. Children and youth who are active in the field will also be invited to as active participants, so that their input will be constant throughout the three days. Youth will also be involved in the pre forum consultations that determine the content and process of the four days.

The forum will provide opportunities to:

- Present the progress in developing a system for encouraging and monitoring the conscious nurturing of wellbeing in different learning environments.
- Share knowledge and initiate multi-sectorial and interdisciplinary activities and co-creative ventures to support children's well being.
- Present and discuss the findings of the Voice of Children Initiative with a view to elaborate the appropriate policy recommendations and priorities for action.

- Showcase the initiatives of the Elham Ambassadors who will share their experiences with the Forum participants to inspire further development and implementation
- Identify key insights and policy priorities by creating a transdisciplinary space for mutual learning and discussion.
- Present a gallery of results from the Palestinian national well being campaign

Tentative Design of the forum

The forum will take place over 4 days. The design and structure of the forum will provide opportunities:

- 1 for a variety of presentations and discussions concerning issues and initiatives in the four learning environments,
- 2 to showcase the LEO results of the survey in the Mena Region,
- 3 to celebrate and publicize the work of the Elham nominees.
- 4 For Networking
- 5 For the development and planning of new initiatives and directions
- 6 For rich cultural, social and professional engagement with a wide range of people from different sectors and cultures

The current concept is to conduct the first two days in the form of presentations, discussion groups, booths, cultural activities and the Elham award ceremony. The third and fourth days will be held using the Open Space Technology developed by Harrison Owen that stimulates rich discussions and leads to concrete initiatives by participants.

There will be simultaneous translation throughout the event.

The following is a tentative concept of the schedule for the three and a half days:

DAY ONE:

Opening Panel:

Learning for WellBeing in the Different Learning Environments: Issues and Initiatives

The opening will focus on an overview of the concept of Education by All for the Well Being of Children and current issues and initiatives in the different learning environments.

Possible Panel: on approaches to the definition of well being, and evidence of the momentum of well being in education today.

Why this forum: why learning for well being, why the multi-sectorial, interdisciplinary and

transdisciplinary approach

What is happening in the world today, in the different learning environments:

During the day there will then be sessions that focus on issues and initiatives in each of the different learning environments (health, media, ICT and education), and one session that focuses on initiatives that are multi-sectoral and systemic in their nature that will discuss what has been achieved by a systemic integrative approach and new ways of thinking about it. One part of this panel will look at how this multi-sectoral approach can be useful in dealing with the realities of Palestine today, for example how the different learning environments can cooperate in contributing to the management and healing of issues such as trauma, juvenile diabetes, obesity, which are particularly challenging for parents to deal with alone.

The current idea is to have the audience sitting around round tables. After each panel there will be time for open questions and then for 15 minutes of discussion around the round tables with a note taker who will provide a synopsis to the conference coordinator to collate and make available to all participants.

09:30 –11:30 Opening and Overview- with Panel One on Education – including a presentation of the VoC survey results.

12:00 – 13:30 Panel two Media

15:00 – 16:30 Panel three ICT

17:00 18:30 Panel four Health

20:30 –21:30 Children drama about the different learning environment – with possible discussion after.

DAY TWO

The second day will focus on showcasing different international and local initiatives that have been significant in improving the well being of children. The first part of the day will be dedicated to international initiatives such as Inspire (Australia) and Funky Dragon(Wales), and perhaps some of UEF partners. The second part of the day will focus on local initiatives, specifically through the Elham process and will actually be the formal Elham ceremony and celebration.

9:00 10:30 – 4 presentations: each presentation 20 minutes + 10 minutes questions

11:00 – 12:30 – 4 presentations: each presentation 20 minutes + 10 minutes questions

12:30 – 13:30 open discussions at tables

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 - 19:00 El- Ham nominees

15:00- 17:00 The afternoon will open with a ten minute documentary of the El Ham process –

showing the process of conception to implementation with bits showing each of the different nominees in their environments to give a taste of the variety of their work.

Thereafter each Elham nominee will be given about 10 – 15 minutes to provide a short presentation of their work and they will be supported in the preparation of this by professionals from UEF

17:30 – 18:30 Continuation of presentations

18:30 – 19:30 Elham marketplace. After the presentations, each nominee will be allocated a table where they will be able to have materials and participants will be free to move and interact with them and discuss their concepts in greater depth.

21:00 –22:30 Evening: Presentations by children about the school of today and tomorrow, plays, music poetry, dances about the challenges of well being at school.

DAY THREE

After the first two days which will expose participants to a wealth of material and initiatives, the third and fourth day will focus on providing a space for participants to engage with each other building on the previous days, and their own knowledge, interests and resources in order to develop their fields of interest and form co-creative initiatives that will further the well being of children in the different learning environments.

9:00 – 13:30 Opening of the Open Space with explanation of the technology and framing of the process and its subject. Then there will be the first circle where members initiate working groups.

15:00 – 19:00 Second circle of the Open space

DAY FOUR

9:00 – 12:00 Open Space circle

12:30 – 13:30 Closing ceremony - looking back – looking forward. During the closing ceremony decision makers from the learning environments and the government will be invited to hear the presentation of initiatives that emerge from the Open Space groups.

At the end of the ceremony participants will be provided with the printed material from the Open Space process that documents the work in all the groups.

The question that remains open at this point is the length of the event as there is some concern whether people will be able to participate for 3.5 days.

Option 1: To frame the two parts of the forum in a modular fashion whereby the first two days will be the first module, and the open space technology another module. Participants will be able to participate in either one or both, although ideally we would like to encourage full participation throughout the four days. In this case we would have to have a closing ceremony on the second evening to consolidate the first module and a separate one on the fourth day.

Option 2: To frame it as all one event in which participation in all parts is important, and

encourage people to stay for the full event seeing the one building on the other. We also believe that the exposure to the open space technology is an important tool which can be implemented in school environments and so the experience of the open space will also offer an insight into a useful methodology for participants. Even though this may provide logistical challenges, such events are unusual in the area and warrant the extra effort on the part of local participants.

The culture of the forum:

We would like the experience of the forum to honor the values and principles of UEF. In other words we would like to ensure that every aspect of it is done with heart – with caring, respect, honoring the diversity of the participants and with our own capacity to learn while doing. We hope that it will take into account different learning styles and give space for different types of experience including the mental, emotional, social, physical and spiritual.

Perhaps we will offer voluntary spaces for yoga and other movement forms in the early mornings. For instance from 7:00-8:am there can be yoga, movement, tai chi, breath meditations for those interested. There may also be a silent walking meditation during the lunch break.

In the evenings the cultural events will give expression to a variety of artistic forms.

We will try to provide a variety of thoughtful caring gestures to participants during the day so that they can experience the impact of a caring, generous environment as they go about their learning over these few days.

Separate document:

LEARNING FOR WELL BEING PILOT FORUM 2007

BACKGROUND, PLANNING AND LOGISTICS DOCUMENT (this document is based primarily on Marwan's initial document and it is not clear how some of the logistic implications may have changed since our planning meeting.)

While the idea is to gradually work towards large annual international conferences that bring together experts from relevant fields together with public policy makers and grass roots activists, UEF will work towards evolving the idea through a series of pilots and consultations. The outline of the first pilot forum in 2007 is presented above.

III. Suggested Forum Themes

The forum's themes will constitute the foci around which the conference's discussions, presentations, and events will be organized. At an early stage, a UEF advisor who possesses particular expertise in each thematic area should be identified to identify issues of particular current interest and key actors in the field and to ensure the forum is sensitive to and aware of relevant issues that need to be taken into consideration in this field.

BACKGROUND: Perspectives on Well Being

The following perspective on well being presents some of the overall considerations and contexts of the forum.

The interest in individual and collective well being is rising exponentially as people begin to recognize the limitations and dangers of some of the paradigms that have dominated western thinking over the last 300 years.

UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNESCO are increasingly framing their goals in terms of the overall well being of children. "Child friendly schools" and "healthy schools" informed by holistic frameworks are emerging all over the world, and many recent initiatives and innovations in research, curricula, teaching frameworks and methodologies take into account the mental, emotional, physical, social and spiritual dimensions of the child within the context of community involvement and responsibility. Nevertheless, this direction of education is still very new and has not yet been integrated into mainstream education policy or systems.

While there is growing awareness of the need to nurture the well being of children, there are also powerful political, economic and cultural forces that hold both great promise and great peril. Globalization, technological innovation, the internet, and genetic engineering

are immense phenomena which directly impact the health, safety and happiness of the next generation. Enormous wealth next to devastating poverty, the blight of obesity next to that of malnutrition of the starving, and powerful communication technology alongside desperate social alienation are but some of the painful paradoxes that need to be addressed as the young prepare to take up their roles as responsible adults in society.

The Universal Education Foundation seeks to promote a radical reorientation of education, placing the well being of children and society as its primary objective. In doing so, the foundation calls for cooperation between the education systems, health care systems, ICT, and media to develop joint policies that not only prevent disease but also promote optimal health in individuals and communities.

Alternative definitions, theories, insights, approaches and experiences relating to the well being of children will be presented and discussed. For this purpose, the foundation will invite renowned specialists and practitioners with expertise in well being to share and discuss their views and insights.

Schools and Well Being

Children learn from diverse environments, including formal and non-formal education and health systems, family, community, business, the media, information and communication technologies (ICTs) and governments. We believe that education and health environments share the same purpose of supporting human development, of which well being is the fundamental expression.

Plenary and interactive sessions -on this theme will investigate how schools impact our children's well being, and how schools may be made more conducive to fostering well being. The sessions will involve presentations and status reports on curricula, school governance, social participation, teachers, and other change agents. Educational constructs will be examined for their concurrence with well being. In this context, the results of the Learning Environments Observatory will be presented and discussed.

The forum will inquire into areas of both rigidity and elasticity in education systems, with the goal of identifying possible future scenarios and directions. In addition, the foundation will present and showcase inspiring regional and international examples of well being-based school reform.

ICTs for Systemic Change: How Much and How Fast?

Recent advancements in knowledge and technological innovation offer us unprecedented opportunities to innovatively restructure our education system and introduce systemic changes that would make education more cost effective, more flexible and more responsive to the needs of individuals, communities and societies.

Plenary and interactive sessions within this theme will scrutinize the nature of the classroom setting and structure; the potential to leverage technology for positive change; the affordability and sustainability of technology in education; and the opportunities and challenges of ICTs in developing societies.

The foundation will present and showcase inspiring regional and international examples of how ICTs can effectively contribute to introducing systemic changes in education systems, making them more conducive to children's well being.

Media and Well Being: Challenges and Opportunities

The spread of digital media, even in marginalized communities, is growing exponentially. Media offer our children a huge menu of information, misinformation, stories and images which are real, distorted, and sometimes imaginary. In many countries, children spend between 4 and 5 hours per day watching digital media. This addictive exposure to electronic media impacts children's mindsets and behavior patterns in important ways. It also impacts children's ability to learn and their personal learning styles, needs and paces.

Plenary and interactive sessions will investigate how conducive media are to our children's well being; how child-friendly media may be compatible with free media; and what can media do in the context of its pedagogical social responsibility. The foundation will present and showcase inspiring regional and international examples of media's role as a pedagogical partner.

Engaging Children and Young People

One of the key success factors of UEF is engaging children more systematically and more effectively in transforming learning environments to become more conducive to their well being, and more responsive to their needs and the needs of their communities. Towards this end, UEF has embarked on the development of the Learning Environments Observatory (LEO), whose purpose is to provide a methodologically sound and credible instrument which gauges students' perspectives of their various learning environments, and the environments' impact on the students' well being. In addition, UEF has embarked on the development of a virtual Voices of Children and Young people Portal -- an on-line resource dedicated to raising awareness and catalyzing initiatives towards "education by all for the well being of children."

This session will investigate the philosophical, pedagogical, and systemic aspects of young people's participation in transforming learning, including its potential, limitations, modalities, case studies and success stories.

IV. Logistics

Planning

The Foundation's organizing committee will take the lead role in conceptualizing the forum and engaging relevant partners. The committee will:

- 1 Take the lead in developing the forum's program
- 2 Secure international speakers and international participation
- 3 Contribute to the definition of main themes and sessions
- 4 Contribute to the definition of main speakers
- 5 Oversee the quality of contributions and their congruence with the forum's underlying vision and purpose.

It is highly recommended that IPN and Betsy in particular take a significant role within this committee due to their outstanding experience in organizing similar forums. Jean Gordon will also play a significant role due to her experience in organizing the futures of learning seminars. **All partner to participate no one with leading role at this time**

The forum will be preceded with country level consultative roundtables. Each roundtable will be organized in collaboration with the respective Ministry Of Education, leading foundations or NGOs, media, local ICTs and our own partner organizations and their country offices. The latter will play a key role in organizing the roundtables. The consultative meetings will be instrumental in setting the local stage for the forum and establishing the necessary multisectorial setting for the forum. It is conceivable that three or four such meetings will be organized starting in January 2007. **helth** need to be included

A local organizing committee will be responsible for:

- 1 Securing local buy-in by the appropriate authorities to provide the forum with the appropriate positioning, endorsement and facilitation
- 2 Securing local speakers (this may not be necessary as the local speakers will primarily be the Elham nominees. We may need to think of local dignitaries offering a short welcome.)
- 3 Securing local sponsorships and partnerships
- 4 All logistics including conference venues, hospitality, boarding and lodging of all participants, transportation, and communication
- 5 Promotion and media coverage, including preparation and printing of materials, preparation of the conference folder and brochure, and media coverage
- 6 Organizing satellite meetings

The National Steering Committee will include the: (It is unclear how this will be done)

- 1 Minster of Education
- 2 Minster of ICT
- 3 Minster of Health
- 4 Minster of Information and Media

One project director will be responsible for following up on the sound and timely implementation of the forum. The project director will report to the Secretariat.

Timeline

It is conceivable that if the initial announcement is made in June 2007, the conference may be held by the end of the year.

Location

The forum will be held in Ramallah/ Jericho, political circumstances permitting. Alternative locations would be Amman, Jordan or Alexandria, Egypt. Every effort will be made to secure the participation of Arab expatriates and Arab colleagues.

Publicity

All committees will work to ensure that the forum receives maximum media coverage in local, regional and international outlets.

Proceedings

The proceedings of the forum will be published in special publication sponsored by UEF. A scientific editorial committee will be responsible for the proper production of the proceedings.

Translation

The forum will utilize simultaneous translation.

Support

AlQuds University may act as the secretaries for the Forum, providing logistical and communication support to the local organizing committee. EDC will also have an organizational role.

Outstanding Issues

- 1 Decide on the list of invitees (international partners, regional and local partners), experts, scientific committee.
- 2 Decide on the international, regional and local speakers.
- 3 Finalize a draft of concept points on the multi-sect oral discussions. (Daniel)
- 4 Engage young people in the forum. (conduct focus groups with students, engage them to speak in the forum for their experience, what do they like, dislike of schools....etc. (Iman, Hiba, local partners)
- 5 Figure out ways to invite people from the region to participate in the forum. Find alternatives if necessary. (board members)
- 6 Prepare list of names of speakers from the region. (Iman).
- 7 Make sure that Deepak Chopra will participate in the forum. (Daniel)
- 8 Figure out how each segment of the multi sect oral will contribute and the scientific sect oral could participate in child disciplinary perception. (Daniel, Marwan)
- 9 Harrison Owen could be invited to participate, decide on partners that they could be invited as well.
- 10 List of people to be invited: Deepak copra, David Simon, Hayward Gardner, Ilona Kichbush, Daniel Goldman, Peter smith, Negropontis, Marrian Williamson, Mary Vegeson, Prono De La Geza, Mounir Fashi.

PS. The board has designated Daniel, Marwan, Mary, and Amir to be the Forum's working group and assigned John Owen as chairman. Mohammad Shaheen, Ilona and Shelley have also been suggested.