



Environmental District Training & Exchange Program

**Capacity Building for Palestinian
Environmental & Solid Waste Management Services**

A project under the CED program:
“Promoting Environmental Services for Palestinian Joint Councils”
as approved by the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government

Proposal for \$36,250 in Grant Funding

Submitted by:

Center for Environmental Diplomacy (CED – Palestine)

In Cooperation with:

Towns Association for Environmental Quality (TAEQ) – Agan Beit Natufa – Sakhnin

CED Proposal: Capacity Building for Palestinian Environmental & Solid Waste Management Services

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5. Briefly describe organization, purpose and past related experience:

CED is a US-based 501(c)3 organization affiliated with CED Palestine, an NGO registered with the Palestinian government, and WECUP/CED Israel, an NGO registered in Israel. CED provides the combined, extensive experience of its staff as its primary qualifications. As an organization, CED has accomplished the following:

- CED convened experts from Israel, Palestine, and Jordan, including representatives from the Ministries of Environment, academics, economists, UNCRD, Japanese International Cooperation Agency, and the Japanese NGO, Asia-Pacific Coalition for Environment (ACE). The outcome of the conference was a written declaration from the Israeli Ministries of the Environment and Foreign Affairs and the Palestinian Office of Environmental Quality supporting cooperative efforts to protect shared environmental resources. The Environmental Service District is a concept that grew out of this commitment. (September 2003)
- CED developed a series of training-of-trainer's workshops for regional cooperation with Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian experts in integrated solid waste management. The series is scheduled to reconvene in early 2006 with CED's NGO partner ACE, UNCRD and experts in the region. A specific objective of the program is to develop regional action plans for solid waste management that could be implemented in an environmental service district. A broader purpose of the trans-boundary technical cooperation is to facilitate dialogue on environmental issues of common interest, to contribute to peace-making and conflict resolution.
- Established CED Palestine office in Bethlehem, (March 2003) for environmental training workshops for youth and women's groups. Most recently, CED Palestine hosted a GIS training workshop in Bethlehem for Palestinian government and academic environmental experts and planners. (November 2004). This office is being transferred and located in the Ministry of Local Government Department of Joint Councils for Services, Planning and Development HQ building in Bethlehem, under the supervision of Musa Awad, Director, CED-Palestine.
- Development of an environmental services framework for solid waste management with the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) Department of Joint Councils for Services, Planning and Development (DJCspd) remains underway. Support and authorization for the program has been received at the local municipal level and by the Palestinian National Authority. The MoLG approved the concept as submitted to them in April 2005, in the proposal titled: "Promoting Environmental Services for Palestinian Joint Councils" or PES-PJC Program. CED received a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement for the PES-PJC Program from MoLG Minister Dr. Khaled Fahed Al-Qawasmī during July 2005, which authorizes CED to implement the projects and framework, as well as seek funding for this program in cooperation with the MoLG.

CED's staff has over 40 years of professional experience in the region, and includes Palestinian, Israeli, and American representation. Collectively, the staff has experience with business and economic development, engineering, municipal, and environmental projects in Israel/Palestine, including for USAID.

6. Grant activity title: Environmental District Training & Exchange Program: Capacity Building for Palestinian Environmental & Solid Waste Management Services
7. Grant objective: Environmental staff and managers from Palestinian Joint Councils for Solid Waste Management and the Ministry of Local Government's Department of Joint Councils, services, planning and development (MoLG / DJCspd) will be selected to study in workshops at the Towns Association for Environmental Quality – Agan Beit Natufa – in Sakhnin, Israel (hereafter TAEQ).

CED will coordinate participation and the workshop course program with the TAEQ Education Center.

The grant will provide the opportunity for Palestinian participants, public officials and administrators to learn about complementary relationships and environmental services at the TAEQ. Participants will learn about financial flows and management, and how to apply the knowledge gained at TAEQ to their own communities. They will learn about relevant environmental management practices from their neighbor in Sakhnin, Israel, which has similar environmental conditions and resource limitations.

Both Palestinians and Israelis need to improve their mutual environment and to reduce the impact of waste on the environment, by ensuring that waste is treated in an environmentally sound manner. In the absence of coordination and cooperation these problems intensify.

Palestinians and Israelis also need to improve their social attitudes toward each other and to find routes for reconciliation between the two civil societies either by identifying issues of common interest, creation of mutual interdependence, and learning to use different modes of interactions.

An objective of this grant is to foster trans-boundary education and exchange among professionals in similar fields, which could potentially alleviate social animosity among Israelis and Palestinians. The impact of this project on advancing environmental quality management is expected to have a sustained, long lasting, influence on Palestinian society, especially if longer-term funding were available.

8. Main task phases of the activity:

Phase 1: Capacity Building with the TAEQ – Agan Beit Natufa.

Length: One 5-day Workshop Course Program during first month.

A 5-day Course Program will provide participants with in-depth knowledge of TAEQ operations and how environmental services are provided to its communities. Palestinian Joint Councils are reforming to be able to more efficiently provide environmental services under a similar administrative framework. Phase 1 and its Tasks are designed to build knowledge and capacity to better deliver the needed environmental services. The participants will gain an in-depth understanding of:

- (1) TAEQ operations and services by Director, Mr. Hussein Tarabeah, and Dr. Midhat Osman, Education Director, Center for Environmental Education and Research at Sakhnin.
- (2) How environmental services are coordinated among member towns.
- (3) Best practices in securing the support of citizen beneficiaries, to facilitate establishment of similar environmental service associations (Joint Councils) in Palestinian communities.

The course will include meetings, discussions and lectures given by TAEQ staff and by several external experts, each in their specific field of expertise. It will also include 5 professional tours of neighboring sites and plants, representing applications of the major subjects discussed in the workshop meetings.

The Program builds the following capacities and skills using lectures, meetings, discussions and tours:

- Task 1: Environmental management (legislation, enforcement, financing etc.).
- Task 2: Solid waste management (collection, land-filling, biological degradation, recycling etc.).
- Task 3: Wastewater treatment (collection, treatment, disposal, recycling, project financing, etc.).
- Task 4: Agriculture and irrigation in environmental management.
- Task 5: Environmental planning (environmental considerations in urban and rural design, natural resources management etc.).

Phase 2: The participants will address which environmental issues have priority in their own communities and develop specific plans of action to resolve these issues.

Length: Two 5-day Workshops / Course Programs during second and third months.

In Phase 2, Workshop 2, participants will also review the most updated literature and knowledge related to education and separation of solid waste in urban and rural areas, and gain a deeper understanding of management practices at the TAEQ. Methods of collection and composting will be presented with evaluation of studies in that respect to acquire independent and advanced capacities. This will provide participants with additional skills enhancement to improve their environmental services provision.

In Phase 2, Workshop 3, in order to facilitate the process of collaborative planning, the participants will be required to take part in discussions and presentations at TAEQ on improving knowledge of environmental management. CED and TAEQ will coordinate the follow-up workshops with the MoLG to select the most appropriate participants.

This phase shall include training in project management including time, financial, cost benefit analysis models and the development of appropriate models for operations of activities and budgeting management. Thus the participants will be equipped with the technical tools for advancing projects in their communities.

Phase 3: Aspects of cooperation and the environment by identifying common, practical areas of mutual interest to both parties. This includes discussions on changing modes of interactions among Palestinians and Israelis, and methods to develop functional joint and differential action plans.

Length: Two 5-day Workshops / Course Programs during fourth and fifth months.

This phase will focus on planning for separation, collection and composting of biodegradable solid waste. The optimum objective of the program will be the achievement of joint action plans for the treatment of different aspects related to biodegradable solid waste.

In Phase 3, in both Workshops 4 and 5, the participants shall be required to identify, develop and evaluate potential options for regulating and managing action plans aimed to reduce the impact of biodegradable solid waste on the environment. Examples could include: education and facilitation of awareness, examination of alternatives for joint collection, processing, composting of urban and agricultural waste and other relevant alternatives. The participants will establish a network to mutually support the sustainability of their cooperation.

9. Intended Outcomes / Beneficiaries / Evaluation:

Intended Outcome: Improvements in human resource capabilities and the provision of environmental services to Palestinian communities. The course is intended to transfer professional know-how in the field of environmental management to participants from the Palestinian Authority working in closely related fields. The transferred know-how is based upon the practical and theoretical knowledge acquired in a towns association operating in an Arab sector of Israel.

The participants will be able to apply their knowledge learned of how towns associations provide environmental services to their own communities. It is intended that participants will be able to demonstrate to their own communities through public awareness and environmental education programs how environmental districts or Joint Councils work on their behalf, and why such associations are an important tool to help improve the quality of life in their communities. Participants will gain enhanced capacity to apply best practices in environmental planning, services, and project management.

This exchange program will also establish mutual understanding and empathy between the Israeli and Palestinian participants. This will prepare the participants for a joint examination of common interests.

Who will benefit? The direct beneficiaries will be the participants and environmental authorities / offices where they are employed, which will receive knowledge of best practices in environmental management. The final beneficiaries will be the citizens served by the environmental offices of the participants. Citizens will enjoy the social and public health improvements obtained from environmental and waste management programs.

The intermediary beneficiaries are environmental organizations, environmental education systems, and others responsible for the development and implementation of environmental programs. Agricultural and tourism related businesses would also benefit. A healthier environment enhances the marketing of agricultural production and facilitates tourism, both of which could provide greater economic, social and public health benefits to the community through enlarged revenues.

How will progress be evaluated? During each course and at its end the participants will answer questionnaires to gauge satisfaction of technical and administrative aspects of the course.

On-going connections with the participants will be maintained after each course. Six (6) months after returning to their offices, participants will be asked to respond to another questionnaire in which practical application of knowledge gained will be assessed. CED will also follow up with each participant at the end of each workshop to determine how to better support specific environmental projects in their communities.

10. Approximate cost of this activity (cash, in-kind, and third party sources):

Applicant's resources = \$ 25,000 (in-kind from CED USA)
Third party resources = \$ (N/A)
U.S. Consulate General = \$ 36,250 (refer to itemized budget request)
Total Estimated Cost = \$ 61,250

CED requests \$36,250 from the US Consulate General, Jerusalem to complete this program activity.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____

Jeffrey Behr, Chief Executive Officer
Center for Environmental Diplomacy

Timeline: Projected start date of Phase 1 / Workshop 1: December 12 ~ 16, 2005

Activity / Task	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5
PHASE 1	WS 1				
PHASE 2		WS 2			
			WS 3		
PHASE 3				WS 4	
					WS 5

Itemized Budget Estimate

Projected budget of \$7,250 per workshop / course program to conduct the following:

Item	Details	Cost \$USD
Lecturers	5 days x 5 hours x \$100/hour (includes travel, preparation time)	2,500
Logistics / Transportation	To / from TAEQ Educational Center and to / from site visits and professional tours (5 days x \$250 / day)	1,250
Lodging	5 persons x 5 days x \$75 / night	1,875
Meals / drinks	5 persons x 5 days x \$45 / day	1,125
Materials	Preparation, distribution of technical & scientific printed course materials, multimedia (DVD / CDs)	500
TOTAL		\$7,250 USD

PROGRAM	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
8:00 ~ 8:50	Travel	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00 ~ 10:15		Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture
10:30 ~ 12:00		Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Evaluation
12:15 ~ 1:15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30 ~ 5:30	Intro & TAEQ Overview	On-Site Training Lecture	On-Site Training Lecture	On-Site Training Lecture	Travel
6:00 ~ 7:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
7:00 ~ 9:00	Open discussion	Presentation	Presentation	Presentation	

A detailed daily list of the lectures, discussions and tours is available upon request.

TAEQ, established in 1992, has accumulated significant practical experience and knowledge in environmental management, education, legislation and regulatory enforcement, reduce-reuse-recycling principles, waste and wastewater management, agriculture (both organic and conventional) and industrial wastes management. Much theoretical and practical knowledge had also been acquired in the subjects of sustainable development and environmental conflict resolution.