

## CED Launches New Washington Office

The Center for Environmental Diplomacy has expanded its operations in the US by launching a new HQ in Washington, DC.

CED's CEO Jeff Behr repatriated recently from Japan to lead the initiative in the US Capitol. During his tenure in Tokyo, CED began projects with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). CED also partnered with a Japanese NGO to fund projects with Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians. This strategic alliance, known as the Tri-lateral Environmental Peace Plan (TEPP), has begun work to establish Environmental Services Districts in the West Bank and Gaza.

CED's focus in Washington is to generate broader US support for the TEPP, and to advance funding of environmental and educational programs that benefit both

Palestinian and Israeli communities. This approach is already endorsed by experts in the region, including those in government, industry and civil society.

CED conducts environmental projects in two sectors. Working with teachers and students, CED's Youth Empowerment Program builds knowledge, skills, and an environmental ethic that enhances the capacity of youth to contribute to society.

CED also conducts training workshops and seminars on best practices in environmental management. This program, Environmental Capacity Development, brings Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian experts together, for knowledge sharing and leadership development in the fields of environmental management and technical services.

CED will concentrate on advancing support for these two programs in Washington.



CED's CEO Jeff Behr relocated to Washington, DC on May 18, 2006 to advance the TEPP initiative in the US Capitol. CED is located at 1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW.



## Environment and Security in Practice at CED Workshop

While the CED program *Empowering Youth as Environmental Stewards* is under-way, northern Israeli towns are being hit by rockets fired from Hezbollah forces inside Lebanon. Israeli forces are also engaged in Gaza to the south where Hamas kidnapped an Israeli soldier to swap for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa has said, "The Middle East peace process is dead". But CED's Tri-lateral Environmental Peace Plan (TEPP) is not. In fact, CED is working while the conflict wreaks havoc on the environment.

CED and its partner, The Towns Association for Environmental Quality, of Sakhnin, Israel, decided to go ahead and conduct their Environmental Stewards Youth Program in Bethlehem. Sakhnin, located in northern Israel, is near where Hezbollah's rockets are landing from just over the border in Lebanon.

CED and the US Consulate, Public Affairs Office, Jerusalem, which is part of the State Department, are funding this workshop for Palestinian youth in Bethlehem.

In addition to participating in activities that change behavior for a cleaner community and sustainable environment, the youth will enjoy learning from Taha Rassam Culhane, Director/Advisor, Urban Planning, Regional and International Development at UCLA. Mr. Culhane works with educators from American University in Cairo and with Palestinian musical artists to teach about the environment and resource conservation.

Other than working with CED, the U.S. State Department's Cultural Affairs Office has conducted programs in international schools throughout the Middle East, most recently at the American International School in Kuwait, to help foster environmental literacy through edutainment and creativity.

### Conflict Devastates the Environment



CED's Workshop on *Empowering Youth as Environmental Stewards* was conducted in Bethlehem just south of Jerusalem, during the political crisis and war.

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# CEO REPORT

**CED Focuses On  
Pollution, Not Politics**



**Jeff Behr, CED CEO**

As I write this from the CED office in Washington, riots are raging in the West Bank and Gaza between the major Palestinian factions of Hamas and Fatah. As violent clashes near the parliament buildings in Ramallah erupt, I pick up the phone and reach Musa Awad, our Palestinian Director while he is leaving the PNA legislative building.

With shots ricocheting, Musa shouts over the violence, *“It can happen any day, any minute without notice. The situation is becoming very dangerous but we are still surviving, taking care of our activities. CED is here, moving ahead!”*

Despite the obstacles, CED continues work everyday to fulfill its mission: to set up Environmental Districts that address the most critical environmental management, sanitation and public health problems.

CED focuses on **pollution – not politics**. This concept is being advanced by CED’s Trilateral Environmental Peace Program (TEPP), a means for Palestinians and Israelis to clean up their environment, now severely devastated by the conflict in the region.

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## Palestinian Councils Adopt CED Framework

### Joint Councils Prepare Environmental Framework

Palestinian Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) and its main department for providing environmental services has selected CED as a preferred partner in an effort to establish Environmental Districts throughout the West Bank and Gaza.



**MoLG Minister Issa Al Ja'bari (second R) and Fawwaz Rabayaa' Head of Public Relations (R) welcome CED Director Awad (L) and DJC Director Hemeid (second L) to the leadership workshop on environmental districts.**

The MoLG has mandated the Department of Joint Councils (DJC) with the task of providing services, planning and development support to municipalities and villages in the West Bank and Gaza. The DJC oversees non-environmental related services, such as roads also. Due to this broad charter, the DJC General Director Kamel Hemeid has enlisted the support of CED to provide environmental management and planning services, in an advisory capacity.

### CED = Environmental Leadership

CED has taken up this assignment and is coordinating executive education courses for the Joint Councils leadership. Primarily this involves workshops in best practices to facilitate knowledge sharing with environmental experts and to create local environmental district-associations.

Progress for the DJC is being seen through the CED joint workshops with the Towns Association for Environmental Quality (TAEQ) of Sakhnin, Israel. This trans-boundary cooperation is part of the CED Trilateral Environmental Peace Plan, which is expecting funding this year from the EU Partnership for Peace Programme, as well as other donor support. CED has completed two environmental courses for

the DJC, one in Sakhnin and one in Ramallah, for Palestinian Joint Councils and other municipal leaders. The program provided an opportunity for Palestinian participants to learn about complementary relationships and environmental services at the TAEQ. The course covered financial and technical management, and how to apply the knowledge gained at TAEQ to the Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinian participants also learned about relevant environmental management practices from their neighbor in Israel, which has similar environmental conditions and resources.

### Time to Create Environmental Service Districts

Palestinians have an urgent need to improve their environment and to reduce the impact of waste on their environment, by ensuring that waste is treated in an appropriate manner. The approach being considered now is to replicate Israel’s TAEQ model in the West Bank and Gaza under management of the DJC and the Joint Councils in their respective districts.



**TAEQ Director Tarabeah lectures on the role of Environmental Districts in providing sanitation services and education to the community.**

CED and TAEQ have been requested to share their experience and advise the DJC on environmental management, education, legislation and regulatory enforcement, to establish a center like TAEQ in Bethlehem and Jericho also. The DJC objective is to establish Environmental Districts – and centers to foster not only sustainable development but also environmental conflict resolution – where issues can be discussed openly among Israelis and Palestinians.

CED, TAEQ and the DJC share the goal to foster solutions to eliminating pollution.

# CED's TEPP Advances Environmental Service Districts

The Tri-lateral Environmental Peace Plan (TEPP) is a regional initiative begun by the Center for Environmental Diplomacy, which has taken root among Israeli and Palestinian environmental organizations.

Among those active with CED are The Towns Association for Environmental Quality (TAEQ) located in Sakhnin, Israel and the Palestinian Department of Joint Councils (DJC), whose headquarters are in Bethlehem.

CED and TAEQ have joined hands with other Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian NGOs to help build local Environmental Services Districts (ESD) in Palestinian communities throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

The ESDs provide wastewater and solid waste management

services to the community, as well as educational programs to facilitate understanding of the need for these services that protect public health.

Currently CED and TAEQ are leading the TEPP initiative through a series of workshops that includes expert lecturers from Jordan. The DJC encourages learning from regional experts to foster understanding and reconciliation among its neighbors.



Drawing of an Environmental Center for Bethlehem District. The TEPP initiative will build centers in each Palestinian district in the West Bank and Gaza. The centers will employ experts in environmental education and sanitation services.

Towns Association for Environmental Quality  
Agan Beit Natofa

אגוד ערים  
אגן בית נתופה



The Towns Association for Environmental Quality is dedicated to increasing public awareness of environmental issues and increasing community involvement.

اتحاد مدن  
حوض البطوف



Read more at:  
<http://www.taeq.org>  
&  
<http://cedsite.org>

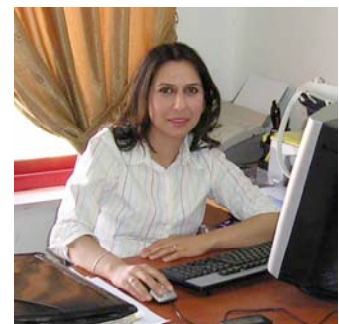
## Wijdan Al-Sharif Joins CED as Bethlehem Office Manager

Wijdan is a civil engineer with public sector and private industry experience. She has broad experience working in the international aid sector as well as with the Palestinian government.

Wijdan earned her bachelor's in civil engineering from Birzeit University and is currently completing coursework for an MBA also from Birzeit. Her expertise covers a wide range of responsibilities including implementation of engineering projects, supervising construction projects and contributing to building designs.

Before joining CED, Wijdan supervised youth programs and managed urban development projects. These skills add strength to CED's programs on improving environmental management practices and preparing youth for leadership roles in environmental fields.

As manager of CED Bethlehem, Wijdan advises local government and NGOs how to set up and operate Environmental Services Districts (ESDs). ESDs are a proven framework for providing environmental services to communities.



Wijdan Ahmad Ali Al-Sharif  
New CED Bethlehem Manager

## CED Co-Authors Enviro-Security Action Guide

CED in association with the Institute for Environmental Security of The Hague, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, published in June 2006 the First Edition of The Inventory of Environment and Security Policies and Practices (IESPP) Report.

The IESPP report provides an easy to use comparative overview of existing governmental and inter-governmental positions and actions dealing with the relationship between environment, security and sustainable development.

Focusing on selected OECD Member States and several EU Member States, the report describes the environment and security policies and practices of 13 countries as well as 7 international and inter-governmental organizations.

The report illustrates how governments have addressed their stated environmental security priorities through various policies, programs and projects. Detailed information and resources are compiled in the Enviro-Security Action Guide, an online database tool, to be released in the coming weeks.



## CED Advises Palestinian Joint Council Leaders

The Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) Department of Joint Councils (DJC) wants to build Environmental Service Districts in each West Bank and Gaza governorate.

The DJC recently selected CED to improve coordination between the Joint Councils by providing leadership training and executive management workshops in environmental fields.

The program's initial goals are to develop executive leaders and technical management for solid waste facilities at each Environmental District.

CED and its Israeli partner the Towns Association for Environmental Quality (TAEQ), which operates a world-class facility in Sakhnin, Israel, will collaborate with the DJC to establish similar facilities throughout the West Bank and Gaza.



DJC Director Hemeid (seated 3<sup>rd</sup> from L), CED Director Awad (seated 3<sup>rd</sup> from R) with Palestinian Joint Councils leaders and TAEQ Director Dr. Tarabeah (lower R) established TAEQ in Sakhnin, Israel to provide wastewater and solid waste management services to six communities.

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## CEO REPORT

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As this political and economic crisis persists, the environmental situation has only worsened.

CED and TEPP remain a hope for Palestinians and Israelis willing to work together to protect their environment and public health. This is especially important given that the US, EU and other government donors have suspended funding to Palestinian communities. Outside support is needed more than ever at this time.

CED is looking for a strategic partner to share this important mission of bridge-building while saving the environment. CED welcomes support, advice and feedback.

Visit CED's website to view our documentaries and read recent reports on our Environmental Leadership and Youth Development programs.

[www.cedsite.org](http://www.cedsite.org)

## Industry News

The DC Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is losing Garrett Grigsby, who served as its director at USAID for the past year. Mr. Grigsby has transitioned into the private sector, and is working with the Russ Reid Company. He can be reached at (202) 912-8600 or [ggrigsby@russreid.com](mailto:ggrigsby@russreid.com).

American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP) president Dr. Ziad Asali recently appeared on BBC Television to discuss news of an accord apparently having been reached between Hamas and Fatah on the

"Prisoner's Document". Dr. Ziad also explained how the escalating Israeli-Palestinian violence affects American policy and funding in the region.

### Official Warning



Dr. Yousuf Abu Safiya, Head of Palestinian Environmental Quality Authority (EQA), warned of environmental disaster at a recent International Press Conference attended by NGOs, government and local community members in Ramallah.

The World Bank recently announced a program to aid Palestinian NGOs. While still in the planning stages World Bank engineer Ibrahim Dajani estimates the total project cost at US\$ 6,000,000. Palestinian NGO Project III will support NGOs to improve social services in poor communities.

World Bank projects that by the end of 2006 with existing aid cuts, average Palestinian income would decrease by 30%, unemployment would increase by 40%, and poverty levels would climb from 44% last year to 67%.

Ilan Nissim, Director of Solid Waste Management at Israel's Environment Ministry alerted that cutting off funding for projects in the West Bank and Gaza will harm Israel and the region because "pollution knows no boundaries".

## About Our Organization...

The Center for Environmental Diplomacy (CED) is based in the USA with affiliated offices in Israel (CED Israel), the Palestinian Authority (CED Palestine) and associate organizations in Jordan (Friends of the Earth Middle East) and Japan (Asia-Pacific Coalition for Environment). The CED alliance is comprised of U.S., Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian and Japanese NGOs working to advance regional cooperation in the environmental field.