

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

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UNDP and CCET to Launch Workshop Series on Early Learning Challenges

Kuwait City, 4th March 2007— In pursuit of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of strengthening universal primary education, the “Early Learning Challenges Programme” was initiated by UNDP as one of its projects under the Second Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) which is funded by the State of Kuwait (represented by the Ministry of Planning). The project aims to address shortcomings in the area of early childhood learning, and to promote inclusion of children with special needs, especially learning disabilities.

Under the “Early Learning Challenges Programme”, UNDP in partnership with the Centre for Child Evaluation and Teaching (CCET), a non-profit Kuwaiti NGO established in 1984, will conduct a series of six workshops for early childhood learning practitioners in Kuwait. The workshops will cover topics that respond to the pressing needs of the community of early childhood learning educators and caregivers in Kuwait, especially where there is a lack of locally available expertise and where knowledge is not readily available. Furthermore, they will be conducted using a “training of trainers” approach. Therefore, the subject matter and workshop material will be presented in a way that will enable the participants to transfer the knowledge, skills and practices learned to their staff and colleagues in their respective institutions, thereby contributing towards UNDP’s strategic goal of building capacity at national institutions.

A number of select experts from the Programme for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC) in the State of California in the United States, as well as experts affiliated with the “Inclusion Quality Mark” (IQM) scheme in the United Kingdom, have been selected to deliver these workshops. In addition to lectures and presentations, the workshops will also include hands-on technical assistance aimed at maximizing the transmission of workshop concepts and strategies into practice. Participants and trainers will have the opportunity to explore issues specific to each child care environment.

The first workshop in the series is scheduled to start on the 10th of March 2007.

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For general enquiries, please contact Mr Mowwafaq Al Manabri at CCET on 53 53 681/2.

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UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.