



Mediterranean Center for Sustainable Development Programs

مركز البحر المتوسط لبرامج التنمية المستدامة

Dear Friends,

During 2007 we shared hundreds of first-time experiences with the young people who visited Kan Yama Kan village with their schools, with the scouts, or during our summer camp. For some, it was the first time to feed a horse, play with a fox, be responsible for taking care of their own room or see the Nile outside of Cairo; others learned about global warming, hunted for fossils, cooked food in a solar oven or tested building materials to discover how color affects heat retention. Boys and girls discovered that they didn't need PlayStation or Gameboy to have fun; that working in teams to accomplish a task is difficult, but rewarding; that following the rules gives everyone the same chance to succeed; and that thinking globally and acting locally can lead to a more sustainable future for Egyptians and the entire planet.

We were inspired by their quest for knowledge and interest in the world beyond their borders. We felt rewarded when we saw a breakthrough in understanding or tolerance or the acceptance of someone who didn't quite "fit the mold". We were encouraged by the smiles on the faces of orphans and students who shared an experience together despite differences in culture and language. Each group that comes to the center teaches us something new, and reinforces our commitment to offering an outdoor education program that extends classroom learning, broadens horizons, and is unique in Egypt and throughout the region.

Between January and December 2007, we developed and implemented more than 20 different programs for students from British, American, Canadian, Egyptian and alternative schools between the ages of seven and 17, who represented more than 15 countries. We held our second annual summer camp and attracted young people from Mexico, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain, Egypt and the United States.

The end of the year always affords the opportunity to take stock of what we have accomplished and where we are headed. Like the chameleons who have miraculously found their way to our desert haven, we are simultaneously studying the past as we plan for the future. As a result we have reassessed our mission and redefined our vision.

Our vision is to become a regional living laboratory that inspires, informs and involves youth and their educational mentors to engage in learning about and applying sustainable development principles and practices locally and globally in their daily lives. The Mediterranean Center for Sustainable Development Programs will become a focal point for schools and communities to bring youth together and motivate them to increase their awareness of the root causes and impacts of global warming and climate change, and build their capacities to take action.

We would like to thank our valued partners and friends: El Alsson British and American International Schools, the Modern English School, the Canadian International School in Cairo, Green Valley School, Cairo American College, the British School in Cairo, Desert's

Edge, and the American Girl Scouts Lone Troop Overseas. Looking ahead to 2008, we are excited about welcoming the Modern Education School, the American International School, and the Cairo American College high school Green Team to our program. Our goal in the New Year is to continue to expand our program, to host more youth and their adult mentors, to launch a climate change awareness program within the schools by providing free presentations to high school and senior school science and/or geography classes, and to help schools initiate environmental clubs or "green teams" in their schools.

We are fortunate to be working side by side with dozens of creative, energetic and enthusiastic teachers and administrators at some of Egypt's most forward-thinking schools. This has inspired us to plan a Teachers' Workshop to be held in the spring. Stay tuned as the vision and plan develop; and if you are interested in having Dr. Adly share his climate change and global warming presentation with any of your classes, please contact us.

In the next few days we will be posting some of our most valued memories from 2007 on our website. We hope you enjoy them, and please, if you have friends and colleagues at other Cairo area school who you think would be interested in our program, please put in a good word for us, pass along our contact information and encourage them to give us a call.

All the best in the New Year,



Dr. Adly M. Hassanein