



Press Release

IT 4 Kids Helping Youth Cope at a Time of Crisis

Jerusalem, 14th January 2003— in their attempt to help children cope at this time of crisis, the United Nations Development Programme / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People UNDP/PAPP held a “Child Creativity” convention at the Jenin Municipality hall on the 8th of January 2003 in cooperation with the Jenin SHAREK center. SHAREK (Participate) is a unique, community based youth participation and development programme funded by the Swiss Government and implemented by (UNDP/PAPP) in cooperation with government municipalities and local NGO's.

The convention was attended by Mr. Waleed Abu Moues, Mayor of Jenin, Mr. Tetsuya Mizutani, Representative of the Government of Japan, Mr. Hasan Dowani, representing UNDP, as well as other local, legislative, educational, youth, sport institutes and families of participating children. The convention marked the end of a training workshop of around 150 children, aged between 10-14, on graphic design programmes such as Front Page, Power Point and Paint.

“It is very important to give special attention to the children and youth of Palestine who make around 50% of the population. We have to create a suitable, safe, and healthy environment in which they can express their hopes and feelings and develop their skills”. Mr. Waleed Abu Moues, Mayor of Jenin stated.

Mr. Mizutani, thanked Jenin Municipality and reassured them of his government's continuing support to the Palestinian people and stated that the Government of Japan is currently funding a training programme where representatives of 20 youth organizations will receive training on Web Design for a period of 8 months.



“It is good to see that the youth SHAREK center in Jenin is offering a variety of programmes to help develop a new generation with a better future to look forward to. The success of the programme is due to the continuous support of the municipality and the community at large to children and youth”. Mr. Hassan Dowani, UNDP's youth programme manager stated.

The project, initiated June 2002, is part of a partnership programme between the UNDP, Jenin municipality, the UNV Programme and funded by the Government of Japan. It aims at encouraging children to redirect their energies and utilize IT as a mean of development and creativity.

For more information, please contact Ehab Shanti or Dania Darwish by tel. at 972-2-6268229 or by email at: ehab.shanti@undp.org or visit our website at www.papp.undp.org