



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP *on*
CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT

50 million people in the Arab World have been affected by climate change in the last 30 years, including 500,000 hit by flash floods, according to a new report by the World Bank, “Adaptation to a changing climate in the Arab countries : a case for adaptation governance and leadership in building climate resilience”. Read information that can help development actors find solutions [in the full publication](#).

Also in this month’s newsletter, learn about upcoming RPCD events and webinars, register for a free online course on development and evaluation, and learn more about the latest and cutting edge research products in the MENA region. Don't forget to send us your updates for inclusion in the next newsletter!

POWERING AGRICULTURE:
AN ENERGY GRAND CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with the Government of Sweden, Duke Energy, USDA, OPIC, and AfDB has launched Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development (PAEGC). The PAEGC program offers more than \$20 million to fund market-based clean energy innovations for farmers and agri-businesses, in order to improve access to clean energy and support economic growth in developing countries. To learn more about the grant and how to apply, please visit: www.PoweringAg.org

Research Highlights



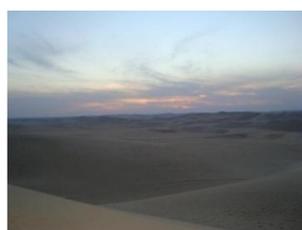
[Predictors of Aggression among Palestinians in Israel and Gaza: Happiness, Need to Belong, and Self-control](#)

Drawing on a sample of 292 Israeli-Palestinian Arab adolescents and 398 Gazan-Palestinian Arab adolescents, this paper examines factors that influence peer-directed aggression among the Palestinian youth. It indicates similar aggression rates among the two groups, but the Israeli-Palestinians show higher self-control, higher happiness, and higher need for belonging than Gazan youth. It is suggested that these differences can be explained by variances in sex, culture and life conditions. This paper is to be published by January 2013 in the Children and Youth Services Review. [Click here for more publications on Youth Engagement and Development](#)



[The Politics of Philanthropy: Sociopolitical Transitions and Shifts in Philanthropic Practices in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia](#)

This paper examines the philanthropic landscape in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia in the light of the sociopolitical changes produced by the uprisings that swept the three nations. It discovers areas where both institutional and informal philanthropy incurred significant shifts as a result of the upheavals that took place. Soon to be published in the Journal of the Academy of Philanthropy, this paper will be useful for civil society activists and policy-makers not only in the studied countries but also in countries of the region who are facing similar transitions. [Click here for more publications on Democracy and Governance](#)



[Water on Sand: Environmental Histories of the Middle East and North Africa](#)

Published by Oxford University Press, this book is the first holistic environmental history of the MENA region extending from Morocco to Iran. It aims to demonstrate the intimate connections between human communities and their environments and explores the way human-nature interfaces in the MENA region have shaped its political, economic and social history. The chapters show that nearly all political powers in the region have relied on the control of natural resources to fortify their rule. This volume is an important read for environmental experts, researchers and natural resource managers. The editor, Alan Mikhail, is an assistant professor in the Department of History at Yale University. [Click here for more publications on Natural Resource Management](#)

Recent RPCD and Research News

Democratic Transition in Morocco: Live Roundtables on Fondation Abderahim Bouabaid’s WEB TV

PF member Fondation Abderahim Bouabid has launched a series of live and interactive expert roundtables on its WEB TV, where main the political, economic and social challenges to Morocco's democratic transition are discussed and analyzed. You can access the recordings of this roundtable online at www.fabtv.ma.

National Workshop

RPCD gave a National Workshop on Qualitative Research Methods in Cairo from December 12-13, 2012. The goal of the workshop was to improve participants’ knowledge of participatory research approaches and analysis techniques. The workshop was led by Professor Pandeli Michel Glavanis, the Associate Director of the Centre for Learning and Teaching at the American University in Cairo.

Upcoming Events

The 2nd Arab Water Week.

- January 27-29, 2013 in Amman, Jordan

In just a few weeks the RPCD will be participating in Arab Water Week. The conference will be preceded on the 26th of January by a special workshop on "Improving the Adaptive Capacity of Water Managers in the MENA Region," organized by RPCD, that will gather Partnership Forum members and other water and climate change experts in the region.

Seminar: Translating Jihadis’ Writings (Centre Jacques Bercque)

- January 15th, 2013, Rabat, Morocco.

Conducted by Mr. Jean-Pierre Milelli, this seminar will discuss his works and particularly his translations of Jihadis’ writings from Arabic to French. Mr. Milelli will tackle the sensitive issue of how these translated texts relate to the Muslim tradition, and to what extent they attract new adepts of global jihad.

AWC’s General Assembly

The Arab Water Council has postponed its General Assembly meeting which was planned to take place in December in Cairo, Egypt. The new date will be announced soon.



Research Tips

Qualitative and quantitative research can both offer useful insights if used appropriately. To better understand the distinction between them and their comparative advantages you can refer to the recently published book “[Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches](#)” by H. Russell Bernard, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Florida. The book was published in March 2012.