

Futurist young Arab change makers impress in Beirut

By: Nadia Shabir

Global changemakers (GCM) is supported by British Council (BC) and works towards building skills and experiences of young activists aged 16-25. One of British Council's most significant and rapidly growing programs, in 3 years GCM has become a growing phenomenon in Middle East and North African countries.



All GCM efforts begin at the local, grassroots level, with activists addressing their society's social needs while promoting national and international understanding through a framework of networking

and services. The GCM promotes excellence in the voluntary work, social development, entrepreneurship and encourages activists to use innovative and creative ways of working to bring a positive change to their communities. Young activists have played a key part in making GCM a worldwide success. This year GCM took place in the internationally celebrated city of Beirut from March 22-25. GCM program has been moving across the MENA region, thus promoting tourism, building positive civics and exposing its participants to

different Arab cultures and heritages.

GCM & participants

Motto: Arab Youth, regional voice- Global impact

GCM encourages its participants to make a real difference on the issues they care about and helps them to become future leaders. Through workshops activists learn that most significant way to make local and national change is by young people stepping up and voicing their concerns and issues.



GCM Bahrain

CORAL SUITES AL HAMRA



A change can be reached if activists and social entrepreneurs work together and act collectively. This year 120 young activists participated in the summit from all across the Gulf and North African region: Kuwait, Bahrain, Morocco, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Palestine and Oman.

The interactive workshop comprised of sessions in global skills and regional advocacy. Overall objective was to empower, build the knowledge skills and

confidence of the young participants. Second objective of the conference was to build on current project work and enable young advocates to play an active role in representing Arab youth, strengthening networks and raising awareness of the targeted issues at local and regional level.

GCM recognition of outstanding projects- the way forward

GCM is working with people who want to be leaders and use their idiosyncratic experiences,

backgrounds and projects to change things. These development skills aim not only towards making young people more effective and responsible leaders but also teaches them how to develop and run sustainable projects through ongoing support, skills and build consensus among change makers.

Following GCM/MENA project works teaches us about profound change, that people are taking a stance to make a difference in a world with blunt precision.

Kuwait

GCM Kuwait has been very active in lobbying with policy makers for equal rights of migrant workers from developing countries. Their project plan is impressive in its knowledge and ambition to work around the migrant issues, obstacles, to get the things they believe in accomplished. These bands of concerned volunteers are aiming at not just raising the profile of migrant workers, but also to gain a influence so that the concerns of similar civic minded groups will get a better hearing

GCM Bahrain



GCM Egypt be
the change



from policy makers and authorities in general.

Egypt

On other hand, Egypt is focused on successful youth participation under the project name 'being an added value' and has been successful in getting young Egyptians to share their vision. They have skills and knowledge required to achieve their project goals and an ability to spark the imagination with a compelling vision of a worthwhile end.

Morocco

GCM Morocco's project style is

based on being affiliative, combines elements of democracy and aims towards encouraging youth to make decisions effectively. They were able to motivate and inspire audiences internal and external to organisation and further build on their goals to achieve their project vision. Their commitment to the goals, and thus to the vision, is made obvious by both their actions and their repeated commitment of what must be done.

Tunisia

Another outstanding project comes out of Tunisia- a brilliant design

that integrates the learning component of education with occupational skills. This type of design provides the greatest opportunities for success by coordinating services to the participant by enhancing young people's professional development by providing practical advice on entering the business world and on overcoming vocational challenges.

Bahrain

For a lot of people, helping to make positive change in global mindsets is ambitious goal and taking action is not something they can do.

Bahraini change makers take that initial impulse and help youth discover ways to clarify their objectives. Impressive is their project 'stop, think and develop'. Aim is to encourage young people to value their time, work together on voluntary basis in order to effect civic and social change.

Young Inspiring Changemakers

Sarah Boumechoui, a young changemaker with core qualities: character, vision, behavior and confidence.

Morocco cultural celebration





Sarah Boumechoui 20 years old from Morocco is a future Computer Engineer. A young and dynamic Sarah has worked as an Editor in the educational web site 9rayti.com and is now working as a developer in the same web site.

Her experiences varies from being a peer educator (HIV/STI) to a member of the social Club of her school that organizes many social events such as medical companies and visits to people in need (rest house, safeguarding children,...)



Moreover, she's a member of FSF Club (Formation sans frontières = Training without Borders) that does extra hours to children in need and help them with their studies. Her passion for guitar and writing in addition to drawing for the Palestinian cause makes her look at life like a sort of battle, that she have to win to reach her goals and change her world. One of the reasons that encourage her to join the Global ChangeMakers.

Her implication in the GCM program started last summer at

the GCM/MENA summit in Jordan and with greater outcomes, GCM Morocco was born. A theme to work on was selected: "Implication of youth in decision making in local communities", a very important subject for the country that has 9 million youth that it doesn't want to forget!

Since July 2009, the program has achieved new heights with an expanding network of 40 activists from different parts of the country and different NGO's. Moroccan group of young changemakers is





being trained directly by the BC, thus equipping them with skills, goal setting styles to work with other young people in their cities and to build coalitions on agreed themes and create consensus.

Media in morocco has taken a keen interest in the subject and has swiftly covered all the GCM trainings with the BC. Local media has also been active participant in this change making mission by

conducting interviews and giving much needed coverage.

"My experience with the GCM gave me more strength and self-confidence to believe that I can change the world, I always say that if I change my world and each one of us changes his world then we can change the whole world, that's what the GCM program is about, giving birth to a new world, a world of difference. Meeting 140

people from 14 different countries is the best experience you can have, to communicate with people of different societies, meet their needs, exchange information ... This is a pure personal development. Thank you BC "

Consecrated Quest- Moon-Ray

Noor al-Derazi and Asma Darwish young Bahraini changemakers of Moon-ray organisation led the way at the summit with their notable

charismatic personalities, motivation, assertiveness and positive attitudes.

Bahraini group acted ethically, consistently and with integrity when communicating values and representing group views to wider audience.

Product of Bahraini youth, infused with humility, humour and based on expectancy theory. Moon-Ray is a collective of passionate and youthful energies

GCM participants





who together have formed a humanitarian voluntary group. We devote our capabilities for the sake of enhancing the community to create a one world family. Additionally, we believe that each and every individual carries massive amount of potentials that can be used to improve our world.

In the near future, we want to be able to stand proudly and say: Moon Ray was one of the tools

that made this enormous improvement achievable.

5 founding individuals of the Moon-Ray are: Noor Al-Derazi, Muneera Bu-Rashid, Asma Darwish, Maryam Baqer and Afaf Al-Satrawi. Current core members are: Asma Darwish, Afaf Al-Satrawi, Maryam Baqer, Roya Tariq and Noor Al-Derazi. These members are team builders working to produce great results as evident by the success

of organisation their relation with their members is widespread and strong.

Moon- Rays Vision is to create a one world family; mission to transform the theoretical values into practical ones. Our values- they are Moon-Ray's fundamental foundation, soul and image 'IPUATION' an expression we use to represent our values and it stands for the following:

Integrity, Positivity
Unity, Appreciation, Tolerance
Innovation, Opportunity
New generation

GCM cultural celebration

A community of special celebrations - young participants created a display of artefacts representing unique heritage of their countries. At cultural program and celebration dinner participants attired in their national costumes thus cultivating team spirit and a positive attitude through presentation of folk songs and cultural programs. With a chant of "Wahdi Wahdi Wahdi", meaning one, one, one, Bahraini group continued to dominate the summit with their passion, spirit and strength.



GCM Young participants



Futuristic approach

Simply put, these young change makers have skills and attributes of successful future leaders. There is little doubt that they can lead change and have the ability to influence greater outcomes. Indeed, GCM/MENA participants are transformational change makers as they work together in a manner that authorities have been unable to. These groups have demonstrated the skills to engage positively and empathetically with the community to learn understand

and act upon issues of concern. It was encouraging to see different countries taking a long term view in building partnership and relationships by making others feel valued. Young change makers at summit are a believer of the latter. Their enthusiasm, spirit radiates the difference they seek to create in their society. Future leaders must know where they came from and how they connect with that place. By keeping up with modern changes and campaigns, these future leaders can create motivation to make these shifts

Sarah Morrocco



happen.

To be a part of this network, visit
GCM website:

www.global-changemakers.net

or facebook page Moon-Ray to
connect with Bahrain youth and
those involved in making change.

Morocco at cultural celebration

