

Believing in Advocacy...

Advocacy is the act of arguing on behalf of a particular issue, idea or person. Individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments (even at the level of the United Nations) can engage in advocacy.

An example of advocating for a particular issue is attempting to persuade others of the importance of implementing any UN Security Council resolution. Advocating for an idea can include a wide range of subjects as broad as social justice.

For example, someone can engage in environmental advocacy, which can include writing letters to editors, contacting political representatives, organizing community meetings, distributing public education materials, participating in a public protest, or other means to communicate one's views for the purpose of policy and social change. An example of advocacy on behalf of a person includes international campaigns to release a prisoner from detention.

The different types of advocacy can include human rights, customer advocacy, animal rights, youth rights, education reform, civil rights and environment rights. [Cont...](#)

The Environmental Court Model... The Environmental Struggle



Whenever it is recognized that the earth's heat is increasing, many people consider it a usual thing, but just a few know that it is due to the "Green House Effect".

Just a few know that after less than a decade, the amount of water that we have may not be enough for all of us. Some people may consider this a lack of knowledge, but we (Ziad Sha'ban and Mohammad Al-Jundi) consider it a sign that our environmental situation will get worse unless we do something to increase people's awareness on issues related to pollution which we face in Jordan and elsewhere in the world.

we consider it a sign that our environmental situation will get worse unless we do something to increase people's awareness

Volunteering for an awareness and educational project with The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS) made us think that taking actions to protect our environment is no longer an option but an obligation. Accordingly, we came up with an idea entitled "The Environmental Court Model...The Environmental Struggle", to stress that belief and try to change people's perspective to the environment.

During recent years, Jordan's environmental situation was being threatened due to what we call "industrial development". Through [Cont...](#)

In this issue

2
Right to Water Project

3
Earth Day

4
The Environmental Court Model...

5
Smuggled Fish

CONTACT US

1

New Horizons



H.E. Khalid Irani the Minister of Environment with our youth leaders

Under the Patronage of H.E. Mr. Khalid Irani, the Minister of Environment, and in the presence of HRH Princess Rajwa bint Ali and Princess Basma bint Ali, JREDS Chairperson, a closing ceremony for the Right to Water project was held on the 12th of April, 2007 at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

Around 100 people joined our youth leaders to learn from their experiences and initiatives. A large number of students from schools and universities from Amman and Aqaba attended the ceremony, in addition to representatives from environmental organizations and private companies.

The youth leaders worked in groups on the main activities and initiatives held during the course of the project. These included:

- The National public awareness campaign
- Printed awareness material; educational tools and games
- An open day for the Right to Water in Aqaba
- The design of the website for the Right to Water



Project's activities

For the Public Awareness Campaign, the youth leaders prepared age-appropriate PowerPoint presentations to be used during the awareness workshops at schools, universities and youth clubs. Part of this initiative was the composition and recording of a song that talks about the human right to water. Youth leaders also designed and printed creative awareness publications.

Educational tools and board games were used to educate children and provide them with more information about the water situation and human right to water.

H.E. Mr. Khaled Irani, the Minister of Environment, emphasized the Ministry's support for one of the youth pioneer ideas

On the 24th and 25th of March 2007, JREDS held the Right to Water open day at the Aqaba Marine Park in celebration of the International Water Day. This leading event also included a number of Palestinian youth leaders who implemented a similar initiative in Palestine. This gave all participants from both countries a great opportunity to exchange experiences and learn from each other.

The website for the Right to Water is a specialized website that provides general information about the water situation in Jordan as well as comprehensive information about the Right to Water concept.



Aqaba students enjoying activities during open day

H.E. Mr. Khaled Irani, the Minister of Environment, emphasized the Ministry's support for one of the youth pioneer ideas – the "Environmental Court". This initiative is geared towards

building the youth's capacity in protect their environment and empowering them to take a major role in educating the public on the importance of sustaining the environment for their sake and for future generations.



The Earth Day



Earth day activities / Old City of Aqaba

JREDS celebrates Earth Day every year along with some other billion people. We believe it is a day to celebrate the wonders of life on our planet, a day to plant trees, grass and flowers, a day to clean streams and wooded glens, a day to celebrate our LIFE and EARTH.

JREDS is eager to implement this event every year in Aqaba to remind people of the need to continue to care and respect the earth's beautiful systems of balance. But most importantly, to raise public awareness regarding human behaviors that could disturb the earth's precious balance.

This year, JREDS brought more than 300 people together from 13 different schools, local organizations, youth centers and the

local community of Aqaba to celebrate this day at the old city of Aqaba. Attendees took part in several interesting and purposeful activities, which are:

- **Clean up the old city of Aqaba:** around 330 people from different age groups and backgrounds participated in "Clean up the Old City" campaign. More than 350 bags of trash were collected and all the waste was weighed and separated for proper analysis purposes.
- **Environmental sketches and play:** school students prepared and presented two drama skits to emphasize the value of taking care of the environment and the importance of taking the initiative and working hard.
- **Drawing competition:** a drawing competition was also conducted as part of the campaign. Rewards were awarded to the top three winners.



The environmental modules prepared by old city students in Aqaba

- **Presentation of environmental modules:** school students prepared and presented different environmental modules in an

artistic way illustrating the environmental pollution in the city of Aqaba along with other environmental aspects.

- **Environmental songs and poems:** school students composed and presented songs and poems about the environment in Jordan.

WASTE ANALYSIS RESULTS

The Earth Day Clean up Dive was one of the major clean up dives that our team has implemented since the beginning of this year. More than 60 divers from 7 different diving centers joined our team to clean up Al -Ghandour public beach, which is one of the most polluted sites in Aqaba.

A number of items weighing a total of 2 tons were collected. Waste separation showed that glass was the most collected item at 41% of the total waste; beverage cans (aluminum and steel) came in second at 24%, while plastic items came in third place at 19%. By comparison, other items formed only 16% of the total waste collected during the campaign.



Courtesy of R. Joury

Believing in Advocacy...

In Jordan, advocacy is a new trend and the doors are wide open for such initiatives. The Environmental Civic Society had a positive experience some time ago when the whole community took a clear stand by refusing the draft law of forestry in Jordan. The Civic Society of Jordan is realizing the importance of advocating for issues and has thus formed advocacy groups for specific issues such as human rights and democracy.

At JREDS, we are working on creating clear visibility for Aqaba's main issues, making our voice heard by decision makers and the public regarding the importance of having a sustainable healthy marine environment and on creating a favorable opinion on those issues as well.

At JREDS, we are working on creating clear visibility for Aqaba's main issues

We are capturing the importance of advocacy, thus, JREDS is representing the environmental NGOs in a steering Committee, along with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature and Jordan Environment Society, for the Ministry of

Environment. JREDS is using this committee as a vehicle for advocacy to change or formulate new laws. Moreover, JREDS is also working with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZ) on enforcing the environmental regulations and laws and updating them.

Out of our strong belief in getting the youth involved in advocacy, we have invested the past 2 years in empowering youth to be leaders of change and to exert advocacy efforts for the environment. We have just concluded "Right to Water Project" (more information on this project is found in this newsletter) and we are now working with a youth group to establish the "Environmental Court"; a youth led initiative to study and research the sustainability of businesses in Jordan.

Advocacy is a joint responsibility and entails all of us working to make sure that future generations will be able to enjoy our national heritage, that is the environment.

Fadi Sharaiha
Executive Director

The Environmental Struggle

a joint project between JREDS and the Jubilee School, we intend to discuss the most significant issues which negatively affect Jordan's environment, hoping that the participants' solutions and recommendations will be taken into consideration.



The "Environmental Struggle" is going to be presented as a court model. This idea came out of the belief that both parties, the investors and the environment protectors, have the right to express and support their points of view while trying to achieve a mutual solution in the end.

It is unquestionable that it should be a governmental as well as a social goal to find a mutual solution which

eliminates the risks that threaten our environment without standing against the development and the investments in our country.



During recent years, Jordan's environmental situation was being threatened due to what we call "industrial development".

In closing, we are honored to have the patronage of HRH Princess Basma bint Ali, JREDS Chairperson, for this project and the full support of H.E. Khalid Irani and the Ministry of Environment along with the significant role that JREDS plays in protecting the environment.

Ziad Sha'ban
Mohammad Al-Jundi
Jubilee School

JREDS and the Environmental Rangers

The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS) supported the "Environmental Rangers" to stop a smuggling incident of different kinds of corals and fish from the Gulf of Aqaba.



Caught smuggled fish; Sting Rays and rare fish

Three containers of small kinds of Clown Fish (Anemone Fish) and Stingrays, along with other boxes of soft and hard corals were confiscated at Al Qatraneh checkpoint at the desert highway, 70km away from Amman.

The "Environmental Rangers" is a special unit in Jordan's Police Department with more than 750 staff members. This

Environmental Police Unit was established to deal with all violators of environmental integrity in the country. The unit will also be looking out for illegal activities related to hunting, fishing, and wood gathering, and will support the relevant government ministries with efforts to educate people about the environment.

According to the environmental laws and regulations, a penalty of either paying a fine of JD10,000 – JD 25,000 or a jail sentence for 6-12 months or possibly both could be enforced.

Finally; Jordan is very proud to have the first environmental police in the Arab World!



Stolen corals

Workshops @ JREDS

On May 23, 2007, JREDS hosted experts from the Marine Science Station (MSS). Ten JREDS team members and volunteers attended a full-day workshop facilitated by MSS experts on different marine environmental issues. Some of the topics discussed during the workshop were fish fauna and endangered species in the Gulf of Aqaba, nutrients of the marine environment, and physical characteristics of the marine environment. The highlight of the day was the fruitful discussions and knowledge sharing. Suggestions and ideas were raised for new conservation projects and for coordination opportunities between the two organizations to work together on improving the environmental situation of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Contact Us

Amman Office
Telephone: 5676173
Fax: 5676183
P.O.Box: 831051 -
Amman 11183, Jordan

Aqaba Office
TeleFax: (03) 2022 995
P.O.Box 2353 Aqaba
- 77110, Jordan

www.jreds.org

