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New ME youth website launched

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Dubai School of Government and the Wolfensohn Centre for Development at Brookings announced the launch of the new Middle East Youth Initiative (MEYI) Web site, www.shababinclusion.org, and the results of six new working papers on topics ranging from analysis of the state of youth in specific Middle Eastern countries to the economics of marriage.

The Middle East region is currently experiencing an unprecedented "youth bulge." Over 30 percent of its population - or 100 million individuals - is between the ages of 15 and 29. This is the highest proportion of youth to adults in the region's history.

The Middle East Youth Initiative was launched jointly by the Dubai School of Government and the Wolfensohn Center for Development at Brookings in July 2006. The Initiative seeks to advance understanding of economic and social issues affecting youth in the Middle East, and to promote regional efforts aimed at greater youth inclusion through targeted policy recommendations.

Youth inclusion is the availability of opportunities for youth to become fully integrated into society through quality education, decent employment, affordable housing and the power to shape their communities.