UNESCO/APC MULTIMEDIA TRAINING KIT

Exercises: Cooperative Problem Solving
Generating Options

Developed by: Search for Common Ground

Coffee Stirrer Exercise

1. Hand out six coffee stirrers to small groups and ask them to arrange all of them so that they form one equal-sided triangle. As soon as one group has done this, ask them to demonstrate. [See figure (1) below.]

2. Now ask the groups to form two equal-sided triangles, again using all six stirrers. Ask the first group that succeeds to demonstrate. [See figure (2).]

3. Repeat, asking to create four triangles.

4. Repeat, asking to create six.

5. Repeat, asking to create eight.