YES Re-Entry Seminar 2015-16

YES Re-Entry Seminar 2015-16 was held in Islamabad on July 16. The event was a celebration of the successful completion of the year 2015-16 of the YES Program in Pakistan as 67 alumni from the latest returning batch of YES Program belonging to Punjab, KPK, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, FATA & Islamabad attended the event and shared their experiences. The event was also attended by guests from U.S. Embassy Islamabad, staff at IEARN Pakistan and outgoing students of the YES 2016-17.

The event was a chance for the latest returned alumni to learn about the YES alumni activities, community service project management and project proposal/report writing in order to get involved in their communities. The alumni learned about the projects happening nationwide and how they can get involved in the process to benefit their communities at large. The alumni also met 105 students from the outgoing batch of YES 2015-16 from all over Pakistan and shared their exchange experiences with them.

The Chief Guest of the evening was US Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. David Hale accompanied by officials from US Embassy Islamabad. Mr. Hale said “Through these exchange programs, we are strengthening people-to-people ties between the two countries by building new friendships and mutual understanding.” The event concluded with dinner for the participants and a great networking opportunity.

Another Re-entry event for YES 2015-16 was held in Karachi on 22 June. 26 alumni from the latest returning batch of YES Program belonging to Sindh and Balochistan attended the event and shared their experiences. The event was also attended by guests from U.S. Consulate General Karachi, staff at IEARN Pakistan and outgoing students of the YES 2016-17.

The Chief Guest of the evening was Consul General Brian Heath, accompanied by U.S. Consulate Karachi Cultural Affairs Officer Li Ping Lo and Cultural Attaché AJ Jagelski. Mr. Heath talked about how each one of the recent returnee played a role of cultural ambassador in U.S. and now their responsibility continues as they will invest their time in the communities and address their needs. The event concluded with iftar/Dinner for the participants.

Message from Ghulaman-e-Abbas School

I feel privileged and also honored to write a few lines in this prestigious news letter.

Ghulaman-e-Abbas School has deep relations with SIE . We have been collaborative partners for many years. Our school has got firsthand experience of SIE project thorough English Access Microscholarship Program. This program completed their 6th year in August, 2016. The experience of Access classes has done wonders to our students. It has made them more confident, has improved their English language skills and developed their leadership skills. Moreover the program has given them national and international exposure through Summer and Winter camps in and outside Pakistan. One of our students Haider Ali got a chance through Access to visit Turkey. This experience helped him in being successful in getting UWC Scholarship.

We were also involved in SIE’s adult language learning as part of ‘English Works!’ Program. This program and other professional development activities have brought extra ordinary and amazing improvement in confidence level and teaching competencies of our teachers.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate SIE team for their outstanding work.

I am also thankful to Ms Farah S Kamal for her constant support and appreciate the efforts she has been doing for the betterment of education in Pakistan.

SHAHID RAZA BADAMI
(PRINCIPAL)
Ghulaman-e-Abbas School
YES 2016-17 Pre-Departure Institute

A week long Pre-Departure Institute for outgoing batch of YES Program ended in Islamabad on July 17, 2016. 105 students from across Pakistan traveled to the United States this fall to spend a year at American high schools, live with host families, attend various leadership, cross-cultural understanding and interfaith harmony events and share Pakistani culture with their host communities. Alumni of the YES program, staff at Society for International Education and IEARN Pakistan and guest speakers worked with the students over this week to prepare them for a successful exchange. The sessions of the PDI week focused on helping the students understand the true nature of the program along with rules and guidelines. They expanded their knowledge of American culture and learned how to adjust with host families, and in American high schools. The students also built their presentation skills and participated in various team building activities. A notable guest speaker was a clinical psychologist who talked in detail about stress and anger management, ways to deal with changes in environment and mood changes etc. The event was filled with productive sessions, fun energizers and ice-breakers.

Access Karachi 2014 - 16 Graduation Ceremony


During the event, Access students and teachers shared their experiences in their speeches. Farah Kamal, General Secretary of Society for International Education (SIE) gave a brief overview of the program and congratulated all the fresh graduates. She thanked the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad and U.S. Consulate General, Karachi for funding and supporting the Access Program. She also shared exciting moments of the Access program through a video. Mr. Davis Hale US Ambassador to Pakistan was Chief Guest of the Ceremony. Officials from the US Consulate General, Karachi participated in the graduation ceremony including Mr. Brain Heath, Consul General, Mr. AJ Jagelski, Assistant Cultural Attaché, Ms. Lee Ping Lo, Public Affairs Officer, Ms. Aisha Amanullah, English Programs Coordinator.

Mr. David Hale, US Ambassador to Pakistan in his remarks warmly welcomed the Access teachers, students and management. Mr. David Hale also distributed ‘Certificate of Achievement’ to the Access students for graduating from the English Access Microscholarship Program 2014-16. Officials were pleased to meet the Access students and teachers and wished them good luck for future endeavors.

Access Got Talent

325 Access students and teachers participated in Access Got Talent event on 27th August, 2016. Students showcased their English language skills through skits, songs, tableaus, dramas, and dance performances as well in front of the audience and officials from the US Consulate General, Karachi. The officials included Mr. Brain Heath, Consul General, Ms. Lee ping Lo, Public Affairs Officer, Mr. AJ Jagelski, Assistant Cultural Attaché and Ms. Aisha Amanullah, English Programs Coordinator.

These events and activities help students in improving their confidence and give them a chance to practice English language skills in an authentic environment.

“We are happy as we did a lot of activities that taught us the team work,” remarked one of the Access students.

Skits were presented by Access students on the theme of “Best day of my life” and “Empower women”.

“As I performed in one of the songs and it boosted my confidence in front of audience”, said one of the Access students after the performance.

Students not only focused on language skills but they also paid attention to every detail like, props, background music, costume etc. Students also performed on songs and some of them danced as well. Performances as a character of film stars were a hit. While doing so – English language was the prime focus in every performance.

“I was performing as film star Meera, and I am confident now to perform in front of a big audience”. One of the Access students said.

“I am happy to see great talent in students. You (teachers) are such good teachers who keep inspiring”, said Li Ping Lo, Public Affairs Officer US Consulate General Karachi, while talking to a teachers group.

The event ended with a group photo. Whole event turned out to be quite productive. Access students not only performed well in front of the audience but they also learnt new things from their fellows with the help of the performances.
YES alumni Medical Awareness Camp

YES Alumni KPK organized a day-long Medical Awareness Camp which served approximately 400 patients from Phandoo Road, Peshawar. In Pakistan, there is a dire need to raise public health awareness as the mothers are not aware of prevention for small diseases that result in severe issues for families, which are not well-off and cannot afford medical tests and medicines.

In order to address the issue, YES Alumni geared up to organize a series of medical awareness camps that not only provided medical tests but also the medicines to the targeted beneficiaries. A team of doctors and experts along with alumni volunteers facilitated the patients with free medical check-ups and medicines. Both the team and the beneficiaries found it to be a great success and said that this has been a great success in such a remote area of Peshawar. They said that the people in that locality are actually in very much need and such efforts need to be taken on a larger scale by the government to provide relief to the people.

SS Alumni- Guide on First Aid for Unexpected Situations

A one-day awareness program was conducted at a local school in Quetta on August 23 and 24, 2016 by U.S. Summer Sister Exchange Program 2016 alumna along with volunteers in different branches. The aim of the program was to motivate children of the violence-torn society to confidently handle unfavorable incidents and equip them with basic necessary skills on first aid from site of incident to hospital. The panelists included Elia Nauroz Ali (activist and public speaker) who gave lecture on importance of attaining education on first aid and the awareness was provided by group of doctors headed by Dr. Mukhtar Mehoob (MBBS, FCPS, MRCS, FRCS (Glasg), Dr. Musa Haider (FCPS & General Surgeon) and Dr. Ali Sadiq. Around 430 students were provided education with doctors providing first lecture on how to handle the unexpected situations that was followed by practical demonstration on how to carry out the procedures. The event ended with doctors providing First Aid Boxes to higher classes of the school.

YES alumni International Day of Peace

YES alumni nationwide celebrated International Day of Peace by conducting workshops and sessions about various religions around the world and their importance. The alumni focused upon the importance of living in communities with peace while at the same time, identifying and understanding the differences. The workshop was also a chance to learn about interfaith harmony, what it entails and what can be done to understand this concept in a better manner. In addition, the students had a chance to learn from the alumni in respect to their valuable exchange year experiences. The students found the workshop to be a great learning experience and said that the workshop allowed them to think out of the box and understand the differences which are helpful for them to live together. In addition, the alumni said that the students’ thoughts were shaped up well and it was refreshing to hear their thoughts on the topic. The Principal of the school also encouraged the alumni for similar activities in future as well.

Summer Sisters Reentry Seminar 2016

Guests from the US Embassy, Staff at Society for International Education, and alumni of the U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program 2016 celebrated another successful batch of the Summer Sisters Program 2016, in Islamabad at the Re-Entry Seminar on Wednesday, 21 September 2016. The 19 girls attended American University, Babson College, Barnard College, Eleanor Roosevelt Leadership Center, Georgetown University, George Washington University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Smith College and Washington University in 2016.

The returning girls of the Summer Sisters 2016, alumni among other things also discussed ways they can become mentors for the upcoming batch of Summer Sisters, and ideas they will become ambassador of the program in their schools encouraging other girls in the application of the program. The alumni involved in designing their upcoming projects for Summer Sisters Alumni Community Service Activities.

Reentry workshops were conducted on September 20th and 22nd which focused on community service projects and opportunities alumni can benefit from being part of the SIE alumni network in Pakistan. They also discussed the importance of owning their communities and designing projects to attend to social issues in their surroundings. The alumni worked on developing a project proposal through community mapping; the ideas include women empowerment, awareness regarding peace and harmony, hygiene awareness programs and making the environment healthy. Moreover, there were sessions on Leadership and finding motivation to serve their communities, blogging and taking charge to play their role.

Maureen Y. Mimaugh, Deputy Cultural Attaché, Kristin Hawkins, Assistant Cultural Attaché and Sharif Sabir, Cultural Affairs Specialist from US Embassy Islamabad heard presentations from girls who attended various programs in the prestigious U.S. universities. “I look forward to seeing the participants in this program inspire other students in their communities and implement their new leadership skills.” – Maureen Mimaugh, Deputy Cultural Affairs Officer US Embassy Islamabad.

The girls talked about their experience, academic and personal achievements, differences between the two countries, their future goals and learning through the program. Their narrative about their program was recorded in the form of a booklet distributed at the event.
Empowering Young Leaders (EYL) Program

Empowering Young Leaders (EYL) program (April – October 2016) is moving towards its completion. During the course of this project, the youth from relatively less – privileged areas of Pak Colony and Saeedabad (girls & Boys) were provided opportunities to acquire hands on experience of 21st century skills encompassing enhancement in communication skills, leadership skills, work collaboratively and present their work confidently.

During the journey of this project Young Leaders participated in orientation sessions of EYL to apply in competitive process. They appeared for selection interviews as the target was 25 from each area. The selected participants took part in 3-days training sessions to unpack the notions of Social Action Planning process and related themes where they planned the first draft of their social actions and triangulated them in the field with community. Follow up sessions were arranged to refine their social action plans. They also attended a day long training for SAP implementation and reporting. The social action plans were executed by youth. Despite all the challenges, they enjoyed success of SDP and shared their learnings with larger audience.

Workshop on School Development Planning

A Professional Development Workshop on School Development Planning was conducted at Globe – the SIE Training Centre on Saturday, September 24, 2016.

The objectives of this workshop were to assist the school to identify its strengths and weaknesses, build on its strengths and address its weaknesses, think about effective ways to harness the collective expertise of the teaching & non teaching staff and to promote teamwork, and to plan for and implement change for improvement.

The workshop facilitated participants unpack the notions of cyclic journey of school development planning. Participants reflected on various school systems vis-à-vis school’s vision, mission, goals, targets/timelines, possible challenges and action planning.

Participants were mostly senior level management from various school systems (Beaconhouse School System, Army Public School, Civil Aviation Authority Model School & College, Infaq Education & Training Center and Korangi Academy.

Society for International Education came up with an exciting and unique learning opportunity for Urdu language teachers. The workshop titled "قومي نعيمون کي نذرييّ أردو پژھائن" was conducted at SIE on Saturday, September 24.

Khurram Ali Shafique, author of several books on Iqbal and a recipient of Presidential Iqbal Award, conducted a workshop for secondary school teachers about teaching Urdu through national songs. The duration of the workshop was 4 hours and about twenty teachers participated from reputed schools in Karachi.

The basic ideas shared in the workshop were three: (a) reading activities can easily be turned into listening activities; (b) if a professionally produced audio or video exists that uses a text included in the syllabus, it can be used for such activities; and (c) those national songs that are part of the “uniform culture” and not high or popular cultures are an educational resource but we are yet to appreciate their true worth.

The participants were engaged in several activities focused on these ideas leading to a better appreciation of the work of Jamiluddin Aali, Masoor Anwar, Sehba Akhtar and Kaleem Usmani. The participants were also invited to compare the work of these poets with such masters of the past as Sheikh Fariduddin Attar, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Allama Iqbal. The content was based on Kitab-i-Urdu, a series of Urdu textbooks compiled by the resource person for classes 6, 7 and 8.

Pur Aman Karachi: another milestone reached

Pur Aman Karachi in collaboration with Karachi Youth Initiatives and Commissioner Karachi Division has achieved another milestone with the publication of newsletter for the month of July, 2016. Team has worked at their best in research and data assembling to bring out the finest articles and news stories that shows the positive image of Karachi. Team Pur Aman did extensive research on the Goans community in Karachi and Jodia Bazar for July edition. They interviewed one of the finest Architect of Pakistan; Mr. Mukhtar Husain as the Owner of Karachi. Team Pur Aman Karachi highlight the success story of Ali Hussain who convert all his weakness in to his strengths and paid tribute to the richest poor man, Abdul Sattar Edhi, all in the edition of July newsletter.

With all the achievements of July, 2016 edition; Team Pur Aman Karachi with more energy and enthusiasm started research and working for August and September issue which is going to be a bimonthly edition. They assures their reader on the quality and authenticity of their content and promises to bring more interesting stuff in their upcoming edition.

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