

Society for International Education

Together for a better world

Newsletter
April-June 2014

SIE organizes "AYV Media Festival and SIE Project Sharing" Event



Society for International Education (SIE) successfully organized a day-long event "Adobe Youth Voices (AYV) Media Festival and SIE Projects Sharing" on Saturday 24th May. 500 students, teachers and educators from 40 different member schools from Karachi and Hyderabad region participated in the event, showcasing videos, photos and project work done by the students. The event was organized to appreciate and celebrate all the hard work done by participants of various SIE Programs over the course of last year. Students made presentations to share their learning experiences with others.

During program, AYV Media Festival was arranged for the screening of best videos made



by young people. A photo exhibition was also arranged for iEARN Photojournalism program. Mr Rizwan Bhiriya (Canon Academy), Farooq Baloch (the Express Tribune) and Farah S. Kamal (Executive Director, SIE) served as the judges for the photography competition. The audience voted on their favorite photos as well; and winning schools were awarded with flip cameras. Mr. Faisal Karim attended the event as the chief guest and appreciated the students on active participation. He emphasized that innovative learning opportunities should be made part of regular curriculum, and the participants shouldn't ever underestimate the power of media. "Together, we can change this country for the better," he said.

Education and Community Cohesion Program (ECCP)

Society for International Education (SIE) has launched a new project, Education and Community Cohesion Program (ECCP), in collaboration with Karachi Youth Initiative (KYI). The program began on April 15th, 2014. Underlying idea of program is to provide learning avenues to youth and enhance cohesiveness in communities of Sultanabad & Hijrat Colony. Three courses namely English, ICT and Creative Writing will be taught to Youth of aged 15 years and above. Within the program, youngsters will also have exposure to a variety of trainings through Youth Leadership Camps, tailored for their specific needs where they'll learn and utilize their skills up to the fullest stature.

Message from Neesha Rahim, USA

In Pakistan, a country that is seemingly hurtling towards either revolution or another military take-over, we are working with Farah Kamal, who has been running iEARN Pakistan and changing the narrative for students in Pakistan for decades. The day after a devastating attack on Pakistan's biggest international airport, our teachers and students were scared for their lives, afraid to go out, enraged, and shaken. Yet Pakistani students showed up to our class, tweeted us and shared status updates about what they'd printed on the Cube, and sent a video for their partner students at Rutgers Prep in New Jersey. They focused on what they could do with 3D printing and engineering at a time when it felt naive to hope. And given that it was the last class, they decided to carry that change maker mentality to their peers who didn't get to take that class.

I was fortunate to meet those students and teachers when I went to Pakistan over the spring. I'll never forget the looks on their faces when I set up the Cube. Nor will I forget how those students, for whom illiteracy is common place in their communities, asked the most amazing questions. "Can a 3D printer print blood? How about water?" Our US teachers and students are equally inspired by the students in Pakistan and around the world. With each new installation, be it in the US or abroad, I see how 3D printing and this collaborative engineering class have fundamentally changed the way our students think. The students have surpassed their own expectations. Looking at them, I know it's only a matter of time until one of these young people does the impossible, provides real answers to those whimsical questions and changes the narrative for our world.

Neesha N. Rahim,
Co-Founder -Level Up Village



Access Enhancement Program, Karachi



As the SIE-Access Program 2012-14 approaches the end of its nearly two-year long journey, 1400 excited Access students in Karachi participated in special programs titled, 'Access Enhancement Activity'. Given the large number of students involved, and the constraints of space, half the centers gathered for the event on Saturday 21st June, and the other half on Monday 23rd June.

The event popularly called 'The Grand Event' was aimed at providing Access students an opportunity to display not only their impressive progress as English language learners but also

their immense talent as stage actors, debaters, singers, and dancers. They presented some hilarious skits on various themes, shared their reflections, recited their own poems, sang English songs, and displayed some amazing dancing talent. Other than the students and their teachers, the event was attended by Aisha Amanullah, English Language Programs Coordinator, US Consulate General Karachi, SIE-Access management, and a few selected Access alumni who had been specially invited to share their experiences with the current batch of Access students.

The Launch of "Reach Out"

Islamabad, 27th June: At the YES Alumni Reunion, Society for International Education have proudly launched the book 'Reach Out', a valuable resource on community outreach and volunteering and 10 years of Pakistani KL-YES Alumni stories of making a difference. Effortlessly compiled by the iEARN Pakistan team with Hassan Saeed Bilal Khan and edited by Muhammad Abdullah. Reach out is published by SIE/iEARN-Pk as part of the KL-YES Alumni Program. The book documents many stories of change and community outreach from digging wells in the arid region of interiors of Sind to training teachers in Peshawar or microfinance projects in suburbs

of Lahore. Each project has contributed back to the society in its own unique way. The book is full of ideas, best practices, and resources for anyone who want to engage with their communities and make a difference. An important feature of the book is that it is interactive in nature, with QR codes present throughout. These take readers to the relevant web pages upon scanning from smart phones. See video at <http://vimeo.com/99796829>



AIF-03 Youth Summit, CA, USA

In April 2014, American India Foundation organized an AIF-03 Youth Summit from April 23 to April 27 in California, USA. A delegate of three educators and three students from Pakistan traveled to San Francisco, California, USA to attend the event. This summit was a closing event after successful completion of two year AIF-03 (Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World) project. It was a unique program which was focused on the culture of Punjab, both India and Pakistan side. It was a five day event for O3 participants from India, Pakistan and USA.

AIF Youth Summit was mainly designed for youth to engage cross-culturally. Various other activities were planned including group discussions, painting, leadership and team building, interpersonal skills and Social Action activities like "Social on campus." One of the participants said, "These four days were full of learning, exposure, socializing, interaction and fun which will always remain in our memories."



SIE and I...

I am a business grad with majors in Marketing and my career goals lead me towards development sector of Pakistan.



I believe in my personal theory of change, where every single person within the community has to play his/her part in building a prosperous society. Living in a country where the major chunk of population is under-served, I believe it is a high time we should play our roles as community change makers. Prior to my experience with SIE, I have been a fellow at Teach For Pakistan, working majorly in the education sector, and now continuing my dream with SIE. To me, youth empowerment is one of the key factors in bringing the best in any given task; considering their fresh ideas, ability to take risks and enthusiasm, therefore on February 1st, 2014, when I was offered the position of Program Officer at SIE I didn't take a moment to make a decision.

Working as the Program Officer, I have come across various novel ideas and great people within the organization. One of the major programs I am currently associated with is U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program, which focuses on university level summer courses for girls with non-affluent backgrounds. I am also working with K-L Youth Exchange and Study Program, and have organized their Pre-Departure Orientation.

Ever since I joined the organization, I have never felt the burden of keeping an idea within myself. New ideas are open, and everyone is equally encouraged to implement the idea if they truly believe in doing it. I have seen how every single member of the "Dream Team" works in making a project/event/program a successful one. It is much more than a place to work, it is a place to think big, think out loud and make things happen!

Sarah Zubair
Program Officer
Society for International Education

K-L YES Pre-Departure Orientation 2014-15



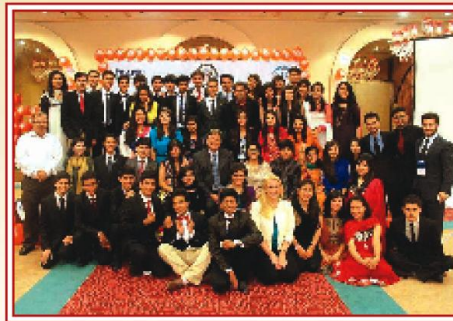
The Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) institute for outgoing batch of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program (K-L YES) was held from June 20th-26th, 2014 in Islamabad. 108 students from across Pakistan will travel to the United States this fall to spend a year at American high schools, live with host families, attend various leadership and cross-cultural understanding events and share Pakistani culture with their host communities. Alumni of the YES program, staff at Society for International Education and iEARN Pakistan

and various guest speakers worked with the students over this week to prepare them for a successful exchange.

The notable sessions of the PDO week focused on helping the students understand the true nature of the program along with rules and guidelines. Robert Raines and Lydia Barraza conducted session on American laws. The students experience their knowledge of American culture and learned how to adjust with host families, in American high schools, how to deal with culture shock and become flexible and communicative. The students also built their presentation skills and participated in various team building activities. Event was filled with productive sessions, fun energizers and ice-breakers. The students also presented folk dances at culture night and played American board games during game night. The participants will travel to the US and will be spending their exchange year at high schools across America starting this August.

K-L YES 2013-14 Re-Entry Seminar

Islamabad, June 25: Guests from the US Embassy, Staff at iEARN Pakistan, and alumni of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program celebrated another successful year of the YES Program in Pakistan at the Re-Entry Seminar here on Wednesday. More than 40 alumni from the latest returning batch of the YES Program from Punjab, Khyber-PakhtunKhwa and Gilgit Baltistan. attended the event. On the 9th of July, another K-L YES 2013-14 Re-Entry seminar is arranged in Karachi for recent returnees from South region.



YES alumni from previous batches spoke to the recent returnees about the importance of owning their communities and designing projects to attend to social issues in their surroundings. Among many things, the alumni bring back the culture of community ownership, service and volunteerism back from their exchange and the YES Alumni Pakistan platform allows them to put their lessons into action. The alumni also met the outgoing batch of 108 YES students (2014-15) and shared their exchange experience. They were awarded certificates of acknowledgement from the US Department of State on the community service they did in the United States while on program.

K-L YES Moments

Mujtaba Shah Bukhari from Abottabad, currently placed in Ashland, Wisconsin got



selected to participate in BUBW (Better Understanding for Better World) in San Diego, along with 27 other dynamic students from 20 different nations.

"The conference was an eye-opener for me and was full of wonderful experiences including issue-resolving sessions, diplomacy, inter-faith harmony etc. I was selected as one of the key-note speakers for the conference and did my best to represent my country in a better way! The organizers of the conference were happy by my performance during the conference and invited me for the International BUBW next year! I was much humbled when the organizer told me in the end, "You are going to be one of the most important alumni for this conference". I am also invited to lead a committee of a few alumni which would collaborate with the organizers. I would like to thank all of you for all the support and encouragement throughout my exchange year!" said Mujtaba, K-L YES 11 (2013-14)

Save the Planet- Earth Day 2014

YES alumni Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar carried out a one-day project with around 220 students in their cities to celebrate the Earth Day on a larger scale. The activities consisted of giving short lectures regarding the importance of celebrating Earth Day along with some interactive drawing sessions. The students also had a chance to write their messages on a large poster with the "Earth" logo in the middle of it which was placed on the entrance wall of the institute. In addition, the students shared their posters in groups with the rest of the audience and elaborated on their ideas. On the level of the students, activities were designed in a way to enhance maximum learning of the students. For example, in Karachi, girls sewed cloth bags that are long lasting, instead of using plastic bags for their daily use. In the other school students made book shelf out of shoe boxes. One of the students from 9th grade from Frontier Model School Peshawar said, "I will try my best to make this Earth a better place to live and not waste any resources". Another student shared, "The best part regarding this workshop was to learn ways to contribute towards Earth as solutions are the Overall, it was a wonderful experience for the alumni and the students to learn about the Earth in a detailed and share their expertise.



Level Up Village - Global STEM Based Learning

Karachi, April 15: Society for Intl. Education's new program in partnership with Level Up Village was officially launched here at SIE office on Tuesday. A group of teachers, administrators and educators also attended the first orientation session for future participation.

The training started on April 16 with a group of 8 students of 6th-7th grade from different campuses of Nasra Schools, Karachi. The students attended their first class titled Global Inventors in Training.

The participating students learned about 3D Printing and how they can use this technology to innovate and find solutions to real life problems around them. As their first 3D Printed product, the students collaboratively designed and printed a small ring with their school name on it. Students talked about electricity, load shedding and clean water issues, and thought about how they can solve these problems around them by building products. They also learnt about the design cycle, and the importance of prototyping. The first set of classes continued once a week for the next 8 weeks.



This exciting and innovative learning opportunity is being presented -to students in schools across Karachi. On June 16, another batch of STEM-based summer classes started with a group of six students from CAA Model School in Karachi. This series of classes was named as Global Doctors in Training Class in partnership with a school from Dallas, Texas in the United States. The students studied various systems of human body through interactive discussions, audio-visual programs, and hands-on experiments, dissecting various biological specimen. This partnership will promote not only mutual learning but will also allow for cross-cultural understanding among children from around the world.

U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program



iEARN Pakistan in collaboration with American University and U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council, launched U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program, for female high school students to imagine more for their future by allowing them to study entrepreneurship, business, science, leadership, and international affairs at prestigious U.S. universities. This year 7 dynamic young girls from low-income backgrounds made to Harvard University, Babson College, Smith College, American University, George Washington University and Eleanor Roosevelt Leadership Center for short summer courses in their respective fields. This month, their Pre-Departure Orientations were conducted in order to prepare them to embark great opportunities in the US.

English Language Teaching Workshop

English Language Teaching Workshop was conducted by YES alumni and iEARN Pakistan, in collaboration with U.S. Consulate General Peshawar for 35 teachers from five institutions of Peshawar. This workshop was the second of the series of four workshops, as an extension of Project Re-Educate from September 2013. The workshop was funded by American Councils for International Education as one of the grants for the YES alumni. The workshop was facilitated by Hassan Saeed, Youth Programs Coordinator at SIE and a YES alumna along with four other YES alumni who conducted various sessions and facilitated during the activities with the teachers.

The workshop focused on enhancing the ability of the teachers to teach English Language in a better manner in their classrooms, share their experiences and challenges, and discuss the possible solutions. The main topics of the workshop were the four major aspects of the language; listening & speaking as well as reading & writing.



YES Alumni Reunion 2014

June 26-28th- YES Alumni Reunion 2014 took place in Islamabad, in which over 350 YES alumni from all over Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan participated. Chief Guest for the opening ceremony was U.S Ambassador Richard Olson. The reunion included several sessions, most notably: Serving humanity without Discrimination, Social Entrepreneurship, Community Engagement through Arts, Career Counseling, and Studying in USA etc.



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Pakistan
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