A Tribute to Sabika Aziz Sheikh

To Honor the Life and memory of Sabika

We are writing with extreme sadness and despair that we have lost one of our Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program participants, Sabika Sheikh, in the Santa Fe High School shooting incident on Friday, May 18th.

Sabika was part of the YES 2017-2018 cohort, and was set to return to Pakistan in three weeks after completing a successful exchange program in the United States and was looking forward to impact the world further by engaging in social activities to improve her community and empower the women from underprivileged backgrounds.

Sabika was an excellent ambassador from Pakistan to the United States, and left no stone unturned in presenting a brilliant image of Pakistan through various presentations, meetings, and interactions with her host family, school, and community. In this time of grief and pain, we offer our support and condolences to Sabika’s family and friends, her natural and host community, and the program partners worldwide. Her death has come as a shock not only to her family and friends in Pakistan and the United States, but worldwide support and condolences have poured in through various social media platforms in her solidarity.

Sabika will always be remembered for her pleasant smile, affectionate personality, courageous attitude and compassionate behavior. Her family and friends remember her as a loving and responsible person.

Sabika will always live in our hearts and her legacy will continue to strengthen our resolve to work towards achieving cross-cultural understanding and lasting peace worldwide. Her values and determination will serve as a ray of hope and motivation for thousands of students and change-makers worldwide. Rest in peace, Sabika! We love and miss you.

YES Pre Departure Institute 2018-19

Islamabad, June 22-27: The week-long Pre-Departure Institute (PDI) for the outgoing batch of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES) concluded successfully.

77 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, 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 (SIE) and iEARN Pakistan 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, 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.

The event was filled with productive sessions, fun energizers and ice-breakers. The students also presented culture activities and played American board games during game night. The participants will travel to the U.S. and will be spending their exchange year at high schools across America starting this August. The students also prepared their cultural presentations which was yet another preparation for their exchange year.

For more info about the YES program, please check out www.iearnpk.org
SIE PROGRAMS
Activities and Events

International Earth Day observed by Access Students

The students of Access Microscholarship Program 2017-2018 celebrated International Earth Day on April 22, 2018. The students participated in a Beach Clean-up activity to develop a sense of civic responsibility and making the environment clean. The goal was to have a positive impact through awareness, service and advocacy that meet community needs. Officials from the U.S. Consulate General, Karachi joined the students and participated in the activity. Access students made posters to promote Earth Day and also discussed the importance of clean and healthy environment. This event provided Access students an opportunity to learn about the potential threats to the earth. The students also got the opportunity to interact with native speakers of American English and practice their newly acquired English language skills. They had an interactive session with the guests from the U.S. Consulate General, Karachi and asked questions about the life in US and their views about Pakistan.

Summer Sisters Program Alumni Meet-up

Thursday 26th April, 2018, The US Summer Sisters Exchange Program and YES Alumni met with Cultural Affairs Officer Thomas Montgomery from USEmbassy Islamabad. Alumni from different batches participated in the meeting. Thomas interacted with alumni and talked about opportunities available in Pakistan for alumni projects that they can avail. He also talked about how to give back to community for betterment of society. He shared stories of how alumni from different regions of Pakistan got benefited from the PUAN chapters around them. He also spoke about PUAN chapter of Karachi and how alumni can apply for big grant for projects. At the end alumni had chance to interact with guest from US Embassy Islamabad while having dinner with him.

EYL Certificate Distribution Ceremony

Empowering young leaders, a project of Society for International Education, concluded on Friday, May 11th, 2018 with a certificate distribution ceremony. Nearly 200 participants, school principals, EYL alumni and SIE staff attended the event. The event began with a welcome note, followed by the group presentations of social action projects that were carried out in both areas; Guzar-e-Hiri and Pehlwan Goth. Empowering Young Leaders (EYL) program has provided opportunities to under privileged youth, both male and female to explore, learn and implement small scale social action project’s plan. At the end of ceremony certificates were distributed to all the participants. The event was very successful and a great conclusion to the program.

S&P Global Community Impact 2018

S&P Global Community Impact 2018 projects were held in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. These projects were carried out in collaboration with Society for International Education and International Education and Resource Network (IERN). The aim of the Community Impact 2018 projects was to identify the pressing needs of the community members and address them with grass-root social action projects with themes such as women empowerment, community development, energy saving, skill and knowledge building as well as personality development. Throughout the projects, over 150 volunteers from S&P Global engaged with the community members, shared their learning and enhanced their learning experience by strengthening the notion of giving back to the community members.

The series of the projects addressed a wide range of social sectors including a training session for teachers, Tech Camp for students, Hygiene and Dental camp for underprivileged children, Importance and Practical application of Mathematics workshop related to career opportunities and importance in the STEM fields, the knowledge building of the aspirant women entrepreneurs regarding the effective business management skills, workshop related to energy saving and conservation, and lastly a training on resume writing and interviewing skills and provided an opportunity to interact with HR representatives from S&P Global to receive feedback on their CVs as well as tips for future employment opportunities for the disabled community members. The projects resulted in massive success as the participants showed their encouragement towards the S&P Global volunteers for their efforts and the spirit to give back to the community.

Throughout these projects, nearly 300 students, teachers and community members were benefited.
Summer Sisters 2018: Pre-Departure Orientation

The Pre-Departure Orientation for outgoing batch of the US Summer Sisters Exchange Program happened on May 12th, 2018. 22 students from across Pakistan will travel to the United States this summer to attend a short summer program in renowned US universities all around the country. The orientation was divided into two parts: speakers’ session and the workshop. The sessions during the workshop focused on helping the students understand the true nature of the program along with rules and guidelines. They expanded their knowledge of US university life, culture and learned how to make most of the opportunity they are getting. Another session during the students’ workshop was regarding writing effectively in emails and student testimonials about their exchange.

The Chief Guest of the evening was Acting Consul General John Warner, accompanied Erik Pugner Public Affairs Officer at US Consulate Karachi. The Consul General spoke about how the students are just not lucky but also capable of being part of this prestigious program and now the responsibility lies on them to bring about a better change in their communities and country. The U.S. Pakistan Women’s Council initiated the U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program in 2013. The program sends gifted, female Pakistani high school students aged 15 to 18 from disadvantaged backgrounds to study at prestigious U.S. universities for two to eight weeks.

Summer Sisters Alumni Project- Sports Day

The alumnae of the Summer Sisters Exchange Program planned and conducted a sports day at a public school of her vicinity and in SOS Children’s Village on April 10th & 21st, 2018. The sports day contained different races and games like: flat race, lemon and spoon race, sack race, relay race, banana and basket race, musical chairs; banana eating race, banana peeling, paper clip race, three-legged race, thread and needle race; balloon race, tug of war, transfer the water race, transfer the ping pong ball race, obstacle race, wacky waiter race, etc. The kids were so happy to enjoy all these activities. They excitedly participated in all activities and won the prizes as well. They were also given some chocolates as a refreshment by the alumnae and the volunteers. Once the results were compiled, the prize distribution ceremony took place. It was overall a fun day and the activity was enjoyed by all the kids and they gave a cheering good bye to the alumnae.

Talent Hunt Program

The alumnae of the Summer Sisters Exchange Program from Lahore conducted a talent hunt program on May 5th under Summer Sisters Project named as PEHCAN by her which contained: Declamation Speech Competition, Creative Writing Competition, Quiz Competition, and Canvas Painting competition in a Care school Iqbal Nagar Sheikupura. There were five teams in the quiz contest, each team comprising of 2 members who participated in the program. In the end, prize distribution ceremony took place. The position holders were given prizes and the participants were given small tokens of appreciation.

Message From: Zehra Abid, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Citizen Journalism Program

I took on the opportunity to lead the Citizen Journalism training program thinking about the possibilities of how much we could achieve if Karachi’s youth could be trained to report ethically on the issues around them. What instead happened, however, was a deep realization that after nearly a decade into journalism I had so much left to learn. In many ways, I had more to take from them than I had to give.

While going around the city to present our program, and later for the interviews, I felt that every visit was a lesson in understanding the common yet divergent challenges of each neighbourhood: their socio-economic circumstances, their gender differences. Soon enough we knew that Karachi is really many cities in one.

This is what made this program so special. It wasn’t designed from a top-down approach where we would be preaching what people should learn. Instead, it was inherently equal, where we were required to make field visits, to know our audience before we took on the task of teaching them. Everyday, even as trainers and team members we would have to remain teachable. And at every training session, I saw SIE’S founders and leaders exhibit this, in the way that they communicated to all participants with deep, honest respect.

I’m most grateful for the opportunity and hopeful that the skills we taught our participants will go a long way. A deep felt thank you to every member of dearest team SIE.

YES 2017-18 Re-Entry Seminar

Karachi, June 29: The event was a celebration of the successful completion of the year 2017-18 of the YES Program Pakistan as 27 alumni from the latest returning batch of YES Program from Sindh and Baluchistan 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 2018-19. The event was a chance for the latest returned alumni to learn about the YES alumni activities, project management and proposal/report writing in order to get involved in their communities.

The alumni learned about Pakistan-US Alumni Network (PUAN) and educated them about the various opportunities available. The Chief Guest of the evening was honorable Deputy Council General of U.S. Consulate Karachi Mr. John Warner. He 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.

Mr. John Warner also encouraged the outbound YES students to be at the best of their behavior while in the United States and exchange the culture of Pakistan with their counterparts in United States to have a fruitful experience altogether. Other distinguished guests from U.S Consulate Karachi Ms. Sarah Alam and Ms. Sarah Asghar were also at the event. The event concluded with group photographs.
YES ALUMNI PROGRAM

Activities Update

YES Alumni - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Campaign

YES alumni from Peshawar carried out this project over the span of two days in Peshawar and its surrounding areas. The aim of the project was to increase awareness related to resource utilization and tackle the pollution that has increased during the past few months in Peshawar and its surrounding areas on account of new projects being carried out. The students were engaged practically in the plantation of trees in their school in order to make them a part of the journey towards environmental sustainability. At the end, there was a Q/A session in which the students had a chance to clarify their misconceptions. Overall, the project was a success. Nearly 100 students participated in the activities.

YES Alumni - Playground Renovation Project 2018

YES alumni from Karachi teamed up to identify a need of the community to develop a playground for the members so they are able to carry out sports in their vicinity as well as able to spend their free time. The project was carried out in the outskirts of Karachi. The area is known as Baldia Town. It has less opportunities for youth and while there are several schools available but none have the facility to cater extracurricular activities. There are playgrounds in each area but they are filling with garbage as people in the community throw garbage which makes it difficult for kids to play there. There are also no shades and no benches where one can sit and enjoy their evenings. The alumni decided to clean place, remove the wall chalking and re-paint the walls as well as installed some dustbins and developed a team of sport club which will be responsible of maintaining the resources for long time. The alumni also decided to ensure that they regularly visit the place and ensure that the facility is well-utilized. In addition, the alumni also urged to plant trees around the place so there is shade for the community members.

YES Alumni - Earth Day Projects 2018

YES alumni Pakistan carried out a one-day project with the students to celebrate the Earth Day. The projects were carried out in Gilgit, Karachi, Mardan, Peshawar and Rawalpindi. The activities consisted of giving short lectures regarding the importance of celebrating Earth Day along with some interactive drawing sessions. The students were also engaged practically in the plantation of trees in their school. The alumni also found it to be a useful experience and said that they intend to carry out sessions like this in the future as well. Overall, nearly 400 students participated in the Earth Day celebratory projects.

YES Alumni - Inter-School Competitions 2018

YES alumni Gilgit, Mansehra and Peshawar organized a day-long Inter-School Competitions in which nearly 200 students engaged in interactive fun and learning activities. The students participated in Quiz Competition, Singing Competition, Art Competitions, Sports Competitions, Decoration, and Food Competition. The event was also a celebration of Global Youth Service Day 2018. Overall, the students had a great day at school and a kick-start to summer in a fun and learning manner. The activities were widely appreciated by the students and the school staff and said that such programs are a great chance for students to showcase their skills, present their talent and carry those

YES Alumni Learning and Resource Centers

YES alumni Gilgit and Karachi embarked upon the journey of renovating the local schools' library and ensure that the children have a space to read books and enhance their reading skills. Pakistan has a lot of talent on offer but they tend to lag behind due to inefficient utilization of human and financial resources. In an effort to encourage the young people to read books, YES alumni identified local schools in their communities that was a center for the residents and lacked the facility of a library. The alumni carried out books drive nationwide and purchased shelves and cupboards for the library. The books ranged from academic to fictional reading, and more books are expected to reach the respective libraries in weeks ahead. The spaces of the libraries will also be used by the students to do their school work and enhance their general knowledge. This step was widely appreciated by the school administration and said that such efforts are commendable. The alumni also showed their pleasure and said that they will continue to strive to open such libraries at other locations as well. Overall, the libraries contain nearly 400 books of different genres.
Workshop on ‘Effective Communication Skills’

Society for International Education conducted a professional development workshop for teachers on ‘Effective Communication Skills’ on April 14th, 2018. 20 teachers from different schools in Karachi registered for this training. This training was held at Globe-the SIE training Centre, designed for teachers of all grade levels. The workshop focused at developing communication skills of teachers that included all four skills that is reading, writing, speaking and listening and how important it is to communicate effectively.

During the workshop, participants learnt about effective strategies for verbal and non-verbal communication with their students, parents and co-teachers. They learnt to break down complex ideas into simpler parts and transform the boring class into an interesting one. The workshop offered some hands-on and minds-on activities that would help them develop a positive attitude in their classrooms to engage their students according to their interest. The facilitator also emphasized on effective Teacher-Parent communication to keep them in loop for better learning of their children and achieve desired goals. Overall, the workshop went well.

‘Capture Your Creativity Photography Workshop’

Society for International Education conducted a professional development workshop on ‘Photography for Schools’ on May 12th, 2018. This workshop was designed for teachers, students and all others interested in learning the techniques to capture creative images using digital cameras to enhance their photography skills. 10 teachers from different schools of Karachi registered for this training. The training was conducted at Globe-the SIE training Centre. The photography workshop focused on some unique tips and techniques for all type of camera users including point and shoot, powershot and DSLR cameras for digital photography. The participants were given hands-on practice time so that they learn new techniques and explore camera options. This workshop was beneficial for both the novice and professionals. Since participants were mostly teachers, they learned ways to integrate photography in lessons for classroom projects to make it more interactive and unique. “It was a very creative and helpful workshop for those who have the camera either in their smart phones or digital one but they do not have much information about the options available through which you can capture wonderful pictures full of life. I came across many options in my smart phone that I was not aware of. The facilitator was also clear enough.” – Ashley Pereira (The AMI School)

Cultivating Growth Mindset through STEAM

On April 21st, 2018, Society for International Education conducted another professional development workshop for teachers ‘Cultivating Growth Mindset through STEAM’. 13 teachers from different schools of Karachi registered for this training. The workshop was held at Globe-the SIE training Centre, for teachers of primary and middle school levels. The workshop focused at reinforcing Growth Mindset concept and helped educators develop the skills needed to implement growth mindset practices. Through various interactive activities, teachers learned strategies to increase their own growth mindset as an educator as well as the youth in developing their mindsets by applying various STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) based concepts. The second half of the workshop focused at building background knowledge about STEAM based activities that gives student a safe place to experience failure and to learn from attempts that don’t work. This workshop helped teachers to learn to embrace Growth Mindset that leads to greater motivation and success of students. Overall, the workshop went well and was highly appreciated by participants. “It was really an information session; filled with various interesting activities. The part I enjoyed most was drawing on a chart paper that is creating a drawing with partner. It taught me how to read someone’s mindset and to collaborate well. Overall it was an interactive session. Keep up the great work!” – Yanna Khan (The AMI School) “Session was good and informative. It’s very important for teachers to understand the student’s mindset and their problems in order to interact with them positively. Throughout the session I analyzed my teaching style and I know I will try to work on growth mindset. Activities and participation level of participants in the workshop was also good. Enjoyed the whole session.” – Aizaz Hussain (Gilgit Amin School)
Virtual Reality 360° Cultural Exchange Project:

Students of Grade VIII from three schools in Karachi participated in this project. It was a 2 day training in which students were given hand on experience through a photo where they clicked photographs with professional VR 360 theta cameras and with their cellphones by using different applications like google cardboard and panorama 360 camera. Students introduced themselves on the project forum and shared their images with the captions and descriptions.

Digital Citizenship:

Students of grade VIII participated in this project where they did some research and participated in the discussion about the use of internet in a positive way. Students listed down some of the roles and responsibilities and posted on the Padlet and presented it too. During the presentations they also share their personal experiences and share their concerns related to e-safety and cyber bullying.

One Day in the life

24 Students of KGII branch participated in the “One Day in the life” project to showcase their talents of singing, recycling and crafting, cooking and photography front of their parents.

Get to Know Others:

Students of grade VI - VII participated in the project and presented their multimedia presentations to the club members. The students posted their project work on the iEARN forum and received comments which was very encouraging. The project was all about valuing our culture and heritage and highlight their interesting features among themselves and others. Students got the opportunity to explore other cultures, traditions and customs and learn how to give respect and admire them.

Cultural Package Exchange

Through this project, the children developed an understanding of culture and traditions about their own provinces. They learnt about their food, festivals, games, landmarks, languages and dresses. Students exchanged their cultural boxes with the partner schools. They shared their findings about the cultures of 4 provinces and did case study of food. They explored a variety of cultural food and shared recipes with each other.

Heart to Heart

In this project, students display all their poetries. This project provides an excellent platform for students where their writings get an international appreciation. Students posted their poetries in Heart to Heart forum and then started exploring enthusiastically about the comments coming from different parts of the world, this boost up their moral.

Peace walk for saving Earth

Students of iEARN Clubs also planned a Peace Walk to spread awareness against toxic effects of plastic bags.
Don't Waste - Create

Students of a primary school participated in Don't Waste - Create project to learn value of recycling and best out of waste material. They created many things from recyclable material and shared pics and learnings on iEARN forum.

Plastic Bag Free Environment

Students of iEARN Club of a primary school launched a Campaign arranged within school premises to spread awareness about how harmful and disruptive plastic bags are for our environment. They made posters and collected plastic bags from different places to dispose them.

Staying Healthy Project

37 students of grade 6 participated in iEARN project Staying Healthy. They shared types of foods associated with their culture and foods that are part of celebrations and food rituals associated with them. They also discussed healthy food and learned about other cultures and groups.

EVERY DAY EARTH DAY

Students of grade 10 from an underserved school participated in Earth Day activity. They shared their learning experience in iEARN project Every Day Earth Day. They learnt how littering and other human activities effect the earth in negative way and causes Global warming. This project empowers kids to take action and have a positive impact on the planet. They did some interesting activities and made a pledge to take care of earth.

Solar Explorer

24 Students of Grade VI, Beaconhouse School System in Karachi, Pakistan participated in Solar Explorer project. They develop an understanding of the importance of developing sustainable energy sources for the future. The students shared their concepts and ideas for further assistance.

My Name Around the World

Students of the same school participated in My Name around the World project to explore the meaning and history of their names. This enhanced their English skills and increases their vocabulary as they learnt different adjectives while making acrostics. Students posted acrostics of their names in the project forum.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title of Workshop</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Focused Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>فراموش کردن چشم فراموش کردن چشم AFCOFOFOFPOFOFPOFPOFPOF</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>Urdu language teachers of primary and secondary level</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>A Reflective Teacher is an Effective Teacher</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>Subject teachers of all grade levels.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Advanced Documentary Skills</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>IT teachers, subject teachers, students and all other interested participants (Should have basic knowledge of video editing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>ویدیو مذاکری</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>Urdu language teachers of primary and secondary level</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Effective Publications for Classrooms</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>All subject teachers, students, school admin staff, graphic designers and all other interested in designing and publishing.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Web 2.0 Teaching Tools in Classrooms</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>All subject teachers and other interested participants of primary and middle school level</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Communication Skills of a Teacher and its Role in Student's Development</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>English Language Teachers of all grade levels</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stress Management in Classroom</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>All subject teachers of primary and middle school level, Trainee/Pre-Service teachers, Subject Coordinators</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Enhance your Images with Adobe Photoshop</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>IT teachers, all subject teachers, students and all other interested participant</td>
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<tr>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Effective feedback for Students</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>Subject teachers of all grade levels.</td>
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<td>Activity Based Teaching</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>English Language teachers for Primary and Secondary level</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Teaching Math with Technology</td>
<td>10:00am - 02:00pm</td>
<td>Math subject teachers of Middle and High School level</td>
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Workshop Venue: Globe - the SIE Training Centre

Download registration form at [http://www.iearnpk.org/PD/schedule.htm](http://www.iearnpk.org/PD/schedule.htm)