

iEARN Centre Pakistan Society for International Education



Newsletter
April - June 2013



Celebrating 25 years of iEARN... iEARN Tech Age-Teaching and Learning Seminar

To mark iEARN's 25th Anniversary, iEARN Pakistan arranged a daylong seminar on June 8 featuring all its ICT based projects. The event provided an opportunity to iEARN Pakistan's partner schools for sharing and screening of different iEARN Online Collaborative project activities. Teachers and students from iEARN member schools participated in the event. The program started with a welcome note by Mr. Saleem Ibrahim, General Manager, SIE (Society for International Education) and program introduction by Ms. Farah Kamal, Executive Director, iEARN Pakistan. This was followed by an exciting cake cutting ceremony marking 25 years of iEARN. Ms. Farah Kamal, focused on different iEARN programs and how iEARN Pakistan has been successfully managing the wide range of activities of these programs. These programs include iEARN School Based Clubs activities, Adobe Youth Voices, Global Connection and Exchange-Journalism2.0, Photojournalism 2.0-Images of Social Change, O3:Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World program, Adobe Youth Voices etc. Faisal Kapadia, Social Activist and Zehra Peer, Head of Blog Desk,

Express Tribune made key note speeches. They focused mainly on using ICT in Education and the importance of Social media and online presence. The program continued with project presentations by teachers and students. The later part of the program included concurrent sessions focusing on:

- Digital Security
- Social Media & Web 2.0 Tools
- Digital Story telling
- Street Photography
- News Writing
- How to begin an iEARN Club in your school/ community

Farooq A. Baloch, Business Reporter from Express Tribune conducted a session on news writing, while Sana Saleem and Farieha Aziz from Bolo Bhi conducted a session on Digital Security.

The program ended with closing and certificate distribution to students who had participated in different iEARN projects and club activities. Check out iEARN 25th Anniversary video at: <http://vimeo.com/68205862>



The Empower Access Program – Pre-Departure Orientation

A Pre-Departure Orientation for the finalists participating in the Empower Access Program (EAP) was held in Islamabad on April 20-21, 2013. The 2-day training program was filled with interactive sessions and activities that prepared the participants to spend their fellowship successfully in the US.

EAP is a bilateral, professional exchange program for individuals, organizations and offices working directly with people with disabilities. It is sponsored by the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Beach Clean up project with Access Students

U.S. Consul General Michael Dodman with 200 Access Karachi Students from KMA and PSC helped clean Karachi's beach as part of community service project. The project raised students' awareness about the effects of pollution on Karachi's beach in particular and marine life in general.

Access students along with the officials from the US consulate spent almost an hour collecting litter on the Beach. They also got a chance to interact and have an informal talk with the Americans from the US Consulate. "I am thankful to Access Program for turning it into a responsible citizen," said Jubliant Areeba, an Access student while picking up wrappers on the beach.

Another student expressed his views by saying, "I am sure community service will make us better and useful part of our society."

Access teachers had integrated *pre* and *post* beach cleanup activities in their lesson plans to make the project a valuable learning experience for Access students. In the follow up activities students wrote reflections on their beach cleaning experience, and made presentations to share their ideas on improving the environment.

The link for the pictures of beach cleanup is <http://www.facebook.com/sie.earn>



Celebrating 25 years of making a difference

Access Karachi students involved in Media Making Projects

Access-Karachi students from a Government school in Liaquatabad, Gulshan Iqbal and New Karachi have been involved in **Adobe Youth Voices**, February to June, project as part of enhancement activities. This project empowered students from underserved communities to use technology to explore and express their perspectives on issues impacting their communities. Students are very excited and enthusiastic working on their projects. "I have learnt to raise my voice because we blame others but don't do anything to change our lives, says Abdul Moiz. The project enabled students to practice their English language skills in real life situations, while at the same time helping them to acquire basic knowledge and learn techniques for creating me-

dia with a social purpose. Participation in the project gave the participants an opportunity to have hands-on practice of using Adobe media making software. Muzammil shares his thoughts on the project: "This will help me learn about Adobe Premier. I always wanted to learn this software."



Teacher Training at Access Karachi

Access program aims at providing English language proficiency classes to students from underserved areas. The program is a 2 year modular program, currently facilitating 1700 students in 16 different localities of Karachi. The program is funded by the US Embassy Islamabad and implemented in Karachi by Society for International Education.

A whole day teacher training for the third module was conducted on Sunday, 26th May. The facilitators introduced effective ways of using American Headway 1 to the Access teachers and involved them in interactive teaching and learning activities. The teacher training primarily focused on introducing the innovative resource material introduced by US Department of State. An English language game 'Trace Effect' and a website for English language teachers 'American English' was introduced to the teachers. The facilitators gave short demos on using the Trace Effect and the accompanying Teacher's Manual. A demo was given also on exploring the website with the new AE App on the cell phone. The teachers were quite intrigued with the idea of American English website on phone as this has opened up several options for accessing online resources in the classroom.

"These trainings help us in keeping ourselves updated and introduce new activities in Access classrooms", said Monica Shakeel, one of the Access Teachers

Earth Day Observed by Access-Rawalpindi

Access Rawalpindi students celebrated the *Earth Day* with great enthusiasm on April 22, 2013. Fifty Access students participated in the event organized by the US Embassy, Islamabad to celebrate the day with Ambassador Olson. The US Ambassador and other officials from the Embassy interacted with the students as they got busy in various activities. Access students sang Earth Day songs using English language, made posters to promote healthy environment and also created interesting products using recyclable materials. The event provided Access students an opportunity to learn about the potential threats to the earth. An additional benefit was the opportunity to interact with native speakers of American English and practice their newly acquired English language skills.



US Consul General visits Access Hyderabad Students

On April 25th, the US Consul General, Michael Dodman visited Hyderabad to meet the Access students, along with their teachers and program management. 100 students from both the Access centers convened for the occasion, where the Consul General shared his thoughts with the audience and later interacted with the students. The Access students and teachers also shared their Access experiences with the Consul General. "I feel really lucky to be selected for this amazing program. The Access program is extremely helpful for im-

proving of English. We are also getting many exciting and useful experiences," said Muhammad Tuaha, an Access student. Another student expressed her views by saying, "At Access, we get teachers who make learning fun. We celebrate different International Days, work in pairs and groups, and perform energizers and tongue twisters."



Officials from the US Consulate, Karachi and USAID visit Access

On the first day of resumption of classes after the month long exam break, Access Hyderabad, the students were pleasantly surprised when a group of officials from the US Consulate, Karachi and USAID visited their classrooms and commented on their impressive progress as language learners. Corina Sanders, Public Affairs Officer from the US Consulate, Karachi interacted with the students and provided them with ELT books named 'American Theme'. Ms. Sanders expressed her feelings by saying, "I am thoroughly impressed by the fluency and confidence of these Access students. They have come a long way in just one year".

Muhammad Saad, an Access student said, "The Americans provided us books that are informative and I enjoyed talking to them."

Another Access student said, "We are happy to meet the guests today and they were also happy to see us speaking English."



Youth Empowerment and Leadership Program (YELP) comes to an End

Society for International Education (SIE) and Karachi Youth Initiative (KYI) worked together to run the Youth Empowerment and Leadership Program (YELP) from December through May in which more than 500 youth at risk youth from Sultanabad, Lyari and Korangi were engaged into formation of youth clubs and planning and implementation of small community action projects to promote peace in the communities.

SIE worked with a variety of educational institutions (schools, tuition centers, language centers) and youth organizations (such as *Lyari Resource Center*) during the course of the project to engage youth from these areas into getting together and plan small activities to promote peace in these areas. Lyari, Sultanabad and Korangi are all high-risk areas of Karachi, with alarming rates of illiteracy, unemployment, crime and violent activities. These conditions endanger young people in the area every day - where they expose themselves to unhealthy com-



pany and spend most of their time idling away on the streets. YELP provided a powerful and safe platform for empowering these young people to become change agents for making positive differences in their communities.

YELP has now concluded the journey after more than a dozen CVE projects in Lyari, Sultanabad and Korangi. These projects ranged from sports events that promoted tolerance and team work, to peace festivals that brought entire communities together. Youth club projects also included peace magazines, peace awareness campaigns, performing arts and theater productions, short films and music. The participating youth show great promise to continue their journey towards promotion of peace and appreciation of diversity for the rest of their lives.

Youth Summer Technology Camp by YES Alumni

Yes Alummi Pk, as follow up of the Youth TechCamp '12, conducted a 2 day summer technology camp in Peshawar excellence school, Peshawar. The participating students learned the effective use of social media campaigns and citizen journalism.



K-L YES 2012-13 Re-entry Seminar



KL-YES class of 2012-2013, returned back to Pakistan after completing a successful exchange year in USA. A re-entry seminar was held in Karachi on June 19, 2013 for the students from Sindh and Balochistan whereas for students from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, it was held on June 28, 2013 in Islamabad. The seminar warmly welcomed the students to the 'K-L YES Alumni Pakistan Network'. The seminar aimed at training the students on initiating healthy community service projects that can bring positive change in their societies. Officials from

the US Consulate, Karachi and US Embassy, Islamabad also spoke to the students and encouraged them to share the learned knowledge and give back to their communities.

Safira Bibi- A YES exchange student from Pakistan who is blind

Safira has learned to cook, shop, clean and budget independently and also to use a white cane for independent travel. She is very appreciative of her host parents, Maria and Kenneth Jones and her three host siblings, Kenny Jr., Alicia and Cameron and has developed a warm relationship with them. They are also visually impaired, and Safira calls them "good guides, good friends, good teachers and good role models for me....They can show me what it's like to be an independent blind person." Safira is the first blind student from Pakistan to come on the YES program and will be an inspiration to future YES students in her country. With her YES year coming to a close, Safira writes, "I have many dreams now, and this year gave me the courage and skills to work to achieve those dreams."

Read her full story on <http://yesprograms.org/news/article/may-student-month>

K-L YES 2013-14 Pre-Departure Orientation



Pre Departure Orientation of 108 dynamic Pakistani youth ambassadors was held in Islamabad in the last week of June. These young souls will be spending a year in the US as a part of Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program (K-L YES). The K-L YES program provides opportunities to students to live with American host families and study at high school in the US for a year. The week long orientation prepared the participants to spend a successful exchange year in the US. The participants were involved in interactive activities, workshops, presentations and seminars on a wide range of topics throughout the week. The workshops were based on American life-style, high school life, representing Pakistan in the US, adjusting with host families, finding opportunities in the US and a lot more.

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) celebrated

The global youth service day on April 27th was celebrated with high spirit in 8 cities of Pakistan. Yes Alumni Pk conducted workshops and projects on health and hygiene in order to celebrate the day with students from slums.





Learning English through Songs-Teachers Training Workshop

Another interesting workshop “Learning English through Songs” was conducted at iEARN Centre, Karachi on April 13th, 2013. During the workshop, the participants will explore different ways songs can be used in language classrooms. The various activities, including listening as well as singing, made it a fun filled and ‘energizing’ session.

O3 Orientation & Training for Year 2 Teachers



As O3: *Our family, Our Neighborhood, Our World* project has entered its second year, iEARN Pakistan conducted an orientation and training for new group of teachers on 7th and 8th May. 19 teachers from 8 schools of Rawalpindi and nearby areas attended the session. These were educators from 6 returning schools and 2 newly selected schools. Some educators from year 1 also attended the session. They will be working as support teachers and will also participate in program activities with new teachers. The participants were given program orientation. Besides explaining the goals and objectives of the program, they were involved in various hands-on activities and discussions. The participants discussed the importance of intercultural awareness, stereotypes and social awareness. They learnt about methodologies that can be used to promote culture and highlight social issues in their communities. They also learnt about iEARN projects and project forums. The participants could not continue with their project activities due to summer vacations. The teachers will participate in O3 online course and other activities as soon as the schools re-open.



Workshop on 'Shoot & Edit Good Quality Videos with Adobe Premiere'

A 2-day workshop on how to edit and produce good quality videos **was** conducted by iEARN Pakistan on 19-20 April. The workshop focused on providing advanced video editing skills using Adobe Premiere Software. The participants discovered software environment to organize, edit, and assemble videos, audio and still images and make high definition (HD) videos. Teachers can use these skills to produce useful educational resources by incorporating video editing and software usage into classroom learning.

iEARN Workshop 'Learning & Sharing through Animation'

“Animation Workshop is a total new experience for me. I will use this tool to enhance my creative skills”, said workshop participant, Sobia Khan. An innovative workshop ‘*Learning and Sharing through Animation*’ was conducted by iEARN Pakistan at iEARN Centre, Karachi on June 1. 20 teachers from different schools in Karachi attended the day-long session and learnt to engage students in developing the skills they need to be successful in

today’s world. The session included different forms of animation techniques that can help students express themselves and represent what they know about and share it with others.

“It was an interactive session that kept us busy throughout and we didn’t want to leave it till the end”, said workshop participant, Irum Omer

The participants were excited to learn Stop Motion animation techniques and their usage in the classrooms. They learnt many uses and benefits of using Stop Motion animation in the curriculum.

“I learnt about animation process, which will help to make our lessons interesting and interactive”, said another participant from the workshop.

One of the most attractive features of this that teachers learnt about Stop Motion animation is that it can be used effectively with any subject and at most age levels.



International Education and Resource Network
Pakistan

(A Project of Society for International Education)

www.earnpk.org



<http://www.youtube.com/earnpk>



<http://www.facebook.com/sie.earn>



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