

Society for International Education

Newsletter

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Message from iEARN-UK



iEARN UK and iEARN PK have a long history of working together on projects. Schools from both countries have taken part in a wide range of online collaborative projects together including One World – One Environment, Beauty of the Beast and the Folk Tale project. We were delighted when the chance came to build on the partnership between iEARN UK and iEARN PK through the British Council Connecting Classrooms programme. A conference was set up here in the UK where we all met and choose our partners. The iEARN UK group of schools were very lucky to match up with a cluster of 5 schools in Karachi. iEARN PK have proved training and support to the cluster and have given them access to their ICT lab for preparing their letters and presentations to us. There was huge excitement when we were able to meet all of the teachers via Skype. Now plans are in place for students to meet up face-to-face using Skype. The support iEARN PK provides for their schools to take part in projects is really important; it is one of the main reasons why working with schools in Pakistan is so successful for us. We look forward to many more exciting projects together.

Mary Gowers
Country Coordinator—iEARN UK

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YouthCaN Video Conference

A group of 20 Pakistani students including iEARN YES alumni and students from a local Government School participated in YouthCaN (Youth Communicating & Networking) Conference through Video Conferencing on 26th April 2010 at iEARN Centre, Karachi. The conference session started at 07:25pm with a warm welcome from YouthCaN project facilitator Jay Holmes and a student representative from New York City followed by introductions of YouthCaN members from both sides. YouthCaN coordinator from Pakistan presented projects done by students in Pakistan which were highly appreciated by the NYC group. They shared their success of past 8 months that included planting of 120 trees, paper recycling, beach cleaning, working on mangrove island, dustbin installation and awareness workshops and advocacy on environmental issues. Pakistani youth answered the questions raised by students in New York. Pakistani YouthCaN members also discussed their future plans for implementing various environmental activities in different cities of Pakistan. <http://www.youthcanworld.org/>



YouthCaN Students from Pakistan and NYC sharing their successes through Video conferencing

YES Alumni iEARN Online Summer Camp

iEARN introduced an online summer surprise offering a series of opportunities for children grades 5 to 10. The iEARN Online Summer Camp was an iEARN YES Alumni project that functioned from 7th June till 26th June for a period of three weeks. It involved more than 100 students from different schools of Pakistan including different towns of Karachi, Peshawar, Multan, Vehari and Pishin, focusing on the government and private schools equally. Children from schools and homes interacted with each other through a virtual classroom. YES Alumni instructors at the iEARN centre conducted the course that included introduction to iEARN projects, Blogs, Virtual Trips, Digital Imaging, Movie making and Skype etc. At the end of the course certificates were also given to the students who successfully completed the course.



<http://learnonlinecamp.edublogs.org/>

"iEARN Online Summer Camp was a unique experience for us. It was for the first ever time in my life I have observed and attended an online class such as summer camp. I learnt so many new things such as Blogs, Twitter, Digital Imaging, and some other useful topics. I am very thankful to you that you provided us such chance of participation and collaboration with other students throughout Pakistan. I hope your cooperation with us will continue in future too and our relation will last for ever."

Zameer Ahmad
Class 8
The Asian Grammar School, Pishin

i EARN Beginners Workshops



Participants of iEARN Beginners Workshop doing hands-on practice

Celebrate UN International Days by Integrating iEARN Projects

- World Population Day (July 11th)
iEARN Project:
“My Country”
- International Youth Day (Aug 12th)
iEARN Project:
“Eye to Eye”
- World Literacy Day (Sept 8th)
iEARN Project:
“Write-On”

Download lesson plans & activities at:
http://www.learnpk.org/iEARN_workshops/Intl_days.htm

“A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle.”

--Khalil Gibran



Teachers busy in creating media with purpose during workshop

A 2-day iEARN beginners workshop was arranged on 2nd and 3rd April, 2010 at iEARN Centre Karachi. A group of 13 teachers from different schools in Karachi attended this workshop. The workshop focused at helping teachers integrate ICT in curriculum through online curriculum based projects. Teachers were involved in different project-based activities during the session and enjoyed the world of online learning. The second day of the workshop aimed at enabling teachers to involve young people in community service and service-learning projects. The workshop activities utilized well designed tools to help teachers engage youth in planning service-learning projects. A teacher's guide was also given to each of the participants containing valuable resources on community service and service learning projects. Another iEARN beginners workshop was arranged on 22nd May, 2010 at iEARN Centre in which 18 teachers registered from different schools in Karachi. The participants explored different iEARN projects and participated in other interesting activities. The various sessions of the workshop helped teachers learn how to integrate iEARN projects in curriculum to improve the language proficiency of students as



English Language Teaching Workshop

A two-day workshop was conducted for English language teachers including ACCESS teachers from Jacobabad and Noshki at iEARN Centre, Karachi on 10 - 11 June, 2010. The workshop was facilitated by Beth Trudell, the Senior English Language Fellow, US Consulate Lahore. She has a Master's degree in English for TESOL from California State University, East Bay. The workshop gave the teachers the opportunity to learn new activities that they can immediately use in their classroom, to reflect on the elements of an interactive and learner-centered classroom and to share ideas with their peers. The focus of the workshop was on critical thinking, facilitation skills and task based language teaching. The workshop participants enthusiastically participated in the workshop and gained a great amount of learning experience.



Digital Imaging Across Curriculum Workshop

13 teachers from different schools in Karachi attended “Digital Imaging Across Curriculum” workshop on 9th and 10th of April 2010. The various sessions of workshop also included tips and techniques of photography, use of picture editing software, types of graphics, scanning and transmitting digital images and knowing a digital camera. Participants gained hands-on experience for taking a perfect picture using digital camera and learn image editing using software. Teachers also participated in different iEARN online projects like Eye-to-Eye, Global Art-Images of Caring, One Day in the Life, Cultural Recipe, Folk Costumes and Side-by-Side etc and posted their work in the forums. In the end they made an action plan for implementing and running iEARN projects in their classrooms.

<http://www.learnpk.org/PD/DI.htm>



Creating Media with Purpose Workshop

Another successful workshop conducted by iEARN Pakistan team was “Creating Media with Purpose” on 7th and 8th May 2010. A group of 17 teachers from different schools in Karachi attended this workshop. This workshop enabled teachers to learn skills necessary for successful ICT integration in classrooms through iEARN online projects and learn new strategies to engage students

in interactive, student-centered, cooperative learning projects. The workshop also aimed at developing the participants' technical skills to author their own digital content and create teaching resources using graphics, sound or video and use appropriate technologies to assist the achievement of particular learning outcomes.

<http://www.learnpk.org/PD/media.htm>

YouthCaN Training Workshop

A YouthCaN training workshop was arranged for a group of 20 teachers from different schools in Karachi on 17th April 2010. The workshop session was held at iEARN Centre, Karachi. The objective of this workshop was to make teachers aware and informed about the projects Pakistani students are doing. They also learnt how to engage their students in iEARN YouthCaN projects and to motivate them to do environmental improvement activities. Teachers also did planning for carrying out environmental projects in their school and submitted their activity plans on the YouthCaN forum for discussion. <http://www.learnpk.org/PD/YC.htm>



The U.S. Consulate General Karachi's presented complete sets of outline series of books for the iEARN Centre Pakistan resource collection. The books are published by the Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP), the U.S. Department of State, in Washington, D.C.

UNICEF Workshop on Behavior Change Communication

Saleem Ibrahim and Dua Ali from iEARN Pakistan attended a 4-day training workshop from 25th-28th May. This workshop was organized by UNICEF- Sindh in collaboration with Social Welfare Department. The workshop focused on Behavior Change Communication for child abuse, corporal punishment and gender discrimination. 3 YES Alumni, who also attended the training sessions, were the youngest participants. However, they got actively involved in discussions and activities and also shared their experience of "Achay Dost" Project. The workshop became a good learning experience as it not only became a source of learning about child right issues but also provided a platform for the team to meet people from different organizations working on this critical issue.

YES Alumni Resource Centre, Peshawar



YES Alumni Peshawar, in collaboration with Diocese have established a Resource Centre which will provide space for alumni activities and meetings etc. The location will also be used by YES Alumni for conducting workshops and trainings etc. This Resource Centre is equipped with two internet enabled PCs, with speakers and printer to be utilized by YES Alumni and youth of the Diocese Centre. A group of students have joined the iEARN Online Summer Camp. Several new projects at the premises are in the pipeline as well.

YES Alumni World Environment Day Presentation

YES Alumni participated in celebrations of World Environment Day organized by US Embassy Islamabad. They made a presentation about Environmental Projects done by alumni all over Pakistan. Tree plantations, Save The Margallas, YouthCaN project, Graveyard Cleanup etc. were shared. Some of the participants were interviewed by media as well. They were also approached by students interested in volunteering in future projects. Alumni affairs department at US Embassy has been actively promoting the YES alumni projects by having us present in such events.

YES Alumni Community Service Project

YES Alumni Islamabad Chapter joined school and college students on 10th April to clean hiking trail at Maragalla Hills, Islamabad as part of Global Youth Services Day 2010 celebrations. During this project titled "Save the Margalla", a session on 'Saving Our Environment' was also conducted by

YES Alumni which focused on creating awareness among the participating students on environmental issues in Islamabad and their possible solutions. Students were also briefed about the importance of community service and youth volunteerism.



Group Photo of Islamabad YES Alumni at "Save the Margalla" Project

YES Student wins Student of the Year Award

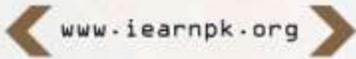
Irfan Tahir, a YES 8 student and a resident of Rawalpindi, Pakistan, was presented with the "Student of the Year" award by his Regional Director, Christine Schilling, at the Departure orientation of AYUSA International in Cloquet, Minnesota where he was placed. Each year the holder of the award is that one special student who has exceeded in academic, intellectual and social behavior above all other students of the same region. Along with this award he was also presented with the "Community Service" award for completing 130 hours of community service during his stay in USA. Irfan, by achieving this award planted a very positive image of Pakistan for the residents of Cloquet and surrounding areas for the years to come.





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Students of YES - 8 Group during PDO

A New addition in iEARN Team

My journey with iEARN began in 2008 when I first participated in "Adobe Youth Voices" Online Course. A year later, I not only became a master trainer but also got a chance to facilitate the same online course for teachers from around the world. The iEARN philosophy of "Connecting Youth and Making a Difference" had always inspired me, which made me join iEARN in April 2010. I am now working as a program officer and am involved in conducting workshops and facilitating different projects. iEARN has become a very influential part of my life. It has provided me a platform to collaborate and learn from people around the world. While working with iEARN, I realized that life is not just about making our lives perfect...it's also about empowering others! The teams' dedication and willingness to work for youth, educators and community has been inspirational.



I am proud to be a part of iEARN team.

Dua Ali Syed

Upcoming Events and Professional Development

- Understanding Culture through iEARN – (September 18th)
- iEARN Beginners Workshop – (September 24th–25th)
- Digital Story Telling – (Oct 8th –9th)
- Creative Writing Workshop – (Oct 16th)
- ICT for the Novice

<http://www.iearnpk.org/PD/10schedule.htm>

YES Alumni CDGK Summer Camp

YES Alumni started the summer camp for students of City District Government Karachi (CDGK) schools on 14th of June with great turnout. 7 Schools were visited by 29 alumni and non-alumni volunteers. More than 200 students attended the camp on Day 1. The number of students is expected to increase and so is the number of volunteers. The camp will continue for three weeks. The volunteers taught English Language and Computers at these schools. Arts and Crafts days, Sports Days and different activities were also planned.

YES Pre Departure Orientation

59 students from different regions of Pakistan selected to participate in Youth Exchange and Study program 2010-11 convened in Karachi from 22nd to 26th June, 2010. This week-long residential Pre-Departure Orientation program includes sessions focused at preparing students for their active participation in school and host family life during their one year stay in US. iEARN Pakistan invited some guest speakers who guided them to make this program a great success for them and for their country. Ten iEARN YES alumni were also present during the sessions as mentors working with the groups of students, co-facilitating different sessions with iEARN team and sharing their experiences with the students.



A Workshop for ICALT Participants

The Society for International Education (SIE) organized a workshop on 'Integrating Technology in English Language Teaching' for the participants of University of Cambridge In-service Certificate for English Language Teachers (ICALT) 2010 course run by Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (Spelt). It was held on June 28, 2010 at iEARN Centre, Karachi. The workshop trained participants in using iEARN Network as an educational tool to develop students' English language skills by engaging them in curriculum based online collaborative projects. The participants also learned about effective use of web 2.0 tools (wikis, blogs etc.), different video conferencing tools and online teaching environments e.g. 'Elluminate' (an online classroom environment) in language teaching and how teachers can use them in their teaching and learning contexts. The participants found the workshop very beneficial and shared that after participating in the workshop they feel confident and comfortable to use technology in teaching and use iEARN network and available web 2.0 tools to make their teaching fun for their students who are the 21st century learners.

Children's Council

In continuation with the 'Achay Dost', a project on Child Protection, the Society for International Education has partnered with UNICEF-Sindh and Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Sindh, for establishing and managing the Children's Council. It is a representative body of all children in Karachi and other cities and towns of Sindh. The project aims to empower children with adequate capacity, knowledge and skills with adult facilitation so that they can voice their concerns on issues in conflict with their best interest and attract relative seriousness from the government and non-government decision making circles. For further details please visit www.iearnpk.org/sie/childrenscouncil.htm