

Society for International Education

Learning with the world, not just about it...

Newsletter

Jan - March 2012

Message from iEARN Tajikistan

Before traveling to Pakistan I carried many stereotyped images about the country and its people. Then many of my friends cautioned me against the idea. I was thus quite confused. However, there was some mysterious feeling that kept pulling me towards Pakistan. And finally when I did visit Karachi and met the people all my fears were soon dispelled. In my 5-day stay in Karachi I met some of the most lovable and loving people. What I found most interesting was the considerable similarity in the language and culture of Pakistan and Tajikistan. My friends at iEARN, Pakistan worked really hard to make my trip useful and enjoyable. One of the most impressive features of iEARN, Pakistan is the teamwork. The major focus of iEARN, Pakistan is youth education and leadership along with professional development of teachers. Another aim of iEARN, Pakistan is the use of technology for education and community service. During my visit I also attended a 2-day training program under *Global Connections and Exchange (GCE): Journalism 2.0* program. I was impressed by the enthusiasm and spirit of the Pakistani students attending the program. Overall, my visit to Pakistan turned out to be a very enjoyable and rich learning experience.



Firuz Baratov
iEARN Tajikistan

"Courage is not having the strength to go on; it is going on when you don't have the strength."

~ Theodore Roosevelt

Houston Karachi Academic Partnership

iEARN Pakistan partnered with the Houston Karachi Sister Cities Association for Academic Partnership. The partnership will connect High School students in Houston and Karachi via online collaborative projects. The major goals to be achieved through this schools partnership includes cultural exchange, Students getting valuable opportunity to engage in dialogue, authentic learning experience, meaningful use of web 2.0 technologies and capacity building of professionals/teachers. During the 15 month long pilot phase of the program Habib Girls and Habib Boys Schools in Karachi will be linked with Houston Academy for International Studies. The classrooms will be connected through a combination of virtual, physical, academic, and cultural exchange activities.



Pakistani delegate visits US

A group of five members from iEARN Pakistan visited US to attend a HOW (Hosting Orientation Workshop) meeting followed by an ECA (Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs) conference. The event was held from 26th February to 11th March '12. The iEARN Pakistan team was represented by Irfan Waleed (HOW Pakistan group leader), Saleem Ibrahim, Anum Faheem and two YES alumni Syeda Haya Zaidi and Syed Aizaz Haider. The American counterparts included, Carla Bailey, HOW American leader, Holly Dowe, Justin Kader, Tom Hillary and Ruby Arrine. The main agenda of the meeting was to prepare a handbook for American families hosting exchange students from Pakistan. The handbook will cover wide range of topics such as Family life, teenage life, education, food, religion, etc. A brief home stay of Pakistani officials with the American HOW members was part of the training. The enriching stay made the whole process of exchange worthwhile.

The HOW meeting was followed by ECA conference. Farah Kamal, iEARN country coordinator and Irfan Waleed gave a presentation in the ECA conference held in Virginia. They focused mainly on the problems students typically face when they stay with the host families. An hour long presentation clarified lot of issues American families usually encounter while hosting students from Pakistan.



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An exciting training for teachers at iEARN Centre



An exciting workshop 'Learning and Sharing through Animation' was conducted by iEARN Pakistan on March 3, 2012 at iEARN Centre, Karachi. It was a full day session that focused on new and innovative ways to make learning with fun. Teachers learnt the entire *Stop motion Animation* process to engage students in creation of content-based digital animations to expand and deepen their understanding of classroom curriculum. They learnt skills to make storyboards, creating characters, preparing backgrounds and setting up stage, and use of software to animate the entire story.

iEARN Pakistan is happy to share...

iEARN Pakistan is happy to share that video made by an active Pakistani teacher Shakaiba Zakir and her students from Beaconhouse Schools System, Gulshan Middle branch, has been selected to be included in the "One Day on Earth" movie for a worldwide screening event.

An experience with iEARN...

"Learning and Sharing through Animation" was an effective workshop for teachers which provided us opportunity to bring meaningful and independent learning in the class where students can feel a sense of ownership. Students learn by doing, making, writing, designing, creating, and solving. This was a successful session to make students active participants in learning."

Samina Naz
Beaconhouse School Systems,
Steel Town Branch, Karachi

Access participants attend A4V Rough Cuts and Software Support Webinar

A group of 12 Access Program teachers and 8 Access students gathered at iEARN Centre, Karachi to attend the Adobe Youth Voices (A4V) Rough Cuts and Software Support Webinar held on January 18, 2012. The hour-long webinar focused on software trouble shooting, rough cuts review, sharing feedback on current students' work. During the Question and Answer session, the participants raised their queries which were answered by international experts from Canada and USA. A4V is a program in which students create videos, photo galleries, print publications, or any other digital media form to communicate and share their ideas with people around the global network. The participants included educators who have recently completed the 8-week A4V Online Course and are now in the process of completing their final project with groups of students. 6 new Access teachers, who got selected for the next A4V online course in February, were also invited. They were given an orientation about the program and course participation. <http://youthvoices.adobe.com>



Access Students' Community Service at Korangi Academy

On January 13, students of Korangi Academy carried out two quite unusual and innovative service learning projects. While two groups worked on 'Let's Teach our Parents', the other two groups were involved in a project titled 'Let's Teach our Siblings'. The turnout of parents – both moms and dads – was much beyond expectations. They learnt some simple words and sentences in English for daily use; they were made to practice their new learning through role plays. They were also shown video clips of service learning activities the Access students had carried out earlier at the SOS Village, an orphanage, and Dar-ul-Sakoon, a home for special children. The videos had a very positive impact on the parents' perception of service learning. Their apprehensions about their children's involvement in service learning were effectively dispelled – thus creating a greater willingness to allow their children to participate in such activities. The project involving teaching siblings also turned out to be a great success. Both the 'teachers' (read Access students) and their siblings enjoyed the unusual learning experience



Access Quetta-Pishin connects through Video Conference

A group of four YES alumni from Karachi shared their exchange year memories with the Access Quetta Pishin students through Skype video conferences. YES alumni in Karachi were connected with the students of English Access Microscholarship program in Quetta and Pishin. The main objective of the Skype video conferences was to provide a platform where the YES alumni and the Access students could discuss community service projects and the YES alumni could share their experiences with the Access students. The alumni helped the Access students in planning their community service projects by sharing their successful community service projects they did as YES students in USA and as YES alumni after they returned. The alumni answered the questions asked by the Access students and gave tips and suggestions for Access students' projects. The Access students also asked the YES alumni about their host families, American high school and teenage life in America. The Skype conferences were held from March 21 to March 31 and these conferences proved very beneficial for the Access students who got opportunity to learn about the YES program and improve their English by participating in very interesting question and answer sessions.



Selection of Access students for YES

During November and December last year, around 90 Access students participated in the selection process for K-L YES Program (2012-2013). Given the rather competitive nature of the selection – a large number of students applying for the few 'seats' – the selection of 19 Access-Karachi students from a total of 108 from all-over Pakistan, for the YES scholarship can be taken as a significant success indicator for the Access Program. Students coming from the underprivileged areas of Karachi, with very low proficiency in English and lacking in general social confidence, must have come a long way to be competing with students with comparatively much more advantaged backgrounds. And with a much larger number of Access students likely to be applying for the YES program next year, one may expect the number of Access students getting the coveted scholarship to go up further.

My Exchange Program Experience...

Life is a bunch of opportunities and all you need is to take an initiative. I never knew that I would be an exchange student one day but I just took an initiative and here I am. My father says, "Not failure, low aim is a crime". I want to be a successful and an honest person and of course a leader and I am sure this exchange program and my stay in the United States will help me to achieve my goals. I have been in the USA since September 2011 and have given presentations and discussed with my fellow students about Pakistani culture, my country and my religion Islam. I feel my responsibility towards my country and my religion and will try my best to portray a good image of both.

It was my desire to talk about my country Pakistan and its culture in front of District people and I got that opportunity when YFU leader Barb Kilka called me to inform that I have to talk in front of some district people. I was glad that I got the opportunity. I prepared myself as this was my dream to tell senior people about Pakistan. That day finally came on January 2nd 2012 and I saw myself in front of the District Governor of Rochester International Lion's club and members.

They appreciated my speech saying, "This young man from Pakistan is a great guy". Few people asked me about our spicy rice dish 'Biryani'. They were happy and again appreciated me with good comments and I can surely say that those were the proudest moments of my life. Sadly, Pakistan is not considered a good nation and its our responsibility to make people understand that not all Pakistanis and not all Muslims are bad. Special thanks to Rochester International Lion's club, Youth Exchange And Study Program, Youth For Understanding and specially iEARN Pakistan team which supports me whenever I need.

Thank you so much. I am proud to be an exchange student.

Alyshan Sadruddin
A Proud Pakistani!!



Alyshan Sadruddin with District Governor of Rochester International Lion's club and members.



A group of five iEARN staff along two K-L YES Alumni attended ECA Annual Conference "Connecting Across Generations and Around the World" at Alexandria, Virginia, USA from 9 - 11 March, 2012.

YES Alumni participate in Model United Nation Event



From March 02 - March 04, 19 Alumni from Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Islamabad participated in Model United Nation event. It's the academic simulation of United Nations. Yes Alumni actively participated in their respected committees. The objective of this event was to educate the youth about Civics, Current Affairs, Effective Communities, and Multilateral Diplomacy. In this 3-day event each alumnus was to play the role of a responsible diplomat, and investigate international issues, debate, deliberate, consult, and then develop solutions to world problems.

The purpose of life is not to be happy - but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all. ~Leo Rosten

Educating by Imparting Knowledge

A nine member team of YES-Alumni Islamabad Chapter visited Master Ayub School on March 17 and March 24 to assist the founder Master Ayub in his noble endeavour. Master Ayub has been running his night school for the past 27 years in Islamabad, educating hundreds and thousands of children who can't afford regular school education. YES Alumni accompanied by volunteers reached the venue at about 3 pm and after the regular assembly of the night school each person was assigned a group that they had to assist in preparing for their upcoming final exams. The subjects taught were English, Urdu, Islamiyat, Maths, Physics e.t.c. There were about 70 students who ranged from classes 1 to 10. The Alumni and the volunteers spent very productive and rewarding three hours training and teaching the kids at the night school.



YES Alumni Presentations in Access Centers



On January 27, and January 28, 2012 YES-Alumni was given the presentations in 8 - Access centers on Community Service; their Experiences and Tips, formation of English Language Clubs and on Yes Alumni activities. Yes Alumni were repeating the same activity on February 09, and February 10, 2012 in remaining Access centers. Almost 20 Alumni from Karachi were participated in sessions of Access centers. It was a good learning experience for Yes Alumni and as well as Access Students.

<http://www.facebook.com/yesalumnipakistan>

Celebrate UN International Days by integrating iEARN Projects

World Earth Day
(April 22)

iEARN Project: OF2-Our footprints, our future

World Information Society Day
(May 17)

iEARN Project: World we live in

World Environment Day
(June 5)

iEARN Project: YouthCaN

Download lesson plans at:

http://www.iearnpk.org/iEARN_workshops/intl_days.htm

iEARN and I...

Working in the corporate world after successful completion of my Masters in Business Administration, I had never been able to reach out globally to such an extent until I joined the amazing team of iEARN. It made me realize that nothing is impossible through accomplishment of a variety of projects. The encouragement of SIE-iEARN Management, who believes in me and appreciates my innovative ideas, is adorable. It has been a mutual learning experience in which I never hesitated in introducing "A Software essentially designed to calculate students' ages." I took the charge of SIE-iEARN Islamabad office on 4th Oct 2011 as an Administrator but working here I have not only improved communication skills but have also learnt the importance of community service. It has made me realize how I can prove to be an asset to the world. Conducting workshops, community service projects, and attendance keeping for staff were some exciting challenges that I faced initially; however, all this became simple due to extremely professional, enthusiastic and highly focused iEARN family. I feel extremely excited to be the part of YES Alumni reunion and Access program which is soon going to start in Islamabad. Looking forward to a strong and prolific association with SIE! As an iEARN official, I can safely say **"To what heights we can't reach..!!"**

Saad Bin Masood

Administrator

iEARN-ISB PAKISTAN



Upcoming Events and Professional Development Activities

- 03 Teachers Training Workshop, April 18-19
- Learning and Sharing through Animation, April 21
- Social Media and Web 2.0 tools, April 28
- iEARN Beginners training, May 5
- Global Connection and Exchange, sharing and follow-up, May 12
- Adobe Youth Voices, Exhibition Event, May 26

For more information, visit <http://www.iearnpk.org/PD/12schedule.htm>

The Express Tribune supports Journalism 2.0 Students Training

The Express Tribune supported a group of 16 students and 4 teachers from four iEARN GCE schools gathered at iEARN Centre Karachi for a 2-day journalism training on 9th and 10th of February 2012. This training was a part of Global Connections and Exchange (GCE): Journalism 2.0 program. During the two day training, the participants were introduced to basic principles of journalism. They learned effective reporting techniques, role of technology in journalism, photo-journalism, scope of media in Pakistan and media values and ethics.

The Tribune team comprising of Zainab Imam, Senior Sub-editor (web desk), Atika Rehman, Sub-editor (Web desk) and Zehra Abid, Senior Sub-editor (National desk) provided training to students and give them professional tips. Students and teachers were engaged in interesting hands-on activities for effective learning. They also got trained for using iEARN Collaboration Centre. Mr. Firuz Baratov, iEARN Representative from Tajikistan, also visited Pakistan to observe this training. The workshop participants are expected to disseminate their learning to other students and carry out Journalism activities in their respective schools.



A Video Conferencing for Journalism 2.0 Students



A video conference was arranged for the students of Beaconhouse School, Gulshan Middle Branch, which has been enrolled in the Journalism 2.0 project under the supervision of iEARN Pakistan with Ms. Dina Guriquis, Program Manager, iEARN-USA, on Tuesday 24 January 2012. There was an interactive question-answer session between students, parents and Ms. Dina.

Parents received the assurance that participating in this project is a rare opportunity through which their children would benefit in the near future. All their queries were answered during the session and they seemed enthusiastic about the two year project. They also gave a positive feedback and gave their consent to their children to attend this 2 year program.



A Project of Society for Int'l Education

International Education and Resource Network
Pakistan

(A Project of Society for International Education)

iEARN Centre, Karachi
22, Alibhai Centre

233-A, Shakra-e-Qaideen, P.E.C.H.S. Block-2,
Karachi 75400

Phone: 021-34547547, 34547549

Fax: 021-34530310

Email: iearnpak@iearnpk.org

iEARN Centre, Islamabad
House # 686, (Upper Portion)
Rehman Baba Road, 1-8/4, Islamabad
Phone: 051-8312142

iEARN Centre, Quetta
House # A-6, Street # 5
Chamen Housing Society Airport Road, Quetta
Phone: 081-2864081

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