

## Society for International Education

### Newsletter

July - September 2010

#### Message from iEARN-Taiwan

I had a great experience working with Pakistani teachers and students in several projects. I also had great memories with iEARN Pakistan Country Coordinator of co-facilitating first iEARN training program in Indonesia and Malaysia. The Pakistani and Taiwanese students and classrooms got connected through several exciting online collaborative projects such as Holiday Card Exchange, Special Place and Teddy Bear projects. The students and teachers in both the countries worked very enthusiastically as they shared their local cultures and values, this is evident from their collaborative works shown in iEARN forums. iEARN Taiwan will host 2011 iEARN Conference in Taiwan. Taiwan schools are waiting for Pakistani teachers and students joining them in 2011. Please visit <http://www.earn2011.org>.

Doris Wu  
Country Coordinator (iEARN Taiwan)



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#### English Access Microscholarship Program-Karachi

English Access is a two years after school English Language learning program for the students aged 14-18. SIE in collaboration with its partner schools and supported by Office of English Language US Department of State is implementing the Access Program in Karachi. SIE has established 15 Access Centres in Karachi, equipped with state of the art English Language teaching

program. English Access is implemented in more than 70 countries around the world, and Access-Karachi is the largest English Access program in the world. A total of 1500 underserved students are enrolled in these classes and will complete their program in September 2012.

[www.earnpk.org/accesskhi/index.html](http://www.earnpk.org/accesskhi/index.html)

#### SIE Partners for the DAWN Spelling Bee Competition 2010

The Dawn Media Group is organizing the 6<sup>th</sup> Pakistani national spelling bee competition. The Embassy of the United States of America in Islamabad is partnering with the Society for International Education iEARN Pakistan to provide sup-

port for this event. SIE and the Dawn Media Group expect more than 6000 Pakistani children nationwide to participate in the first stage of the competition.

#### Mohammedmian Soomro Visits iEARN Centre Karachi

Mohammedmian Soomro, the former Chairman, Senate and former caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan visited iEARN Centre, Karachi on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2010 along with Hashmat Effendi (Sitara-e-Imtiaz) the founder & Executive Director of The House of Charity, Houston, USA.

Muhammedmian Soomro was briefed about the

SIE activities and projects. He showed his interest in all activities and asked several questions. He also shared his experiences. He visited the Children Council and YES Alumni office. He praised the activities run by SIE and offered his support in any student related activities.

**"Success is not final,  
failure is not fatal: it is  
the courage to continue  
that counts."**

**- Winston Churchill**



iEARN staff members with  
Mohammedmian Soomro and  
Hashmat Effendi



**iEARN Pakistan delegate at  
iEARN International Conference  
2010 in Canada**



**Children Council project briefing  
to students of CDGK school**

### **Celebrate UN International Days by integrating iEARN Projects**

- **World Teachers Day**  
(Oct 5<sup>th</sup>)  
iEARN Project:  
"Kindred"
- **Universal Children's Day**  
(Nov 20<sup>th</sup>)  
iEARN Project:  
"Global Art-Images of  
Caring"
- **Human Rights Day**  
(Dec 10<sup>th</sup>)  
iEARN Project:  
"Feeding Minds, Fighting  
Hunger"

Download lesson plans &  
activities at:  
[http://www.earnpk.org/  
iEARN\\_workshops/  
intl\\_days.htm](http://www.earnpk.org/iEARN_workshops/intl_days.htm)

## ***iEARN International Conference and Youth Summit 2010, Barrie-Canada***

A four member delegation of iEARN officials and student participated and presented in the 17<sup>th</sup> iEARN International Conference and 14<sup>th</sup> Youth Summit 2010 Barrie, Canada from July 12<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>. The conference participants included stu-

dents, teachers, policy makers from over 50 countries around the world. Pakistani delegates presented workshops and papers on a wide range of topics including, Youth Programs, Adobe Youth Voices and Global Art.

## ***SIE - Unicef Children Council's Activities***

On 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2010, the Mithi visit aimed at publicizing and introducing the Children's Council project with the people and the children of interior Sindh, who are more vulnerable towards child rights exploitation. The audience was briefed that this platform aims at empowering children while enhancing their decision making skills and leadership qualities.

The elections for the Children's Council were held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2010 with the sole purpose of creating an Executive Committee so

that the Children Council could become functional. Children from Karachi, Sanghar, Johi, Khairpur, Hyderabad and Mithi participated in the elections. The newly elected 15 member Executive Committee represents a good example of gender balance with 47% girls and 53% boys. First orientation for the Executive Committee took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August in which they were told by Children Council Project Manager the various pros and cons of the working machinery of the council.

## ***iEARN Project Based Learning Workshop for teachers***

A 2-day iEARN beginner's workshop was arranged on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 at iEARN Centre Karachi. 10 teachers from different schools in Karachi got enrolled for this workshop. The aim of this workshop was to help teachers integrate ICT in curriculum through meaningful iEARN projects that improve the language proficiency of students as well as improving other skills such as communication and ICT. The par-

ticipants explored different iEARN projects, learned to work in the iEARN Collaboration Centre and participated in other interesting activities. They also made an integration plan for implementing iEARN projects in schools.



## ***New Schools for Adobe Youth Voices Program 2010 and Software Donation to Schools***

Two more schools have joined iEARN Pakistan for Adobe Youth Voices (AYV) program 2010. One teacher from each school is enrolled for an 8-week online training course as part of this program. They will be expected to facilitate their students on final media producing projects which would help them to raise voices on different social issues.

iEARN Pakistan has successfully entered the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of this program. The selected schools include DIL Mehran School, Orangi Town and CDSS

IETC, Korangi, Karachi. These selected schools of AYV program will receive two licensed softwares by iEARN Pakistan for participating in the project funded by Adobe Inc. and iEARN USA. These softwares include Adobe Photoshop Elements 8 and Adobe Premiere Elements 8. Students are required to complete their final project using these licensed software programs.





## YES Alumni Flood Relief Efforts

When the floods 2010 hit Pakistan, YES Alumni responded to the strongest call of duty of their lives and a tremendous amount of energy, enthusiasm and sympathy was generated throughout all the city chapters of YES Alumni Pakistan. Alumni gathered at iEARN Centre Karachi, schools, institutions and road-side camps. They brainstormed on ideas, worked out fundraising plans and got on with implementing everything right away. The first camp set-up through YES Alumni Pakistan was in Peshawar Cantt where

the alumni went door to door selling wrist bands. Over the course of past 6 weeks, YES Alumni have been able to collect funds and goods from friends, families, schools, factories, institutions etc. They have managed to give out 4 truck-loads of relief goods from Karachi, Rawalpindi and Peshawar. They went on-ground in Charsadda and relief camps in Keemari, Karachi. The process hasn't stopped yet. Donations are still pouring in and still given out to the flood victims.



YES Alumni distributing donations among flood victims

## YES Alumni Activities

Summer is the time of the year in which most YES Alumni projects are done since majority of the alumni are free from their colleges and universities. During July 2010, the Karachi chapter organized a certification distribution and dinner at the Beach Luxury Hotel to celebrate the success of iEARN-YES Alumni CDGK Summer Camp. The Peshawar Chapter revisited the library established back in 2009 at Hira Model School in Attock and added more books to the library. The Lahore chapter did a park cleanup. The Rawalpindi Chapter alumni were active with two different projects. One was the Ramadan Ration Pro-

ject, where free ration was given to 12 needy families just before the start of the holy month of Ramadan. During last weeks of July, the alumni successfully completed the Rawalpindi Clean Water project. A well was dug and handed over to locals in a slum near Lal Kurti, Rawalpindi. The alumni have also been busy in flood relief efforts all over Pakistan and few of them also got the chance to represent their efforts on Aag TV on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2010. YES Alumni have been busy in actively playing their role as change agents for the society and have been quite successful so far and this journey will continue.



YES alumni setting up books at the library for orphans at Hira Model School, Attock

## iEARN Online Courses Scholarship to Educators

10 teachers from Pakistan have received scholarship for an 8-week online Professional Development courses started September 2010 in differ-

ent subject areas as part of iEARN Teacher training program. These scholarships are provided by iEARN USA and Doris Duke Foundation.

***"Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value."***

***- Albert Einstien***

## My first iEARN Conference - Memories of life time

My name is Sakina Talib and I'm a YES alumnus and also an iEARN student facilitator on Global Art and Laws of Life and this year I participated in iEARN Canada Conference 2010. The conference was from July 12<sup>th</sup>-July 16<sup>th</sup> at Georgian College, Barrie, Canada. It was an experience of a lifetime. On my very first day when I saw teachers and students from all over the world arriving at the Georgian College it was so over whelming to see people filled with delight when they saw each other, hugging and welcoming, Right then I knew there is another world in here, the world we all dream of, where all countries of the world act as one united entity. In the week ahead not only was I proved right I saw a whole new world of possibilities and opportunities. It was the iEARN virtual world coming to life. I as a youth representative attended workshops on issues concerning environment, how to facilitate, program management, film making and so many more interesting topics. The week was filled with information. I met teachers from each and every corner of the world including Spain, Senegal ,Slovenia, Russia, Egypt, Taiwan, Holland, Peru, China, U.A.E, U.S, Australia, South Korea, Georgia, Iran, Canada etc. I feel extremely lucky to have been given the chance to attend this conference and gain an experience of a lifetime and develop long lasting friendships.

Sakina Talib  
Youth Representative (iEARN Pakistan)



Sakina with her International friends at iEARN Conference



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**YES-8 Students in  
Washington DC**



**YES Alumni Group during  
Certificate Distribution Ceremony**



**Umme Kulsoom receiving her  
engineering degree during the  
convocation**

## Upcoming Events and Professional Development Activities

- Classroom Publications for Effective Communication — (Nov 27<sup>th</sup>)
- Web 2.0 for Education — (Dec 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Social Networking for ELT — (Dec 11<sup>th</sup>)
- ICT in Mathematics — (Dec 18<sup>th</sup>)

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

## YES-8(2010-2011) Departure for the USA

The 70 students who were finally selected to participate in Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program 2010-2011, left for the USA on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2010 from Karachi and Islamabad Airports. The students were from Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpur Sakro, Mirpurkhas, Chakwal, Rahim Yar Khan, Talagang, Lahore, Gujrat, Jehlum, Faisalabad, Muzaffargarh, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Abbottabad, Gilgit, Hunza, Gahkuch and Quetta. The YES Program is a live-and-study in the USA initiative for high school students

for one school year. YES Program scholarships, funded by the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs give secondary school students an opportunity to study at American high schools and live with American host families. In collaboration with the U.S. Embassy, the iEARN Pakistan has been successfully managing this program for the last 8 years.



## Certificate Distribution Ceremony for YES Alumni Group (2008-10)

The US embassy, in collaboration with iEARN Pakistan held a certificate distribution ceremony for the Pak-US Alumni Network at the Lincoln Reading Lounge in the National Library Islamabad on August 24<sup>th</sup> 2010. The event included presentations on year round activities of the YES alumni carried out in 2009-10 by the Peshawar and Rawalpindi/ Islamabad YES alumni groups. The YES alumni also shared their one-year long exchange experiences. The US embassy representative, Mr. Brent Beemer, Cultural Affairs

Officer, US Embassy Islamabad, awarded the certificates to the YES students of the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 for the successful completion of their exchange year in the US under the YES program. Mr. Beemer appreciated the YES alumni for their efforts to bring a positive change in the society through their volunteering and community service projects. 30 YES alumni from Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Lahore participated in the event.

## iEARN Alumnus joins iEARN Team

My association with iEARN goes back in 2003 when I was selected to participate in pioneer year of YES program along with other 26 students from all over Pakistan. It was a life changing experience that brought confidence and enthusiasm in me to work for communities in Pakistan. In 2004, I along with my fellow alumni formed YES alumni Pakistan that initiated several community service projects including summer camps in CDGK schools, micro financing, fundraisers for Earthquake and flood victims etc. In 2009 I got selected to participate in YES alumni conference in Washington DC which was indeed a great experience to meet the alumni associations from all over the world. iEARN gave me an opportunity to work as the script writer for SIE-UNICEF collaborated radio program, Achay Dost that turned out to be a successful project. I graduated in June 2010 from FAST-NUCES as a telecommunication engineer and joined as Program officer at iEARN Centre. I credit iEARN for all the achievements and wonderful experiences that have come across. Thank you iEARN.

Umme Kulsoom  
Program Officer (iEARN-Pakistan)