

Society for International Education

Together for a better world

YES Alumni Tech Innovation Camp 2014



A five day Tech Innovation Camp September 6-10, invited 26 YES alumni from all over Pakistan with a special intent to spot the hidden opportunities around their community and to empower them to create and implement their own solutions to pressing problems. The Tech Innovation Camp dived deep into the innovation process and explored a wide range of technologies in order to develop new, creative and local solutions to problems in local communities. At the same time, alumni improved their project management and public speaking skills as they learned how to develop an action plan for their innovation and how to pitch it to an audience.

The 5-day residential workshop was also a chance for the YES alumni to network with each other and develop action plans to carry out as YES alumni projects in their local communities upon their return back home. During this process, the alumni came up with excellent business ideas and plans which can be carried out in their localities and help the focused cause. All these business ideas were acknowledged and appreciated by the trainers who worked day and night with them in their development process.

"This Tech Innovation Camp has provided you with new skills," shared by Council General at the U.S Consulate Karachi Brian Heath at the Closing Ceremony of the Tech Innovation Camp. He further added, "I look forward to hearing that we have created the next Bill Gates, Steve Jobs or Warren Buffet. It was good to learn that each group identified an aspect of society that needed support so clearly you all hit the mark and in doing so you came up with slick names, slick logos, too, so clearly you have the marketing and branding right. Hence, all of you did a splendid job and you should be proud of yourselves." Over all, the Tech Innovation Camp 2014 was a great success.



Humans Of Lyari

SIE has just launched its new project, Humans of Lyari. It is a project, which aspires to create increased opportunities and incentives to engage young and creative people from Lyari in socially beneficial and benign behaviors. In this project, participants will get the opportunity to learn about photojournalism, photography skills, photo editing and other post-production activities. Through this project, participants will not only get a chance to indulge in a positive social activity but also get a platform to depict a positive image of Lyari. The selected participants will then get training in respective fields for 2 weeks in which their abilities and talents will get polished. After attaining training in photojournalism, the selected participants will then hold photowalks and arrange exhibitions in their vicinity along with training more people who have an interest in photography and photojournalism through street schools.

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Message from Christine, iEARN USA

For over a year and a half I have had the honor of working with YES alumni as the Alumni Coordinator. Through various workshops, orientations and end of stays I have met several alumni from Pakistan and have always been so impressed with the dedication and passion that they act as leaders, ambassadors and change makers. But most importantly the unity they foster as a community of alumni.



When I had the opportunity to help organize a workshop just for Pakistan YES alumni I knew it needed to be something special. The result was the Tech Innovation Camp which guided alumni through the internationally known Human Centered Design Thinking process with an asset based approach to find innovative solutions and ventures to pressing problems by using resources already available in the community .

This was my first visit to Pakistan and with all of the recent news stories I didn't know what to expect. But seeing that such intelligent, talented and passionate youth were striving to make the world a better place left me feeling filled with hope for the future of the country, the region and the world. I look forward to the next generation of innovative YES alumni projects and business ventures coming out of the Pakistan YES Alumni community!

Christine McCaleb
Program Manager
iEARN-USA

Graduation Ceremony of Access Karachi (2012-14)

Access Karachi Graduation Ceremony held at Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi for 1700 Access graduates on Thursday, August 21, 2014. Access students along with their teachers, school's management & U.S. Consulate, Karachi personnel participated in this memorable ceremony. The newly Access graduates were all thrilled and excited to attend this ceremony and receive their certificates. Two Access students and an Access teacher shared their reflections. In their reflections they shared very proudly how Access has made a difference in their lives; they feel more confident now and responsible for the betterment of their communities.

Mr. Brian Heath, U.S. Consul General also addressed with the audience. He was truly pleased to be in this event and share his comments with the fresh graduates. In his talk, he mentioned that this is not merely the end, perhaps a start of a new and exciting



journey where more possibilities and opportunities are waiting ahead. Eventually, Access students received their "Certificate of Completion" from Mr. Brian Heath. He congratulated all the students and appreciated the wonderful efforts made by Access teachers, school's management and Society for International Education for running the program smoothly and successfully completing Access Karachi 2012-14.



I am Karachi

I am Karachi was an initiative put forth by different civil society organizations in order to reclaim a diverse, peaceful and vibrant city through pride, unity and resilience. It was an extremely successful campaign in which different events took place. Thousands of people attended different events arranged by Arts Council, Chanan Development Association, Family Education Services Foundation and many other organizations. SIE played an important role in managing these organizations and managed the social media throughout the campaign. During these events, SIE team also went on air on FM 100, giving people updates about the ongoing event.

New English Access Program Launched (2014-16)

Society for International Education (SIE) has successfully implemented two Access Programs (2010-12 and 2012-14). SIE is now implementing Access 2014-16 in Karachi and Hyderabad.



The English Access Microscholarship Program provides a foundation of English language to talented youth from economically disadvantaged sectors through after school classes and intensive summer activities. Participants gain English skills that may lead to better jobs, educational prospects, and increased opportunity to participate in future exchanges. The English Access Microscholarship Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and is part of the Office of English Language Program's suite of initiatives.

Activities at Education and Community Cohesion Program

A capacity building session on Kitchen Gardening was held on Friday 26th September 2014 to make students of Education and Community Cohesion Program (ECCP) familiar with overcoming food scarcity concerns through growing vegetables from scratch and basic skills for healthy maintenance of plants. This session was attended by around 350 female students of Sultana-bad and Hijrat Colony. ECCP team members spoke about the benefits of edible gardening and the steps involved in the process of sowing, cultivating and nurturing healthy plants.



As an outdoor activity, around 300 male participants of the ECCP program were taken to Pakistan National Stadium to observe the Regional T20 Semi Final match. It was first time for students to have an exposure to such a grand sports facility. Students cheered to the performance of players and enjoyed up to their fullest. Participants certainly learnt the spirit of sportsmanship, the courage to remain determined in defeat and the inner strength to maintain humility in victory.



Level Up Village –STEM Based Learning Program

Society for International Education in collaboration with Level Up Village (LUV) completed its Summer Program with different schools in Karachi. Classes included Global Doctors (GDIT), Global Inventors (GIIT-3D printing class) and Global Scientist in Training (GSIT) classes for different schools in Karachi. For this program, class of 8 – 10 Pakistani students is partnered with a class group of same number of students from USA.

In a span of a week, the students learned about 3D Printing and how they can use this technology to innovate and find solutions to real life problems around them. During Global Doctors class, kids learnt about human body systems and diseases and explore the insides of different animals like frog, snake, shark, earthworms and more. Students also loved Global Scientists class, which focused on enhancing concepts. The LUV Program is a tool as well, for the kids to get introduce with different cultures and people and learn about them.

K-L YES 2013-14 Re-Entry Seminar

Guests from the US Embassy, Staff at iEARN Pakistan, and alumni of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program celebrated another successful year of the YES Program in Pakistan at the Re-Entry Seminar on July 9. More than 30 alumni from the latest returning batch of the YES Program from southern parts of Pakistan attended the event. Senior YES alumni Sarah Zubair and Abdullah Syed spoke to the alumni about community service projects and opportunities they can benefit from being part of the YES alumni network in Pakistan.



The alumni also met the outgoing batch of YES students (2014-15) from southern chapter and shared their exchange experience. They were awarded certificates of acknowledgement from the US Department of State on the community service they did in the United States while on program. The Chief Guest of the evening was Consul General Micheal Dodman. He addressed to the success of exchange year by saying, "Maybe you don't see yourself as diplomats but you have done a lot by explaining about your country and culture to the people in the US. As a kid growing up even I benefited from the exchange students that I met in my school in order to appreciate other cultures and values".

K-L YES, Batch of 2014-15, Departs for the United States of America

A cohort of 107 youth ambassadors, from all over Pakistan, left for United States as a part of Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (K-L YES) Program in the months of August and September, 2014. On reaching the US they were warmly welcomed by their American friends and families and have by now adjusted well to the new environment. The reports of their early days in the US all strongly indicate that these bright young souls have been representing Pakistan with true spirits and dignity in their American host families and high schools.



K-L YES Moments

K-L YES Pakistan student, Suleman Khan, shares his sports experience in Indiana: "Without sports life gets boring. Being involved in different sports and learning much about it leads a person to happiness. When first I came to my high school, it was difficult for me to select a sport because my school did not have soccer nor cricket. Then suddenly I thought of learning tennis and started practicing it, I never thought I would make it to my team but I tried and tried. Finally, I was a member of my team a player who has never held a racket before played for his high school. My coach was pretty impressed and so was I! Tennis season is over and it gave me a lot of joy, along with that I made a lot of friends. I believe that everyone is talented; it just requires a lot of hard work and determination, which will ultimately lead to success.



U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program

Guests from the US Embassy, iEARN Pakistan staff, U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program alumni and their parents celebrated the successful completion of U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program 2014 on August 28 in Karachi. US Summer Sisters Exchange Program is an initiative of US-Pakistan Women's Council. iEARN Pakistan in Collaboration with iEARN USA and American University is implementing it in Pakistan with the funding from U.S. State Department. The Chief Guest of the evening was Consul General Brian Heath. He addressed to the success of the program by saying, "May be when you were going to the program you didn't realize why you were chosen amongst so many others, but we saw that ability in you, and we knew you were the best fit for this program. Programs like these not only help you know about one country but the whole world at large." The girls of U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program shared their amazing experiences from their summer courses ranging from Arts to Entrepreneurship.

YES Alumni Ramadan Projects

YES Alumni Pakistan actively participated in the YES Ramadan Projects as they collected donations from their friends and family to benefit the poor and needy families. In this respect, the alumni all over Pakistan served nearly 500 families with food package worth of PKR 3,000/-.

In the similar spirit, the alumni also reached out to under-privileged areas in their local communities in Rawalpindi, Karachi, Lahore and Quetta to carry out projects on the occasion of Eid to extend the benefit to all and put smiles on their faces. The projects in the spirit of Eid has benefited nearly 500 people.



Overall, the YES Ramadan Projects have impacted nearly 1000 people all over Pakistan. Thanks to the efforts of YES Alumni Pakistan throughout the Ramadan and during Eid. The alumni will continue to work in the similar way to serve their localities in maximum ways possible and give back to the community.

Youth Kay Saath

Youth Kay Saath (YKS) completed their 30th show with a memorable ending on 12th September. The program turned out to be a huge success, reaching youth from all across Karachi. The guests invited to the show belonged to diverse background, who were playing a major role in contributing towards betterment of Karachi through helping out young people. Youth Kay Saath is a radio program by Society for International Education in partnership with Karachi Youth Initiative which aims to raise awareness in youth of Karachi about youth organizations, individuals and groups who are working towards a better society by engaging young people into positive activities.



International PJ 2.014 Workshops and Photo Exhibition Tajikistan



The Photojournalism 2.014 Regional Workshop and Photo Exhibition (Aug 14 – Aug 18) started with a kickoff event on Friday, August 15th at a local hotel in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. This exhibition in Dushanbe is a culmination of students work from Pakistan Tajikistan and United States. Educators and students from three participating countries traveled to Tajikistan to attend the event. iEARN Pakistan delegate included seven educators, three students and two staff members who were part of this program.

Day one started with presentation session from three participating countries, followed by a workshop session for educators and students. Alema Nasim, Manager Professional Development from iEARN Pakistan shared the Photojournalism program experience in Pakistan. She shared the overall program journey and

the activities carried out during the program period. Pakistani teachers shared their Photojournalism experience, their school based work and the challenges faced. The presentations from Pakistan and student work were highly appreciated by the audience.

Program coordinators Firuz Baratov from IEARN Tajikistan and Nicole Weitzner from iEARN USA also shared their program experiences with others. The day ended with wonderful dinner feast at a traditional Tajik restaurant.

The Photo Exhibition was held on second day of five day program on August 16th. US Ambassador Susan M. Elliott was the chief guest of ceremony. Ms. Elliott inaugurated the exhibition and opened up the photo

Introduction to Adobe Youth Voices

Adobe Youth Voices (AYV), the Adobe Foundation's global signature philanthropy program orientation was successfully conducted by iEARN Pakistan on 6 September. 21 teachers from different schools of Karachi registered for this introductory session. The main purpose of this workshop was to make participants understand the basic philosophy of the AYV program. The facilitators explained how this program helps to empower youth from underserved communities to use technology to explore and express their perspectives on issues impacting them and their communities. The main component of the program that is 8 week AYV online course was also discussed. Participants who were interested in the program were selected to participate in the course.

"Workshop provided us a knowledge about AYV in a very meaningful way and motivated us to engage our students to be part of it. It enhanced our skills to collaborate and communicate with others using AYV platform." said Iram Sadiq, a teacher from BVS Parsi High school.



Create Quality Videos with Adobe Premiere

"Create Quality Videos with Adobe Premiere" workshop was also conducted by the iEARN Pakistan on September 20 at iEARN Centre, Karachi. 17 teachers from various schools of Karachi. The participants learned how to edit and produce good quality videos by using this advanced video editing software. They also discovered how to use different editing modes, effects and transitions, and powerful photo-blending techniques. These skills will further help empower youth to use technology to explore and express their perspectives on issues impacting their communities and to enhance their media literacy skills and become media interpreters and creators.



SIE and I...

After graduating from LUMS I wanted to work for an organization that serves people and I feel myself so lucky that I got to start my professional career at SIE. Ever since



I joined SIE, I have felt that I could not have been in a better organization working for the people from underprivileged areas. Being an alumnus of K-L Youth Exchange and Study Program and a student of a school that was run on donations from philanthropists and welfare organizations and then getting a scholarship to study at LUMS, I know the importance of civil society organizations and the role they play in empowering people. I always felt the need to contribute towards betterment of the society so I chose to study Social Science. I always looked for opportunities through which I could pay back to my society and I made the decision of pursuing my career in social sector.

Currently I am working as a Project Coordinator for a photojournalism project that aims to strengthen youth from underdeveloped areas and I am enjoying every single moment. In a short period, I have seen the impact of the work that SIE has been doing.

Humayun Ansari

Project Coordinator

Humans of Layari (HOL)



International Education and Resource Network
Pakistan

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