

# Society for International Education

## Newsletter

October - December 2011

### Message from iEARN USA

For many of us here in the U.S., a trip to Pakistan is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. When the chance came for me to go to Karachi and participate in the Global Connections and Exchange Program's three-day workshop for teachers – I didn't think twice.

In my four days in Pakistan, I met extremely warm people and educators with a worldly view, who were eager to broaden the horizons of their students. The teachers displayed such enthusiasm for this project that I can't wait to see the contributions of their students. I feel extremely lucky to have visited a place so foreign to most Americans, and to be able to share my positive experience with anyone I meet.

Dina Guirguis  
Program Manager  
iEARN-USA



### Global Connection and Exchange: Journalism 2.0 Teachers Training

A 3-day Journalism workshop was planned and conducted by iEARN Pakistan on 13, 14 and 15 December at a local hotel in Karachi. This workshop was the first event of the Global Connections, Journalism 2.0 program that iEARN Pakistan is implementing in collaboration with iEARN USA and Education and Cultural Affairs, US Government. The workshop trained a group of 23 middle and high school teachers to increase leadership skills, as well as personal and institutional ties and mutual understanding among stu-

dents and educators in Ecuador, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Thailand and their peers in the United States.

*"We are very excited about having our students to engage in meaningful inquiry through journalism projects",* said an excited teacher at the closing of a three days teachers training in Karachi.

Ms. Amanda the Information Officer of the Consulate General of United States awarded the certificate of completion to all graduating teachers of this workshop.

*"It is a thousand times better to have common sense without education than to have education without common sense." -- Robert Green Ingersoll*

### iEARN Celebrates International Education Week

International Education Week was celebrated with full zeal and enthusiasm by iEARN Pakistan on November 17, 2011 in collaboration with US Consulate Karachi. The YES Alumni, and the English Access Microscholarship Program students convened for an active afternoon event. YES alumni shared their YES exchange experiences with the Access students and how the YES experience helped them understand the global issues and succeed in their academic and career. They also highlighted their activities as YES alumni. It was a good opportunity for Access students to understand the

program and what it means to be a YES student. The alumni also shared their experiences through presentations followed by a panel discussion. The presenters included other US State Department funded program alumni who shared their experiences as exchange program participants. William Martin, the Counselor General of US Consulate Karachi, addressed the students. Mr. Kevin Murakami, the Public Affairs Officer and Tony Jones, the Cultural Affairs Officer also participated in the event. <http://www.facebook.com/yesalumnipakistan>

### VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

#### Look out for:

<i>British Council Connecting Classrooms Online follow-up</i>	2
<i>Enhancing 21st Century Skills Seminar</i>	2
<i>YES Alumni support for Environmental Campaign</i>	3
<i>Access Karachi students participate in 'Mega Event'</i>	3
<i>iEARN celebrates International Education Week</i>	3
<i>Access Teachers Training for Module 4</i>	4



## Cultural Affairs Officer US Consulate-Karachi visit to iEARN



Anthony Jones the Cultural Affairs Officer from the US Consulate Karachi, visited the iEARN Centre-Pakistan and spent time getting to know the team and the programs run by SIE at the iEARN-PK Centres

### *Inspirational thoughts for iEARN...*

"iEARN is a training organization which encompasses difference and diversity, fun and friendship, optimism and openness, trust, tolerance and teamwork, creativity, learning and growth, a commitment to reason and critical thinking, an interest in other countries and cultures, and a willingness to embrace change and new experiences"

... *Aalumgir Shah, Access Substitute teacher*

"I have no idols. I admire work, dedication and competence. Indeed, these lines are perfect for iEARN team"

... *Saba Mukhtar, The City School, Islamabad*



## British Council Connecting Classrooms Online Follow-up Seminar

Society for International Education held a Connecting Classrooms Online (CCO) Follow-up Seminar for teachers and students on Wednesday, October 12 in a local hotel. The major objective was to celebrate the success of CCO and Social Action projects and recognize the efforts of the teachers who had successfully completed their projects. Presentations were made by teachers and their students to share best practices in project implementation. It also provided a platform to share the challenges faced by participants during project implementation and provided them an opportunity to get assistance to complete their projects. Later on, certificates were awarded to teachers and students who had completed their projects.



<http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/>

## Enhancing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills with iEARN Projects & Club Activities

iEARN Pakistan conducted a seminar on 'Enhancing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills with iEARN Projects & Club Activities' on Saturday 29, 2011 at Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi. More than 200 teachers and students from different schools in Karachi and Hyderabad were invited to attend this event. This seminar was a kickoff event for the recently launched iEARN Global Connection and Exchange program, "Journalism 2.0: Empowering a new generation of Civic education leaders". This program will engage young leaders who are eager to understand and to have a voice in local and national events and communities. GCE is a collaborative program of iEARN programs in Pakistan, USA, Thailand, Tajikistan and Ecuador supported by the Education and Cultural Affairs of US Government. The day-long pro-

gram was also a sharing event for teachers and students of iEARN club schools. Other schools, who actively participate in iEARN projects and activities, were also invited to share their successes and challenges with others. The first half of the event included presentations by iEARN staff, followed by presentations of active iEARN member schools. Presentations made by students and teachers proved to be a good example of sustainability of iEARN projects in schools.

The second half of the event consisted of different breakup sessions. Six consecutive sessions were conducted which included 'Planning of iEARN Clubs and Activities', 'Youth Media', 'YouthCan', 'Creative Writing' and 'Youth Volunteering and Community Service' etc.



## iEARN Centre Islamabad hosts trainings...

iEARN Centre, Islamabad hosted "iEARN Beginners' Workshop" and "Youth Volunteering and Community Service (YVS)" trainings on 14 and 15 of October. A group of 10 teachers and 21 students participated in iEARN Beginners training, where as 11 teachers and 18 students attended YVS training. The participants of both the workshops belonged to different schools in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The iEARN Beginners' workshop aimed to introduce participants to iEARN network and forums and get them involved in iEARN projects and activities. They were also briefed about iEARN school based clubs for students. The YVS training focused on engaging students planning and implementation of community service work.

iEARN Pakistan organized a couple of more workshops at its iEARN Centre Islamabad on November 11 and 12, 2011. The participants took great interest in the two workshops titled "Introduction to Adobe Youth Voices" and "Social Media and Web 2.0 tools", which provided them with new ideas of creating media and using social media and web 2.0 tools in education. The two day-long trainings included interesting activities, presentations, software demos and practice time for teachers. In first workshop, teachers learned to create media and planned to engage their students to express their thoughts and views using these 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. The other workshop introduced the use of Social Media tools in education and provided participants with an opportunity to exploring a variety of Web 2.0 tools that could be used in classrooms.

## **iEARN Orientation and YES Alumni support for Environmental Campaign**

Yes Alumni Pakistan facilitated the students of The City School, Capital Campus Islamabad, who planned a community service event as a follow up activity of Youth Volunteering and Community Service workshop held on October 15, 2011 at iEARN Centre, Islamabad. Students and teachers of The City School planned a campaign against harmful effects of using polythene bags and to raise public awareness on the importance of recycling for a better environment. Students distributed paper bags to local shop keepers and pasted informative flyers at different places. On November 17, the YES Alumni team from Rawalpindi/ Islamabad again visited The City School, Capital Campus to conduct an orientation session about iEARN and iEARN Clubs to be formed in schools. They also helped the participants to better understand community service and volunteerism and shared their community service projects with them. The orientation was followed by a planting activity in the school premises where the YES Alums joined the Green Team of The City School and planted saplings.



## **Access Karachi students participate in 'Mega Event'**

While the Access classes continued as usual at all the Access Centers, the highlight of the quarter was the 'mega event' held on 30 October, where all 1500 Access students assembled at the local hotel. The nearly 60 buses full of cheerful and excited youngsters, arriving at the hotel from 15 different parts of Karachi was indeed a breathtaking sight. As the day unfolded students presented their experiences with

Access in the form of reflections, presentations, video clips, poems, and skits – all in English! For most of the students this was their first experience making a stage appearance before such a huge audience. Participation in the mega event indeed gave a tremendous boost to their confidence. Program guests included Anthony Jones, the Cultural Affairs Officer at the US Consulate, Karachi, and SIE-iEARN Officials.

## ***A few words of Thanks...***

Ms. Saba Mukhtar, a teacher from The City School appreciated efforts done by YES Alumni volunteers and thanked iEARN team on behalf of her school. In her email she said, *"Seriously I have no words the way your volunteers did the job today. They guided our students towards the perfect dimension and induced lots of confidence among them. With your sincere efforts it went awesome. On behalf of The City School, I thank you once again for your support. Hope one day we will be able to totally eliminate these plastic bags from our country... Insha Allah"*



Access Karachi students at the Mega Event

## **First Grand Event held by Access Quetta-Pishin**

English Access Microscholarship Program Quetta-Pishin held its first grand event on December 12, 2011 at Quetta. 120 Access students from Quetta and Pishin participated in the event. The students shared their experiences of Access program and said that it is a life changing experience for them. They presented skits, made speeches and sang songs. The officials from Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad and U.S. Consulate, Karachi were present at the event. They addressed the participants, met the students and talked to them. The students were very excited and happy to find the guests among themselves and shared their views with them. The event was organized on completion of the first module of the five-module English Access Microscholarship Program Quetta-Pishin. Access-Quetta and Pishin is the recently launched after school English proficiency program run by iEARN Pakistan. It engages 600 students from 6 different locations in Quetta and Pishin. Since 2010, iEARN Pakistan is already successfully running the Access in Karachi for 1500 students.



Group photo of Access Quetta students with officials from US Consulate and US Embassy Islamabad

## **Beach Saving Efforts by YES Alumni and Access Students**

December 31, 2011, last day of the year ended up leaving some unforgettable memories for the Access Students of "The Learning House (TLH)" as they did their Mega Service Learning Project titled 'SAVE OUR BEACH'. "I know the beach will be filthy again in a few hours but I won't throw litter on the beach next time". Syed Jawaid (Access Student). The Access Students from Karachi learnt how the environmental footprint impacts their community and the world by participating in Save Our Beach environmental beach clean-

ups and team building activities. The activity was carried out as part of the iEARN YouthCan project lead in Pakistan by a group of KL-YES Alumni. The participating Access Karachi students learnt to be an active and responsible citizen, take care of the beaches, they learnt to take responsibility and how to write reports. Most importantly, they learnt that trash kills marine life, and therefore periodic beach clean ups must be taken by every citizen.

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



YES Alumni and Access Students participated in Beach Cleaning Activity

## Celebrate UN International Days by integrating iEARN Projects

Global Family Day

(January 1)

iEARN Project: My Identity, Your Identity

International Mother Language Day

(February 21)

iEARN Project: Calligraphy Arts

International Women's Day

(March 8)

iEARN Project: My Hero

Download lesson plans at:

<http://www.earnpk.org/>

[iearn\\_workshops/intl\\_days.htm](http://www.earnpk.org/iearn_workshops/intl_days.htm)

### iEARN and I...

Switching a job from the corporate world as an accomplished banker to being the Finance Manager at a non-profit organization was a major decision of my life. I have joined SIE in September, having a Master's degree in Business Management with major in Finance. In the short period of my experience working with the dynamic Dream Team at SIE, I discovered how engaging and rewarding is a career that is aimed at making a difference in people's life. A unique feature of working in this organization is the presence of very high level of collegiality and fraternity among the staff. The extraordinary team spirit is a great motivating factor for staff to give their best and this contributes to the organization's success. I have been enjoying a great working experience nationwide across all iEARN and SIE programs, and offices in Karachi, Quetta and Islamabad supporting the staff at all levels, ensuring resource mobilization for effective and efficient project implementation and development of new projects. I have had the experience of reshaping and streamlining the financial policy and procedures and have found the leaders and board of SIE very supportive and welcoming to the changes. I look forward to a long and productive association with SIE!!!

*Shahrkh Mughal*

Finance Manager

iEARN Pakistan



## Upcoming Events and Professional Development Activities

### Karachi Workshops

- Global Connection & Exchange Journalism 2.0 Training (for students), January 28
- Folktales/Digital Storytelling, February 10-11
- Learning and Sharing through Animation, February 25
- Teaching Vocabulary; Some Interesting Ideas, Some Interesting Techniques, March 3
- Social Media and Web 2.0 tools in Education, March 17

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

### Access Teachers Training for Module 4



<http://www.earnpk.org/accesskhi/index.html>

As part of in-service training of teachers, a full-day training program was held on December 10 at a local hotel in Karachi. The 85 participants – including Substitute Teachers and Assistant Teachers - were given an introduction of the new book and exposed to some new resources and teaching strategies, specifically the use of DARTs and authentic language materials.

### Adobe Youth Voices Training for Access Teachers and Students

iEARN Pakistan conducted Adobe Youth Voices (AYV)

workshop for 70 students participating in Access Karachi program, five teachers and five coordinators of the same program on Saturday, October 8, 2011. Adobe Youth Voices is the



Adobe Foundation's global signature philanthropy program designed to provide youth in underserved communities with the critical skills they need to become active and engaged members of their communities and the world at large. In the full-day workshop, the participants learned about the use of cutting-edge multimedia tools to communicate and share their ideas, demonstrate their potential, and take action where they live. Each group planned their media projects they will work on in the coming months. They found it very exciting to be able to create and produce media.

Five teachers, who were enrolled in 8-week Adobe Youth Voices online course, have completed their training and are in process of finalizing their project videos.

<http://youthvoices.adobe.com>



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PAKISTAN**

A Project of Society for Int'l Education

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[www.earnpk.org](http://www.earnpk.org)

[www.youtube.com/earnpk](http://www.youtube.com/earnpk)