

# iEARN Centre Pakistan Society for International Education



Newsletter  
October - December 2013



## iEARN Photojournalism 2.014 F2F Workshop

iEARN Pakistan successfully conducted a 4-day face to face training for the iEARN Photojournalism 2.014: Heritage, Hunger and Food Security project. Spread over two weekends (10-11 Jan and 17-18 Jan), the training was attended by 28 participants of seven different schools from Karachi, Hyderabad and Tando Ala Yar, including private schools, government schools and trust schools. The trainings were held at the iEARN Centre in Karachi.

The first two days of the training focused on technical skill building, with trainers on photography from Canon Pro Academy, and on journalism from the Express Tribune. The participants learnt not only the ins and outs of journalism, media ethics, and photography, but were also educated on food security, heritage and hunger. They also participated in a cultural potluck, bringing cultural food and taking photographs of them, practicing their skills.

During the second half of the four day training, participants went on a photowalk, covering two different locations. Tofiq Pasha, a renowned horticulturalist with 30 years of experience hosted the participants at his farm on Friday. While giving the tour, he explained how farming works, and how important it is to understand the basics of growing food. He also demonstrated various

processes, and talked about the way environmental change is affecting food growth in our region. The participants also visited a local supermarket to take a look at various fresh food options available for the consumers and captured fresh, healthy and organic food sources while practicing their photography skills.

On the final day of the workshop, the participants put their learning into action by creating photo-stories of their learning about food, using photographs they took in during the workshop. They also learned to share their final products on iEARN Collaboration Center to be viewed by participants from all over the world. The teachers and students worked together to plan the PJ 2.014 activities at their school until August 2014.

## What our educators say about PJ2.014 program?

- *I believe this program will enable students to realize the importance of food and nutrition and sensitize them towards real world issues of hunger and poverty. (Safia Lakhani, Beaconhouse School System, Latifabad, Hyderabad)*
- *We did not receive such training before and I am sure it would help underprivileged students by giving them opportunity to explore food issues and problems in the society. (Nargis Yaqoob, Govt. Girls Secondary School, Jutline)*
- *This program will really help me and my students in future because my students belong to a back ground where they don't have such opportunities and would never be able to learn these types of skills. (Naeem Ibrahim, BVS Parsi High School)*



## Lettuce Grow – An Environmental Citizenship Project

YES Alumni and Access teachers enthusiastically participated in the Lettuce Grow project on December 12, 2013 at the iEARN Center, Karachi. The day was packed with an interactive session on container gardening and hands on experience of growing vegetables and fruits easily. As part of its youth and community focused programs, iEARN has launched the 'Lettuce Grow' project, for the young people and communities introducing them to growing Kitchen Gardens. The project activities are aimed at developing environmental citizenship, community outreach and volunteerism, making conscious contribution towards long-term food sustainability and experiential learning.



YES Alumni have collaborated with Engro Envy to launch and run its first Training of the Trainers enabling youth leaders and teachers to start a Kitchen Garden at school or their communities.

The training was conducted by a highly qualified trainer, Mr. Naeem Ali Farrukh from Engro Fertilizers for a group of KL-YES Alumni and the Access teachers. The participants were involved in various activities that helps them understand the basic concept of Container Gardening, challenges, soil structure, sowing, growing, watering and taking care of their plants.

"I am extremely excited to start a kitchen garden at a school in my community," says a YES alumna during the Lettuce Grow Training Program.

The Lettuce Grow project would organize an exhibit as an end product to display the fully-grown plants and produce of the participants in April 2014.

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





## Certificate Award Ceremony for New Access Students

A Certificate Award Ceremony was held for the 200 newly enrolled students in the English Access Program, Karachi on October 29, 2013. Access students, Access alumni and teachers shared their interesting experiences with the audience. Farah Kamal, General Secretary, SIE gave a brief overview of the program and welcomed the newly enrolled students to the special event. She thanked the U.S. State Department, U.S. Embassy, Islamabad and U.S. Consulate, Karachi for funding and support for the SIE-managed Access Program.

Michael Dodman, Consul General, U.S. Consulate General, Karachi was the Chief Guest. He warmly welcomed the students and teachers to the award ceremony: *"Access is my favorite program. I thank you all for participating in the Access program and helping us in making Pakistan a prosperous country."* Mr. Dodman, later, awarded certificates to the students for receiving the Access Program scholarship. The special guest of the event was Annie Simpkins, Pakistan Desk Officer from Department of State,

Washington, DC. She was pleased to meet the Access students and wished them luck for future endeavors. Mr. Phillip Assis, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer and Ms. Aisha, English Programs Coordinator, U.S. Consulate General, Karachi were also present in the event.

Two Access students shared their experiences and views. Atif Ali, from Access Center in Sachal Goth, said, *"We are very lucky to have this program in our school. We are learning and also having fun."* Another student, Urooba, from Access Center in Saudabad said, *"We do many interesting activities in Access classes. We celebrate UN days and also play language games. We do community service and we also watch English movies. We enjoy all this very much."*

The event was covered by major TV channels, newspapers and FM radio channels who broadcast live interviews of Access students, teachers and SIE Access team members.

## Field Trip To PAF Museum by Access Students from Hyderabad

On a cold December morning fifty excited Access students from Hyderabad left for Karachi to undertake an exciting field trip at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Museum on 26<sup>th</sup> December. Three days earlier, on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, the Access girls from Hyderabad had made a similar visit to the museum. The students were thrilled to see a large collection of airplanes depicting the aviation history of Pakistan. There were all kinds of planes and aviation technology on display – war planes, civil aircrafts, rescue helicopters, and radars. Access student also had the opportunity to read information material and see pictures of the PAF's legendary officers and the force's history since 1947 – the year Pakistan emerged on the world map.

The Access students and teachers were joined by representatives from the US Consulate, Karachi - Phillip and Aisha. Both of them interacted freely with students and even joined them on the exciting rides.

Overall, the field trip was a valuable experience for students as it combined learning with entertainment.

Faraz shared his impressions in the following words:

*"Today I enjoyed a lot at PAF Museum with Access fellows and teachers. We had a great fun and learning by this trip before that I had very little knowledge about the Pakistan Air Force system and the heroes of Pakistan. I was so happy with the airplane used by Quaid-e-Azam."*

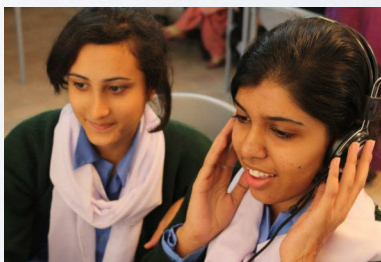
Asra, an Access student from the girls' school, expressed her views by saying, *"I have not ever seen such a huge aircraft with my eyes. It is an outstanding experience for me to touch and see this wonderful invention of science. I came to know about the invention of the first airplane by Wright brothers."*





## Social Media Training by YES Alumni

On October 5, Pak-US Alumni Network in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa & FATA YES Alumni successfully conducted a workshop in Peshawar Model School, Peshawar. The workshop focused on creating awareness about social Media and to promote a positive use of it. During the sessions, the participants were engaged in the hands-on practice to explore various online resources which can be used for educational purposes. It also focused on to motivate students about their career and passion and how to achieve what they want in life through education. 40 students participated in the event, whereas 5 YES alumni served as facilitators.



The event was a great success because the students had a chance to learn about a whole new medium of education they can explore by using internet. They also learned about using social media effectively and spend their time on internet positively for enhancing their ability to learn. As a result, the students also had the opportunity to network with the alumni and learn from them considering their expertise.

## Tech Camp for Access Students in Rawalpindi

A Tech Camp for English Access students Rawalpindi students was held on 9th and 10th November, 2013 at iEARN Center, Islamabad. A total of 41 Access Rawalpindi students participated in the event. This was the first of the Tech Camp series to be held in Rawalpindi, Karachi and Hyderabad for the students of Access Program administered by Society for International Education.

In the day-long workshop the students learned about various web-based English language teaching and learning resources developed by U.S. Department of State. The resources include *Trace Effects*, an English language learning game, and the website for American English ([www.americanenglish.state.gov](http://www.americanenglish.state.gov)).

Sumayya, one of the participants shared, "*The best thing was the Trace Effect game. In that game, I have learned how to communicate with the people in a polite manner and how to help them and it was an exciting experience. Thank you Access*". The students also had a chance to register on the International

Exchange Alumni ([alumni.state.gov](http://alumni.state.gov)) website to connect with the alumni from other U.S. Government funded programs and learn about different features of the website.

In the social media part of the workshop, the students learned about using Facebook and Twitter as a platform for social interaction related to educational purposes. The participants posted their experiences on Access Program Headquarters page. Arooj Iqbal shared, "*Today, in the Facebook session, I joined the Access Headquarters Facebook page. In the ACCESS Headquarters Page, I will interact with Access students from all around the world*".

The trainers of the Access Tech Camp were a group of five K-L YES alumni led by SIE Youth Programs Coordinator who happens to be a K-L YES Alumnus. Mr. Abdul Majeed, English Programs Manager at the U.S Embassy Pakistan, joined the students at the Access Tech Camp and shared his remarks on Twitter as well.



Syed Asad Ali, a YES participant in Northern California, selected as November YES Student, inspired all those around him with his enthusiasm and optimism. His placement organization calls him "an amazing example of what it means to appreciate every minute of your life."

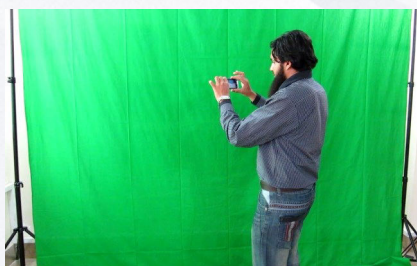


Since his arrival, Asad has volunteered for 35 hours through his school's Key Club, Diversity Club, Interact Club, and Movement Club, facilitating group discussions for anti-bullying campaigns, a backpack project for needy children, and fundraising for various organizations. He has given ten excellent presentations about Pakistan, including one before his entire school of 800 students.

Asad is the first exchange student to ever be invited to join the student council at Central Valley high School and was recently invited to attend a regional Student Body Leadership Conference. Asad is his school's mascot, is on the cross country and soccer teams, and hopes to participate in track in the spring. He maintains a 4.0 GPA and was recently added to the Principal's High Honor Roll.

On top of his busy schedule at school, Asad is spearheading an exchange student talk show on community radio station KKRN. Asad will be the host of a planned bi-weekly show called "Exchange at 8," on which he will interview exchange students from the area on various topics of interest.





## Digital Media Training for O3 Educators

On November 11, 2013 iEARN Pakistan conducted a day-long Digital Media training for the educators of O3 (Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World) project. 10 Teachers gathered from both O3 groups (year 1 and 2) at iEARN Centre Islamabad to participate in the training.

The session focused on editing of videos and creating digital stories. The teachers are required to create their own digital stories based on culture of Punjab and issues that impact their families as part of 8-week online course that they are engaged in.

These videos were posted on the course forum at the end of course. iEARN team also visited a participating school of O3 program in Rawalpindi on November 12, to meet students and educators in action. The students were excited and shared their program participation experience and showed interest in future project activities.

## Using Green Screen Effect in Media Making

A workshop on 'Green Screen Effect in Media Making' was conducted by iEARN Pakistan on November 2, 2013 to teach the fundamental art of film making. The workshop focused on using the technique of Green Screen to create videos, newscasts, commercials and digital stories. 15 educators from different schools in Karachi and Hyderabad registered for the training.

The workshop lead by iEARN team of facilitators, consisted of series of practical exercises to provide participants a basic understanding of using chroma key technique to achieve the best possible results.

During the training, the participants got a chance to explore different ways to film and about ideal shooting conditions. The participants learned about different ways to integrate this technique in their classrooms to make it more interactive and unique.

## 'Creating Multimedia Resources for Teach-

On December 7, iEARN Pakistan conducted another creative workshop for teachers named 'Creating Multimedia Resources for Teaching'.

24 teachers from eleven different schools in Karachi registered for this day-long training. The focus of the workshop was to introduce teachers to the benefits of creating their own multimedia resources that are more curriculum specific and meet the learners' needs.

The session was mostly hands-on and teachers learnt different techniques and selection of appropriate tools to create resources in a short period of time. It was an interactive session and kept the participants engaged throughout. In the end the certificates were given to participating teachers.



### Upcoming Events and Professional Development Activities

#### Karachi Workshops

- Teaching Vocabulary; Some Interesting Ideas, Some Interesting Techniques, 1 March
- High School Photojournalism Training, 7-8 March
- Capture your Creativity - Photography Workshop, 15 March
- Social Media for Schools, 29 March
- iEARN Project Based Learning (Beginners Training), 5 April
- Youth Tech Camp, 18-19 April
- School Leadership for the 21st Century, 26 April
- Using Green Screen Effects in Media Making, 3 May

For more information and registration, visit  
<http://www.earnpk.org/PD/14schedule.htm>



International Education and Resource Network  
Pakistan

(A Project of Society for International Education)



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