



**International Education and Resource Network Pakistan**  
*(A project of Society for international Education)*

## **World Information Society Day**

**17<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

World Information Society Day is celebrated each year to promote people's awareness of the power of information and communication to build societies in which they can create, access, use and share information and knowledge to achieve their full potential. In **November 2005**, the World Summit on the Information Society called upon the UN General Assembly to declare 17<sup>th</sup> May as World Information Society Day to focus on the importance of ICT and the wide range of issues related to the Information Society raised by WSIS. The General Assembly adopted a resolution in March 2006 stipulating that World Information Society Day shall be celebrated every year on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

The purpose of this day is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

### **Some quick facts...**

**According to recent surveys, over 60 per cent of children and teenagers talk in chat rooms on a daily basis. Three in four children online are willing to share personal information about themselves and their family in exchange for goods and services. And one in five children will be targeted by a predator or pedophile each year.**



### **Message from Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General**

"Children and young people are among the most prolific users of the Internet and mobile devices. As they surf through cyberspace seeking information and entertainment and building social networks, they are also among the most vulnerable to exploitation. Without safeguards, their precious lives are at grave risk in the vicious world of cybercriminals and pedophiles that prey on easy targets. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes the right to education and access to information, as well as the right to engage in play and recreational activities."



### **Theme 2009**

**"Protecting Children in Cyberspace"**

## Risks and benefits of the internet

The internet is a powerful tool for developing students' communication and collaboration skills. Above all, the internet is an effective means of building language skills. Through email, chat rooms and discussion groups, students learn the basic principles of communication in the written form. Due to the free availability of information on the Internet, a major risk that a child may be exposed to is inappropriate material, hateful or violent in nature or encourages activities that are dangerous or illegal.

### iEARN Pakistan initiative:

iEARN Pakistan invites all to celebrate Information Society Day by participating in activities in relation to new technologies, which allow the whole school to take part. The purpose of these activities on the occasion of World Information Society day is to enable children and young people to understand and deal with potential risks of cyberspace and ensure safer use of Internet. The main focus of celebrating this day is to:

- **Create public awareness** on the issues related to protecting children in cyberspace and to identify policies, best practices, tools and resources for adaptation/use in their countries.
- **Identify risks and vulnerabilities** to children in cyberspace as the Internet and other online resources continue to expand.

### Steps to be taken:

#### 1. Initiate a discussion:

Have a discussion with your class about the risks and benefits for internet usage. Discuss why children use internet and which websites and search engines they prefer to use.

#### 2. Set Reasonable Rules and Guidelines

You should lay down guidelines and rules for computer and internet use by your students. Discuss these rules with your students first and then post them near the computer as a reminder.

#### 3. Create with technology

Ask students to design **Internet Safety Posters, make small video clips or animations** to create public service announcements (**PSAs**). Students can use any available software to show their creativity to ensure safe practice with technology.

#### 4. Share it with others

Share it globally by posting it in iEARN online **Portraits of the World** project forum. You can also share it in your school by posting them around or having a contest.

## Portraits of the World - Forum address:

iEARN **Portraits of the World** project forum can be accessed in iEARN Collaboration Centre, under the project categories "**Visual and Creative Arts**" or can be accessed directly at:

<http://foro.iearn.org/.1e3c62c3/>

**Note:** Project can be posted through the months of May and June. iEARN username and password is required to access this forum. If you are not registered as an iEARN member this is time you should do so at <http://www.iearnpk.org/register.htm>

Direct all queries about this project and to [alema@iearnpk.org](mailto:alema@iearnpk.org)

Join iEARN and Make a Difference to the World

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

