

Society for International Education

Newsletter

April - June 2011

Message from iEARN Russia ...

Having been an iEARN member since 2006 I can't help getting surprised at the wide range of project based activities iEARN offers for global education community. Me and my students are very active in the iEARN Folk Tales/Storytelling: Past and Present with Pakistani students and teachers. We were truly thrilled at a recent Digital Video Conferencing between our classrooms in Pakistan and Russia the students were engaged in many creative activities throughout the session. Also worth mentioning is a Skype session with a group of Pakistani teachers teaching English. We, with our different cultural and religious background, talked about our common English teaching issues: how to enhance teaching effectiveness, how to integrate ICT in school curriculum, how to develop foreign language competencies, best approaches in ELT and many more. But iEARN is not simply a forum for collaborative projects for our students to get involved in, it's indeed an effective academy for professional development in the form of online courses, workshops and annual conferences. I am looking forward to meet Pakistani teachers and students face to in the iEARN Annual Conference in Taiwan. <http://iearn-russia.org>
Rimma Zhukova (iEARN Coordinator, Russia)



Access Karachi Students Skype with Students in Russia

A group of Access Karachi students participated in a Skype session with a summer camp students in Miass, Russia on June 21, 2011. They shared their folk tales and asked



each other about their folk tales, characters, culture, traditions and festivals. It was a part of iEARN online collaborative project 'Folk tales/Storytelling: Past and Present'. Access Karachi students, through Skype also spoke to one of Access Coordinators who is presently in the USA participating in a course at Amherst, Massachusetts. The students asked him about his experience and the life in general in the USA.

For details please visit SIE Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Society-for-Intl-Education/17812116222028>
Check Blog page at: <http://www.newhorizons.blogspot.com/2011/06/videoconference-pakistani-and-russian.html>

iEARN Online Summer Camp 2011

iEARN Online Summer Camp 2011 was launched to provide a platform to youth ages 13-16 years to create, communicate and collaborate with others while engaging them in their own learning using the internet, web 2.0 tools and iEARN forums. The 3-week program started on June 21 and ended on July 9 with sessions on alternate days. 80 students from different cities of Pakistan including Karachi, Islamabad, Pishin, Peshawar and Khairpur participated in the Online Summer Camp. Classes were conducted on Elluminate Virtual Classroom from 10 am to 12 pm. iEARN online Summer Camp was also hosted at iEARN Centre, Islamabad and Resource Centre, Peshawar by some YES alumni to facilitate groups of students from different schools in both cities. The sessions focused on introduction to Elluminate software, iEARN Projects and Forums, Social Media as an Educational tool, creating Gmail account and using Google docs, introduction to Youth Media and its importance for youth as creator of digital media not only its users. Check iEARN OSC blog at <http://iearnosc2011.edublogs.org/>



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

Look out for:

<i>Adobe Partners Training</i>	2
<i>Access-Karachi Students' Activities</i>	2
<i>K-L YES PDO - Mega Event</i>	3
<i>YES-8 Returned Back to Pakistan</i>	3
<i>K-L YES Pre Departure Orientations - Mega Event</i>	3
<i>iEARN Workshop for ICELT Participants</i>	4



YouthCaN Activity. Read news on Page 2



Aun Bin Yousef, YES student from Pakistan who uses a wheelchair was interviewed and filmed by Jeff McBride. Watch video produced by Mobility International USA. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-hAKcgZsbs>. Read full story on Page 3.

"When one door closes, another opens. But we often look so regretfully upon the closed door that we don't see the one that has opened for us."

~ *Helen Keller*



Micah Risher, the English Language Manager from US Embassy Islamabad, visited the iEARN Centre-Pakistan on April 21.

Earthday Celebration by YouthCAN group from Education Trust Nasra School

Students and teachers from Education Trust Nasra School, Karachi, Pakistan celebrated the Earth Day on 22nd April by cleaning the beach to convey message among Youth to love and care for Mother Earth. The activity was done as part of iEARN YouthCaN project and also posted in YouthCaN project forum. Pakistani Channels also joined the cause and had the live telecast of this event.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtePW4-EZBw&feature=share>
<http://foro.iearn.org/webx?230@@.1ebbfac4>

A few words from Gretchen...

In April, 2011, thanks to Farah Kamal, I had the good fortune to work with iEARN and the Access Microscholarship Program in Karachi, Pakistan. I was able to train teachers and coordinators with the Access Program; and I learned about the remarkable work being done by not only Access but iEARN, YES, and the Children's Council as well. While working with Access I was impressed with the organization as a whole, and specifically by the dedication of the teachers, coordinators and managers. The coordinators put together a Teachers' Resource Pack of lessons based on our shared training materials. Thanks to the generosity of the Access team, I have been able to pass the Resource Pack on to other Access programs in Nepal and Tanzania. I look forward to returning to Pakistan and being able to work with Farah, Tahir, and the team again.

Gretchen Coppedge
Georgetown University,
Washington, D.C.

Adobe Partners Training

iEARN Pakistan is participating in Adobe Youth Voices Network Partners Meeting that is being held from May 3 - 6 at Adobe Headquarters in San Jose, California, USA. iEARN Pakistan is a partner with Adobe Foundation in Adobe Youth Voices with support from iEARN USA and has successfully implemented the program since 2007. iEARN Pakistan is being represented by Manager Programs and Operations. The participants visited three Adobe Youth Voices sites in the area that included Redwood City Peapod Adobe Youth Voices Academy. This visit strengthened the connections between the US and Pakistan students and more video conferences will be planned to discuss youth media and to share each other's experiences. Visit *SIE Facebook page for details and photos.*



Access Teachers undergo trainings

Access teachers were offered a series of five workshops conducted by Ms. Gretchen Coppedge (an English Language Fellow from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.) arranged through the courtesy of US Consulate, Karachi. The topics of the workshop included Supplementary Material Development, Methods and Approaches to English Language Teaching, Pronunciation, Teaching Oral Skills and Testing Oral Skills. Later, before the commencement of Module-3, a full-day teacher training Program was organized on June 18. The major focus of the training was on introducing the Teachers' Resource Pack specially prepared as supplementary material. Other items on the menu were also intended to augment the book-based learning – online activities, use of AV lessons, Jazz Chants, etc.

All these activities carry the potential to bring learning and fun together



Access-Karachi Students' Activities

As students returned to Access classes in May after the two-month 'examination break,' a number of enhancement activities took place to regain the interest and enthusiasm of students – field trips, Audio-Visual lessons, community service learning, newsletter publication, formation of reading clubs, etc. These activities certainly added an interesting and productive dimension to the usual teaching and learning. Most of the students found the technique of AV lessons enjoyable and teachers found it more learner-

centered. Access students also developed center-wise newsletters to express their feeling and improve writing skills. Access students had a memorable experience when they were taken on the field trips. Getting involved in Community Service learning also has given students a truly valuable experience of understanding the value of caring for others. All these activities have made the Access students more confident and have enhanced their spoken as well as written English.



Connecting Classrooms Online Project trainings end

British Council Connecting Classrooms Online trainings which started on 4th March ended in the month of May. Last workshop was conducted at the iEARN Centre, Karachi on 6-7 May, 2011 respectively for 10th group of teachers from different schools in Karachi. These workshops aimed at training teachers for participating in Connecting Classrooms Online collaborative projects by linking them globally through CCO forums. A total of 175 teachers were trained under this training program from 91 schools

of Karachi. The participants also planned to engage their students in Service Learning projects by developing and posting the Social Action Plans on the portal.

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

Alumni Summer Camp for CDGK students

June 29, Karachi - YES Alumni started the 6-day community service camp with CDGK Schools in the city. 250+ students from three different schools in various areas of Karachi will be engaged in planning and implementing community service projects. YES Alumni will conduct the workshops and facilitate the project execution. YES Alumni have been doing CDGK Summer Camps for the past few years and the results have been phenomenal. This year, the nature of the project has changed but the spirits and motivation is still the same!



Pre-Departure Orientations—Mega Event

The Pre-Departure Orientations for the KL-YES 2011-12 this year was a mega event planned and executed by a team of YES Alumni from all over Pakistan. This year's PDO saw tremendous success. The outgoing batch of 108 students was trained on American High Schools, Host Families, Culture Shocks, Problem Solving, Homesickness, American food and lifestyle. The YES Group of 2011-2012, convened in Karachi from all over Pakistan for a week long series of workshops, seminars, presentations to prepare for a year in United States. Susan Harville, the Cultural Affairs Officer from the US Consulate opened the week long camp. Her presentation oriented the students to family life and schools in United States.

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



American Sports Day

A few YES Alumni were invited over to US Consul General's residence on April 3 for an American Sports Day where they played Basketball and American Football with the Consul General Mr. William Martin and other staff.

YES Students share their Cultural Exchange Experience



Deputy Secretary State, USA, Mr. Tom Nides met with a group of YES alumni here in Karachi on June 14 to discuss their exchange experiences. Mr. Nides loved meeting with the alumni and said that meeting these young people and hearing about their experiences in America and learning about their cultural exchange experience was the highlight of his visit to Pakistan.

YES-8 Return to Pakistan

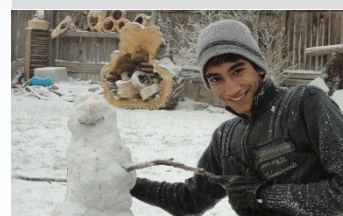
The 70 Pakistani high schools students of the YES Class of 2010-2011, returned to Pakistan this week after successfully completing their one year of live and study in United States. They convened with other participating students from 19 different countries at Washington DC for a week before departing. The students attended seminar, presentations and workshops, Secretary Judith McHale, Senator Lugar and other speakers addressed them during this week.



"A Dream Come True" - story of Aun Bin Yousef

"From Karachi, Pakistan to Houston, Texas, being a physically challenged, it was hard for me to believe that I would make to US. It was only when my feet touched the land of United States, I finally believed that this is no more a dream but a reality. It is not less than a wonder that what you wish for turns into a reality, a reality that is even more beautiful than what you expected. My year has been spectacular, from integrating into the American society to doing community service, making new friends to adjusting into the host Family and the list goes on. My whole year achievements are a little hard to be described in a paragraph but most highlighted one's include, my article getting published on the front page of 'Houston Chronicle', IEW presentations, getting a certificate from Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, getting presidential certificate for doing 100+ hours of Community Service and receiving certificates for completing the MIUSA (Mobility International USA) workshops. This year has changed me tremendously, from confidence to public speaking skills. I came here as a youth ambassador of Pakistan which I think is fulfilled as I faced tons of questions and misconceptions about Pakistan which I tried my level best to answer and to clear the misconceptions. I loved my year which is now over and I lived everyday to my full so no regrets. I am truly thankful to YES- iEARN Pk, US State Department, CCI, MIUSA and my host family for making this amazing year possible for me."

My Life Changing Year!!!



'Coming from Karachi to Pueblo, Colorado gave me some great opportunities to shine and treasure memories that became a part of my life forever. I was selected for Youth Leadership Summit (YLS), held in Arizona, to represent my country and learn leadership skills that would help me contribute myself towards the betterment of our society.'

Read full story and see photos on SIE Facebook page.

Celebrate UN International Days by integrating iEARN Projects

World Population Day (11 July)
iEARN Project: My Country

International Youth Day (12 August)
iEARN Project: Eye to Eye

International Literacy Day (8 September)
iEARN Project: Write On

Download lesson plans at:
http://www.iearnpk.org/IEARN_workshops/intl_days.htm

iEARN Beginners Workshop at CAA Model School

An iEARN Beginners Workshop was conducted on June 25 by Sarah Donald, a Master Trainer at iEARN Pakistan for a group of 60 teachers from all CAA schools. The workshop was arranged by CAA Authorities at their campus. During the workshop teachers were briefed about the iEARN online collaborative projects and forums. Teachers were distributed iEARN Project Description Booklets and iEARN flyers and all of them got registered with iEARN forums. They were given some time for hands-on practice on forums. It was quite a successful workshop and looking at the interest of teachers and effectiveness of iEARN projects, the schools administrator agreed to integrate the iEARN projects in the syllabus in all CAA schools.



My Exchange Experience...

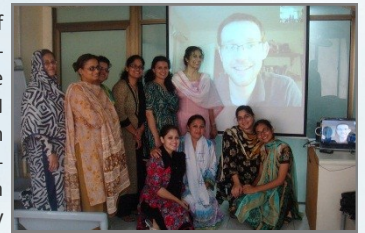
Aloha! I am fortunate to be among the 26 English language Educators selected from all around the world to participate in 2011 summer institute for English language Educators at the Hawaii Pacific University-Honolulu, Hawaii-USA. I am getting valuable opportunity to work and learn from the renowned professors of HPU, and enjoy the beautiful island sign of Oahu. The institute gave me hands on experience of learning to develop ELT materials, lesson plans, classroom resources, reviewing cultural basis of teaching an international language, explore ways in which teaching of English can promote cross cultural understanding. The range of cultural activities are equally enriching including the sightseeing, experiencing the local unique cuisine, exploring local history, kayaking boating or just enjoying the peaceful waters of Pacific Ocean. I still have several weeks to go and many more things to experience and lots to learn.



Aun Naqvi
Program Officer
iEARN Pakistan

iEARN Workshop for Cambridge University (Spelt) ICALT Participants

iEARN Center, Karachi hosted a one-day workshop for 15 participants of Cambridge University International Certificate in English Language Teaching offered by Society of Pakistan English Teachers on June 27, 2011. The workshop aimed to train teachers in engaging their students in iEARN online collaborative projects and integrating technology in education with the focus on improving students' English language proficiency. The sessions included presentations by two international speakers Ms. Rimma Zhukova, iEARN Russia Coordinator and facilitator iEARN Local History Project and Mr. Jason Harshman, Graduate Teaching Assistant/PhD student, Social Studies and Global Education, School of Teaching and Learning, The Ohio State University. They talked to the participants through Skype. Rimma talked about integration of technology and how iEARN projects help students improve their language proficiency and Jason talked about Global Education and the importance of including cultural backgrounds and histories of different ethnic groups in curriculum and how to address issues related to cultural and ethnic diversity. They also answered participants' questions. The participants shared that it was a very informative workshop and they learned new things about using technology in education



Online Activities for Access Students

English Access Microscholarship Program Karachi started online activities for students from June 28, 2011. Students from different Access Karachi Centers got connected through Skype and Blackboard (Elluminate) and shared their experiences with each other. Students shared their ideas and experiences about learning English and other enhancement activities of the Access Karachi program that they have been participating in. They talked about their community service projects, field trips and read their poems to each other. It was a very good opportunity for students to practice their English and share their thoughts. An Access Karachi student who has recently participated in Space Camp program in the USA also made presentation on his experience and answered the questions asked by students from other centers. A girl who has been selected to participate in Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study program also talked about the YES program and what she expects to gain from the participation in K-L YES program.



Children's Council and YES Alumni Pakistan take part in the Anti Polio Campaign

A 3 day polio vaccination campaign was launched by UNICEF Sindh on June 21, 2011. Children's Council and YES Alumni Pakistan took part in the awareness campaign on June 18 by spreading the message through distribution of flyers from door to door. Around 800 houses in UC6, North Nazimabad town, were covered during the campaign. 9 Children's Council members and YES Alumni Pakistan took part in the campaign. A pre-campaign orientation session was also held for the participating members at the UNICEF Karachi Office on June 10, 2011 to brief them about the anti polio campaign. The orientation session was conducted by Dr. Shoukat Ali (Health Officer, UNICEF-Sindh) and Dr. Laila Rizvi (Immunization Officer, UNICEF-Sindh). 15 Children's Council members and YES Alumni Pakistan attended the session.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/childrencouncil>



"Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school." ~Albert Einstein



International Education and Resource Network
Pakistan

(A Project of Society for International Education)

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