

Society for International Education

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

Newsletter

April - June 2012

Message for iEARN Pakistan...

My association with iEARN was a valuable event for me in the year 2012 and undoubtedly, will remain as one of my most cherishable experiences ever. It was a brief but eventful journey, which kindled a fire within me to rejuvenate the lives of children whom I interacted with.



My eagerness often takes me out of corporate world to connect with youth at various platforms. But I was pleasantly surprised to meet the students first at *Access Summer Institute* and later at *Youth Exchange and Study Program*. The discipline, rigor and zeal that were developed in these children was definitely above my expectations. Representing many less privileged families, these young students convinced me once again that with little focus and right intent, we can bring visible changes to the lives of everyone around us thus, making our communities even better.

The objective of iEARN, that is, to better the lives of children by providing them professional and personal honing, matches my resolution to mentor people, youth and adults alike, in effectively utilizing their capacities to contribute to their lives and society positively.

This collaboration, in its entirety, has not only opened up horizons of growth for numerous children, but it has also provided me an outlet to channel my expertise for the benefit of my country and my people. Needless to say, working for the children through iEARN was, indeed, a highly fulfilling experience which I wouldn't think twice if asked to go through it again!

Ali Khurram Pasha
General Manager
Learning & Organization Development
Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC)
Pakistan

Access to Success, Summer Institute 2012 for Students

SIE collaborated with the US Embassy Islamabad and Consulates in Karachi, Peshawar and Lahore, to present a colorful and comprehensive 2 week long Access Summer Institute (ASI)-2012, titled 'Access to Success.' A group of 100 enthusiastic young students coming from 19 different locations around Pakistan participating in 15 different Access programs nationally convened in Islamabad from 17-29 July, 2012. The participants came from Peshawar, Lahore, Islamabad, Pindi, Quetta, Pishin, Hyderabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, Jacobabad, Abbottabad, Malakand, Manshera, DG Khan, Lodhran, Muzaffarabad, Muzaffargarh, Skardu, and Khaplu.

The group had a pleasant stay and a fabulous learning and fun filled experience at the institute. The iEARN-SIE team designed and delivered an exciting program offering a wide range of activities combining learning with fun. A team of creative professionals experienced in working with youth, facilitated more than 25 concurrent workshops and presentations and 11 plenary sessions. There was a strong emphasis throughout the institute on engaging students in the cutting edge 21st century learning skills, including online project based learning, team building, life skills, integrating technology with language skills, activity based reading and writing, interactive speaking and listening, AV lessons, vocabulary, and learning through songs.

The guest contributions included the day long workshop by Ali Khurram Pasha on '7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers', a presentation by the famous 'entertrainer' Qaiser Abbas focusing on self esteem ("Yes I can Do"), and the very exciting Social Media workshop and Twitter games by Timothy Receveur from the US Embassy Islamabad

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-JpoA3DxKI&feature=youtu.be>



Look out for:	
<i>Access launched in Hyderabad</i>	2
<i>Access Karachi Grand Events 2012</i>	2
<i>K-L YES Alumni Reunion 2012</i>	3
<i>Parent PDO and Workshop for YES-10</i>	3
<i>Children's Council Second Phase</i>	4
<i>AIF-03 Teachers' Training</i>	4



Access launched in Hyderabad

Society for International Education-iEARN Centre Pakistan launched English Access Microscholarship Program in Hyderabad. SIE has set up two centers in partnership with local educational organizations at Qasimabad and Seroghat communities. 50 students from these communities and catchments areas are enrolled in each centre. An MoU signing ceremony took place in Hyderabad on April 24, 2012.

The SIE-iEARN Executive director, Farah Kamal and the representatives from the two centers signed the MoU to launch the English Access Microscholarship Program in Hyderabad. Mr. Kevin Murakami, Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Anthony Jones, Cultural Affairs Officer and Ms. Aisha, English Programs Coordinator from the U.S. Consulate General Karachi were present at the ceremony. Access program is an after school English language proficiency initiative of US Government implemented in over 70 countries around the world.



Access Classes begin in Hyderabad

100 students with shining eyes and filled with enthusiasm attended The English Access Microscholarship Program classes that began at two centers in Hyderabad on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. The first class was mainly focused on orientation of students to the program goals and content; the students were very excited to learn about the Access Program activities that include English language learning, community service, field trips, technology integration in ELT, guest speakers' series and students' conventions, contests and competitions on Public Speaking, Essay Writing, short plays and presentations, etc. The students were also engaged in pair and group activities and enjoyed learning English through communicative method.

GCE Journalism sharing and follow up



iEARN Pakistan conducted a sharing and follow-up event for the participants of Global Connection and Exchange: Journalism 2.0 project. The session was conducted on May 12, 2012 at Rangoonwala Hall. A group of 32 students and 16 teachers were present at the session.

The session was aimed to provide an opportunity to the students to share their journalism activities with other school students.

During session, the participants learned new journalism concepts. They were asked to join GCE Facebook group to stay connected and share their news stories in iEARN World Youth News forum for better collaboration.

Access Karachi Grand Events 2012

iEARN-Access Karachi organized a series of grand events in the month of May and June. In each event, around 300 students from three to four different Access centers participated with enthusiasm and excitement. This provided opportunities to all 1050 Access Karachi students to engage in this exciting event. 2-3 media projects were exhibited at each event.

One of the major aims of these events was to showcase Adobe Youth Voice (AVY) project videos made by the Access AYV team. Students from seven different Access localities had worked on AVY online projects. The teams developed original, thought-provoking videos on social issues of their communities. The event provided the students an opportunity to share their final products with the large audience. A couple of groups presented their rough cuts for critique before finalizing them.

Along with the AVY showcasing, the event offered a number of activities combining learning with fun. The program menu consisted of various activities involving art, jazz chants, language games, fun with writing, interactive reading, and iEARN Online collaborative projects.

These events provided the participants with an opportunity to interact with students from other Access centers and also gave a platform where they could learn, share, participate, enjoy and enhance their skills and confidence.

The events were held on consecutive Sundays, May 20, May 27, June 3 and June 10, 2012



K-L YES Alumni Reunion 2012

The Third Kennedy-Lugar (K-L) YES Alumni Reunion 2012 was held in Islamabad on June 15 and June 16, 2012. More than 150 alumni of the K-L Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program attended the event. The inaugural was held in the National Library Islamabad; the ceremony was presided by US Ambassador, Cameron Munter, who welcomed the K-L YES Alumni. The rest of the proceedings continued at Margalla Hotel. The Director YES Programs Pakistan, Farah S. Kamal welcomed the students to the event and shared her thoughts on the 10 years of K-L YES Program. The first day of event was dedicated to the past, to cherish the journey that began in 2004. The day ended with suggestions from everyone on what goals should be set for YES Alumni Pakistan to be achieved within the next year. Day 2 of K-L YES Alumni Reunion 2012 continued with different sessions led by the alumni. Ideas were thrown, projects were planned and the alumni participated in discussions regarding the future of YES Alumni Pakistan. Alumni coordinators from different city chapters of the Pak-US Alumni Association were also present at the venue. The conference ended with a gala dinner at the Monal restaurant.



A small town girl with big dreams..



I am a small town girl from Baluchistan, Pakistan. Six years ago, I moved to Karachi in order to achieve a better education, and a year ago I got a scholarship as an exchange student to represent Pakistan in the US. My arrival in the US was an eye-opening experience for me. Having come from the small town that I belong to – where people opposed education for girls – the change was unexpected.

Upon my selection to the YES program, and my return after its completion, I was pleasantly surprised by a drastic change in the attitudes of those who had earlier opposed my education.

Through the YES program I have developed leadership qualities, become more patriotic and have a clear perspective of what I want to pursue as my career. I intend to work for the welfare and education for women in the small towns of Pakistan. I just want to prove the benefits of education to the people in my area.

The reason I had faced different social challenges was primarily because of lack of education in our society. The problems that I faced made me think of all the other girls in many other small towns of Pakistan, who, like me, cannot do anything because they do not have anybody to support them.

I know how the YES program changes lives; I know this because it changed mine.

Sonam Chawla
(K-L YES 2011-12)

Parent PDO and Workshop for YES-10 Participants

A Pre-departure Orientation (PDO) was conducted for students of K-L YES-10 (2012-13) and their parents. For Sindh and Baluchistan students, PDO was held in Karachi on April 7 and for the Punjab and N.W.F.P students in Islamabad on April 14. Details of the Youth Exchange and Study program and the role of students as citizen ambassadors during their exchange year in the U.S. were explained and the questions from students and parents were answered. Some YES alumni also shared their experiences using multi-media presentations and provided guidance to make exchange year a success.



The PDO's were followed by students workshops, in which students were trained to participate in iEARN online collaborative projects and YES forums. These workshops were held on April 8, 9 in Karachi and April 15, 16 in Islamabad. A session on Social Media Security and Community Service was also conducted. They were given instructions for completing different projects and assignments before they leave for USA.



Sharing Success and Certificate Distribution

On May 26, 2012 iEARN Pakistan organized an event in the Rangoonwala Community Center to share the success of YES Alumni community learning center run in remote area of Karachi Baldia Town. Maria Taqdees, Yes Alumna 2004-2005, has been running this center for the last 2 years for the betterment of women and children of her area who have a desire to learn and improve their lives. iEARN Pakistan acknowledged and appreciated the students of the Community learning center by awarding certificates to those who had completed their courses. Many girls and women shared their stories on how this learning center had changed their lives educationally as well as financially.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=YI1JUta83VI#



Celebrate UN International Days by integrating iEARN Projects

World Population Day
(July 11)

iEARN Project: My Country

International Youth Day
(August 12)

iEARN Project: We are Teenagers

International Literacy Day
(September 8)

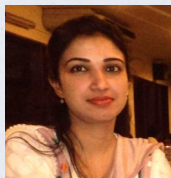
iEARN Project: Write-On

Download lesson plans at:

[http://www.iearnpk.org/
iEARN_workshops/intl_days.htm](http://www.iearnpk.org/iEARN_workshops/intl_days.htm)

iEARN and I...

When I was asked to rejoin iEARN Islamabad office in April 2012, I was thrilled because I knew that this experience would not only help polish me as a professional but also open up opportunities to interact with youngsters: something I've always been fond of. After completing my Masters at Karachi University I moved to UK with my family in 2002 where I did a short counseling course for both normal and special kids with Foster Career, then started my career as a Life Skill Based Education teacher with the Leeds City Council. There, I worked with special children too.



All that I had learned from my work experience in UK has so far proved to be highly pertinent to my work in SIE iEARN. The O3 Online Teachers Training Workshop was a unique and productive experience; it allowed the collaboration of Pakistani teachers with Indian teachers across the border. Particularly, taking sessions with children from the Access Summer Institute that took place recently in Islamabad was a memorable experience.

I would like to thank SIE management for placing their trust in me especially Farah Kamal for her cooperation and all-around 'fabulousness' and Saleem Ibrahim for always being there to help.

Sanober Nazir
Program Officer
iEARN Islamabad

Children's Council Second Phase

Children's Council enters into a new phase with second Executive Committee elections nearing in August 2012. During the last phase of the project, the council members were actively engaged in policy dialogue, advocacy campaigns for Sindh Child Protection Authority Bill and Polio Eradication, developing constitution and action plan for Children's Council and projects for rehabilitation of flood affected children of Sindh. Some of the primary upcoming projects of Children's Council include election of Executive Committee 2012, formation of Child Rights Clubs in different towns of Karachi, Networking with Duty Bearers, Civil Society Organizations and Institutions at local, community, district, provincial and international level and adopting measures within the local context on advocating child protection issues. For more details, visit <http://www.iearnpk.org/sie/childrencouncil.htm>

AIF-O3 Teachers' Training

iEARN Pakistan arranged its first 2-day face-to-face training workshop for the participants of O3:Our Family, Our Neighborhood, Our World Project. The workshop was conducted on 18th and 19th April 2012 at iEARN Centre Islamabad. A group of 10 educators from 4 different schools of Punjab region from Pakistan attended the sessions. The objective of the training was to introduce educators to O3 Project and to prepare them for online course.

The day long sessions included team building activities, discussion sessions, group work and hands-on practice etc. The participants were given orientation to the project and the benefits of integrating creative and media arts for cross cultural exchange. The educators also learnt how to utilize creative and performing arts for creating social awareness. The sessions included various exercises, brainstorming sessions and discussions to help them explore their community issues and identify specific issues most common in the Punjab region. During the session, the participants made banners depicting different aspects of their culture; they also performed role plays to present their views to others. This project is in collaboration with iEARN Pakistan, American India Foundation and iEARN USA.



iEARN Clubs Sharing Meeting

iEARN Pakistan conducted a sharing meeting for the club representatives of iEARN School based clubs on Friday, June 1, 2012. It was a two hour meeting, held at Rangoonwala Hall. 36 teachers from 17 iEARN Club Schools attended this meeting to share and discuss their iEARN online project based activities. They also shared their success and challenges faced during project implementation.



iEARN Pakistan took this initiative of establishing iEARN School based clubs in 2011; the aim was to empower students to become part of the iEARN community and help them learn effective use of technology by getting involved in iEARN online collaborative projects. Initially it started with 5 schools and now has been introduced in 24 schools in Karachi and Hyderabad. iEARN welcomes other schools to join us for establishing iEARN clubs in their schools. If you are interested, please email at alema@iearnpk.org.



International Education and Resource Network
Pakistan

(A Project of Society for International Education)

iEARN Centre, Karachi
22, Alibhai Centre

233-A, Shakra-e-Qaideen, P.E.C.H.S. Block-2,
Karachi 75400

Phone: 021-34547547, 34547549

Fax: 021-34530310

Email: iearnpak@iearnpk.org

iEARN Centre, Islamabad
House # 686, (Upper Portion)
Rehman Baba Road, I-8/4, Islamabad
Phone: 051-8312142

www.iearnpk.org

www.youtube.com/iearnpk

www.youtube.com/iearnpk

