

Society for International Education

Newsletter

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Seminar on Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century

A Seminar was organized by iEARN Pakistan on 16th January on "Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century". The seminar was attended by more than 200 participants of iEARN partner schools and other private and public organizations. Seminar presentations were done by local and international speakers who shared their thoughts and ideas with audience. The seminar sessions focused on the topics such as "Understanding the Digital Natives" and "Need for Restructuring Learning Experiences for 21st Century Learners". Sessions also included YouthCaN and iEARN media projects and use of social media in education. The Chief Guest of the seminar was the Senior Minister for Education, Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq. In his speech, he emphasized on the need of integrating technology in education, making ICT available for all teachers and students in urban and rural areas. The minister appreciated the efforts made by SIE to promote the use of technology in education. <http://www.earnpk.org/TOT/10/seminar.htm>



iEARN Training of Trainers Workshop-2010

iEARN Pakistan conducted a 4-day "iEARN Training of the Trainers 2010" workshop for educators from Pakistan and other iEARN countries around the world from 17th -20th January. This workshop was attended by 32 teachers who came from different cities of Pakistan and from UAE. These educators also attended the seminar on "Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century" on 16th January. This international event provided professional support and training to a core group of iEARN professionals with the objective of enabling them to implement, manage and make the iEARN programs and activities sustainable in their schools and communities. The workshop was conducted by Diane C. Midness, Professional Development Coordinator, iEARN USA and the iEARN Pakistan team and sponsored by Doris Duke Foundation, SIE and iEARN USA.



<http://www.earnpk.org/tot/10/index.htm>

Hearing Impaired Student Successfully Completing a YES-Year in USA



Farheen Iftikhar, a special need student from the ABSA School for the Deaf, Karachi with hearing and speech impairment, is currently in the states attending courses in American History and English in Maroa Forsyth High School, Ilionos, USA. Farheen also volunteers at SAIL to complete her community service hours. Her host father, Mr. Carrington is an interpreter for the deaf and referral advocate at Soyland Access to Independent Living (SAIL). He and his wife, Wendy, couldn't resist the invitation to have Farheen come to live with them.

Message from iEARN-USA

Dear iEARN Pakistan,

It was with great joy that I accepted an invitation to come to Karachi to help the iEARN Pakistan team with a Master



Trainer workshop and participate in the Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century Seminar. I love coming to Pakistan and its warm

people and climate. It is nice to meet up with new friends that I have gotten to know online and other friends both teachers and students that I have known for years. For about 10 years I have been watching iEARN Pakistan grow from just a few dedicated teachers to become the country with the 3rd largest membership in the network. Thank you teachers and students for all you do to promote global understanding.

With fond memories of my visit,

Diane Midness
Director Professional Development
iEARN-USA

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“Achay Dost” Seminar



Ms. Sharmila Farooqi, Adviser to the Chief Minister on Human Rights giving away the certificates to “Achay Dost” Youth Forum members

“There is no doubt in saying that iEARN has really given me a new vision of teaching Social Studies. Through iEARN projects and its activity based learning methodologies, students learn a lot of skills. Here I would appreciate iEARN which is really doing something great for our kids. iEARN is also helping teachers in developing a sense of responsibility and leadership qualities in our students.”

Asma Sajid
Korangi Academy
(A participant of TOT Workshop)



Country Coordinator, iEARN Pakistan Ms. Farah Shafi Kamal with US Consulate officials Katherine Van De Vate, Public Affairs Section and Elizabeth O. Colton who visited iEARN Centre Karachi on 25th January 2010.

“What we want is to see the child in pursuit of knowledge, and not knowledge in pursuit of the child.”

—George Bernard Shaw

A seminar was organized by Society for International Education in collaboration with UNICEF-Sindh and Social Welfare Department in Karachi on 30th January 2010. The “Lessons Learnt and Advocacy Seminar on Social Change through Child Participation” ceremony started with recitation of Holy Quran followed by a welcome note by Mr. Tahir Javed, Finance Secretary, SIE. He welcomed the participants and gave SIE and seminar introduction. Presentations were made by “Achay Dost” (A SIE-UNICEF Project) Youth Forum members and participants of Listeners Group, who shared their experiences and learning with the audiences. Project Mobil-

ization Officer, M. Abdullah and FM program RJ Fariha Ayub also shared their experiences. A panel discussion on Child Participation was also organized. The Chief Guest Ms. Sharmila Farooqi, Adviser to the Chief Minister on Human Rights also addressed the gathering. Mr. Sohail Ahmed, Child Protection Officer, and Dr. Jabeen Fatima, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF-Sindh shared their views on the project. In the end, Chief Guest Ms. Sharmila Farooqi, gave away shields to the experts and certificates of participation to the Youth Forum members.

<http://www.earnpk.org/PD/AD.htm>

iEARN Panel at Celebration of Teaching and Learning

Mohsin Tejani, President SIE, made a presentation as part of a panel at the Celebration of Teaching and Learning Conference 2010, held on March 5-6 in New York, USA. The panel comprised of leading iEARN educators and professionals talking about the use of technology to foster global collaboration in the classroom. Mohsin’s presentation was well received by the audience who asked many questions about examples of online collaboration and impact in the Pakistani context.



Youth Programs Annual Meeting in Washington, DC

The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, US Department of State organized the Youth Programs Annual Meetings from March 3 - 5 held at the American Council, Washington DC. Ms. Farah Kamal and Mr. Mohsin Tejani participated along with the iEARN US counterparts in this meeting representing the iEARN YES program. The various sessions focused on effective management, monitoring of the different exchange programs that are funded by ECA and sharing best practices.



British Council-Connecting Classrooms follow up

The Society for International Education team did the follow up sessions for British Council Connecting Classrooms clusters in Lahore, Sialkot and Vehari from 15th to 19th February 2010. In the follow up sessions, the SIE facilitators reviewed the Connecting Classrooms activities with the participating teachers and students and provided guidance on enhancing the learning through the project activities. The participants shared their experiences and learning outcomes. They said that the connecting Classrooms project

provided them unique opportunities to share their culture and learn about the people and the culture of U.K. which has helped them understand the importance of cultural diversity, tolerance and acceptance of differences. They appreciated SIE’s efforts to make Connecting Classrooms a great learning experience for them.



YES Alumni attend Shell Tameer Workshop

YES Alumni Karachi attended a 3-hour workshop on 6th March 2010 organized by Shell Tameer, an organization working on helping young people establishing their own businesses. A group of 10 alumni were engaged in workshop activities that helped them understand the concepts of entrepreneurship and what are the challenges they might face. The workshop also focused on educating the alumni about what factors they consider to become a successful entrepreneur. Several ideas were generated and business models were prepared by the alumni.



YouthCaN Recycling Project



On February 2, 2010, iEARN YES Alumni YouthCaN group initiated the recycling project at two different schools in Karachi to educate and bring awareness of importance of recycling of papers and plastics. A presentation regarding iEARN YouthCaN project was given to the students followed by poster activities. A students committee was formed which will be responsible for the sustainability of the project. The concept was to raise awareness of students regarding community service and their role as a student to solve different environmental issues. Funds generated by selling recycling material will be used for plantation in the same school. <http://media.iearn.org/projects/youthcan>

YouthCaN Tree Plantation Activity

After the successful completion of the beach cleaning project in Karachi, another group of youth alumni in Rawalpindi initiated tree plantation as part of YouthCaN project. The basic aim of this project is to inspire and educate the youth for taking action on environmental issues facing our communities. This project was carried out in a Government School on 3rd -4th February. The volunteers planted 70 trees in the front lawn and back yard of school. The Deputy Director, Federal Ministry of Education, Monitoring & Evaluation Cell was also invited to the program, he appreciated efforts of the youth. <http://media.iearn.org/projects/youthcan>



Orientation & iEARN Beginners workshop for YES 2010-2011 students

iEARN Pakistan Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program Pre-Departure Orientations (PDO) were conducted for 59 YES-8 (2010-2011) students and their parents. For Sindh and Balochistan students, PDO was held in Karachi on February 12 and for the Punjab and N.W.F.P students in Islamabad on February 21. 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. Mr. Larry Schwartz, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, Ms. Julia Fendrick, Assistant Cultural Attaché and other officials from the U.S. embassy,

Islamabad were the guests at Islamabad PDO. Mr. Schwartz while talking to the parents emphasized on building the bridges between cultures and the importance of educational exchanges that help people understand each other. He congratulated the students on their selection as YES participants and thanked the parents for their support to the program. A workshop was also arranged for YES-8 students on the second day of the orientation in which they were trained to participate in iEARN online collaborative projects and YES forums. They were given the details of PDO online and face to face modules and PDO activity calendar.



A Poem dedicated to iEARN

If you want to find yourself
Learn from others to learn to live
Learn from your reflections to Learn to rise
Make a niche for yourself in this world
To know the world we live in.
Its my mothers advise for me
and for this I started
searching and exploring things
and found iEARN a place
where I enter into the new horizon
where I met and learnt
that
I can be more than a name and face
Learned
The way to devote my life for youth
Which could give satisfaction and grace
I can be more than an ordinary person
To collaborate with this honored place -
iEARN
I am a part of your organization
to make our dream last and last.
I found niche
at last.

Anila Sidhu (Section Head)
Fauji Foundation Model School,
Hyderabad
(A Participant of TOT Workshop)



Group Photo of YES-8 students during Orientation held in Karachi



Group Photo of YES-8 students with Mr. Larry Schwartz during Orientation in Islamabad.



International Education and Resource Network
Pakistan

(A Project of Society for International Education)

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Upcoming Events and Professional Development

- iEARN Online Project Based Learning & Youth Volunteering and Community Service Workshop, April 2nd-3rd
- Digital Imaging Workshop, April 9th and 10th
- YouthCaN, April 17th
- Media with Purpose - May 7th and 8th
- iEARN Online PBL Workshop - May 22nd
- Online Summer Camp for Students - June 7th to 19th
- Global Youth Service Day 2010, April 23rd - 25th

<http://www.iearnpk.org/PD/10schedule.htm>



The Pre Selection process of the YES 2011-2012 has started from April 2010. Participation information can be obtained from <http://www.iearnpk.org/YESpk.htm>. YES is a one academic year, **live and study in the USA scholarship program** for high school students.

She is Our Inspiration...

Filza Tahseen the iEARN YES-Pakistan exchange student currently in Buckley-WA won the annual AYUSA Community Service Challenge. She was among the 2 winners out of the 50 entries made to AYUSA which is one of the organizations that leads the YES program. She completed over 170 hours of community service in her host community through the "Connections" Program, dedicating most of her time to working with young people who have disabilities or special needs. Her American supervisor said "She is our inspiration". Filza lives in Liaquatabad, Karachi, and is selected from Pakland Government School.



Celebrate GYSD with iEARN

iEARN Pakistan is a national coordinator of Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), and invites youth and educators from iEARN partner schools to join this global event of GYSD 2010 April 23-25. All participating Pakistani students whose completed project reports are posted in the CIVICs project forum will get a certificate of appreciation from iEARN. Make sure each report has the full names of the students and the school addresses. <http://www.gysd.org>



iEARN Online Professional Development Courses

10 teachers from different cities of Pakistan got enrolled in iEARN online professional development courses started 22nd February 2010. These teachers will benefit from the online courses that cater to different learning areas in school. iEARN Adobe Youth Voices (AYV) Program has stepped into its fourth round. 3 teachers from Quetta city were selected for the 8 weeks AYV online course which started 15th February. These teachers are working with their group of students on the final project to create "media with purpose".

<http://iearn.org/professional/online.html>

"I participated in five days 'Training of trainers' workshop and I found it very useful. It really changed my life style. Now I spend most of my free time in front of computer screen and I have so many friends living in different parts of the world. My school environment is also changed, it is more digital now. Majority of the students and teachers are aware of the activities going on inside iEARN. Thanks to iEARN team for giving me this wonderful opportunity."

Syed Zahid Hussain
Quetta
(A Participant of TOT Workshop)

My first exposure to iEARN was in April, 2006 when I applied for YES Program. The journey that started four years ago has changed my life around. I got to spend a year in U.S. on a cultural exchange program, learned about the importance of community service and shared experiences with people from all over the world. As an alumnus of the YES program, I got involved in various community service activities that include teaching ICT and English at government schools, conducting workshops on iEARN Projects with a mobile lab, micro financing projects in rural areas and "Achay Dost", a SIE-UNICEF project. This not only helped me make a difference, it also helped me grow and become a better person. Currently, I am working as Youth Affairs Officer at iEARN Centre, Pakistan. My iEARN experience has made me who I am today, both as an individual and as an active, responsible citizen of the society. Thanks iEARN!!!



Muhammad Abdullah
Youth Affairs Officer, iEARN Pakistan
1st Year, BS Mass Communication, KU

Celebrate UN International Days by integrating iEARN Projects

- **World Earth Day (April 22nd)**
iEARN Project: Global Art Images of Caring
"Make an Earth Day Resolution"
- **World Information Society Day (May 17th)**
iEARN Project: Moving Voices
"Protecting Children in Cyberspace"
- **World Environment Day (June 5th)**
iEARN Project: YouthCaN
"Animal friends & Deadly Spread"

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