

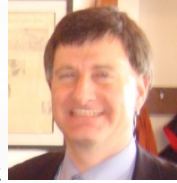
Society for International Education

Newsletter

October - December 2010

Message from San Francisco-United States

iEARN Pakistan has been an outstanding member of the AYUSA Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Consortium for several years. Not only has the Pakistani group of Youth Exchange students have been the largest group of participants for several years, they are consistently some of the best prepared to take full advantage of the experience. The projects they engage with upon returning to Pakistan as part of the Alumni program is further evidence of the high quality of work iEARN Pakistan performs. The friendships and connections made between Pakistanis and Americans benefit all of us by building a more understanding and caring world. We look forward to many more years of working with iEARN Pakistan!



David Beiser
Director of Grant Programs at AYUSA

Volume 2, Issue 4

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Dr. Marilyn Wyatt Visits the iEARN Centre-Pakistan

"The people of Pakistan are very friendly and outspoken as people in America, I love people here," said Dr. Marilyn Wyatt, the wife of US Ambassador to Pakistan Cameron Munter, during her visit to the iEARN Centre-Pakistan, on 6th December. She met with a group of students, teachers, and iEARN-Pakistan officials. "I am learning Urdu as well," Dr. Wyatt replied during her discussion with students currently enrolled in the English Language classes as part of the English Access Microscholarship Program for

Karachi. Students shared their experiences of language learning in the Access classrooms: "The classes are very different from our regular English class, we have lots of fun activities," said one of the students. Another one added "our teachers are more like friends and we enjoy these classes." Later on Dr. Wyatt and Susan Harville, Cultural Affairs Officer from the US Consulate, Karachi took a tour of the SIE facilities and were updated on various projects and programs run by SIE.



Dr. Marilyn Wyatt with Access Karachi team

Society for International Education Opens Islamabad Office

Society for International Education is proud to open its new office in Islamabad, a spacious and functional facility located in Sector-I. The facility presents a fully equipped ICT training room for all online curriculum based and other program related trainings. Check out the training schedule below. Also check our website at <http://www.iearnpk.org/PD/11schedule.htm>

Professional Development Trainings at Islamabad

- ◆ iEARN Online Project Based Learning Workshop – January 2011
- ◆ Youth Volunteering and Community Service Workshop – February 2011
- ◆ YouthCaN – February 2011
- ◆ Digital Storytelling in Classrooms – March 2011
- ◆ Classroom Publications for Effective Communication – March 2011

Celebrate UN International Days by integrating iEARN Projects

- Global Family Day (Jan 1st)
"Kindred Project"
- Int'l Mother Language Day (Feb 21st)
"Global Art-Images of Caring Project"
- World Water Day (Mar 22nd)
"YouthCaN"

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

iEARN and I

I have been associated over the years with iEARN Pakistan in more than one ways.



When I was working as a faculty in the Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development (1997-1999) Farah Kamal as a professional colleague often used to share her discovery of iEARN and the subsequent progress in this direction. So, in a way, I can say that I had quite a close view of iEARN Pakistan growing through its initial formative years.

Later, as iEARN Pakistan expanded its range of programs and sometimes needed quick and positive response from some school, I as the Director of Al-Murtaza School Network, contributed my bit to extend the needed support. This, then, was my association with iEARN Pakistan as a school-based ally.

I had a chance in 2004 to attend the regional Conference of Bridge (organized by iEARN) in Alexandria, Egypt. The conference afforded me a wonderful opportunity to get a close look at the iEARN as a global organization connecting individuals and diverse communities around the world.

All my associations with SIE-iEARN Pakistan have been as an 'outsider.' Now recently - October 1, 2010 to be precise - I have joined the organization as the Program Manager of English Access Microscholarship Program -Karachi. No more an 'outsider' now, I hope to make some productive contribution to SIE-iEARN Pakistan in my new role.

Tahir Javed,
Program Manager (English Access)



Children at the flood relief camps learning to draw with volunteers

English Access Program-Karachi is Launched

English Access Microscholarship Program, Karachi kicked off with a bang on 1st October at the Beach Luxury Hotel. Nearly 100 participants attended the two-day Orientation and Training Program for Module-1. This was followed by the after-school Access Classes involving more than 1500 students (aged 14 to 16) in 15 Access Centers located in under-privileged areas of Karachi. Ensuring that the classes take place regularly in all Centers amidst the uncertain law and order conditions was a major challenge, but with the help of commitment of teachers and support by host schools the challenge was met quite successfully. In addition, students were also provided with an opportunity to work on Community Service Projects which they found fun and great learning. As part of the International Education Week, YES alumni gave talk-cum-presentation focusing their year long experiences in US. In general, the Access students find three key differences in the English

classes under Access and the ones in their regular school: First, the Access teachers always speak English and insist that their students do the same; second, they are friendly; and third, Access classes combine learning with more fun and enjoyment.

The 32-hour Module-1 ended by the end of November. Before the beginning of 118 hour Module-2, another Teacher Training Program was organized for the Access Team. The main focus of the program was introduction of the course materials (mainly the Headway Book) and the corresponding teaching approaches. Module-2 started in the second week of December. The high point of the module, so far, was the distribution of program related materials among students. As the students received colorful books, folders, notebooks, pens, attractive backpacks, and stylish caps their joy was evident from their happy faces and cheerful expressions.

www.iearnpk.org/accesskhi/index.html



Healing by Caring...

iEARN Pakistan-YES Alumni and SIE Children's Council in collaboration with UNICEF and Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh, initiated a project called "Healing by Caring" to help build the resilience of the child survivors of the recent floods, supporting healing and rehabilitation through creative processes. The first phase of the project consisted of engaging children in camps in different activities facilitated by YES alumni and Children's Council members. This phase continued from 21st to 31st December 2010. The program engaged around 570 girls and boys of 10-17 years of age, currently located in the camps in Karachi, Sonda (Thatta) and Sujawal. The children at the camps were divided into 'Listen', 'Look' and 'Create' groups. The aim was to capture their voices and perspectives through a range of creative activities such as poster making, drawing, interviewing, capturing

photos and videos etc. depicting their present lives and future aspirations. A group of 50 volunteers of YES Alumni Pakistan and Children's Council



actively participated in raising awareness of the flood-affected children's issues and strengthening their ability to advocate for their peers. In the second phase of the project, an anthology of the children's creative artwork and their stories will be compiled in the form of a publication and a multimedia DVD which will be acknowledged in a grand event that would include public exhibition of selected pieces. The voices and concerns of children affected by the flood will also be shared via social media to extend its reach.

iEARN Professional Development Workshops and Trainings

iEARN Pakistan arranged a series of professional development workshops for teachers for the last quarter of 2010 at iEARN Centre-Karachi. These workshops were based on interesting topics like *Digital Storytelling in the Classrooms*, *Understanding Cultures with iEARN Projects*, *iEARN Beginners Training*, *Digital Imaging Across Curriculum* and *Desktop Publishing Tools for Classroom Publications*. All the trainings went successful emphasizing different aspects of the teaching-learning processes. Around 100 teachers from different schools in Karachi including Beaconhouse Schools System, St. Michael Convent, The City School, Habib Public

School, Habib Girls School, Ghulaman e Abbas School, Bahria College (Karsaz), Bahria College (MT Khan), Aga Khan School Kharadar, Fatimiyah School and Al Murtaza School joined and benefitted from these workshops.

These trainings helped them to improve their teaching and learning practices through interesting sessions and activities focusing ICT integration and collaborative learning approach. The educators discussed new ideas and shared experiences with other teachers and students around the world through iEARN forums. http://www.iearnpk.org/PD/Gallery_Highlights.htm



Participants of the workshop on Digital Storytelling in Classroom

YES Alumni at the International Youth Conference and Festival

Miradore Productions in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Khudi Pakistan organized the International Youth Conference and Festival 2010 from 6th to 9th December 2010 in Islamabad. More than 300 participants from different countries came together to promote mutual understanding, peace and tolerance focusing on bridging gaps through technology. YES Alumni were well represented in the conference with 50 alumni from all over

Pakistan. They were able to create a favorable impact on the audience including government officials and heads of different international organizations. The conference received a good coverage by media, with some of the alumni getting interviewed by TV channels. The participation in the conference resulted in generating some projects (presently in the pipeline) in collaboration with individuals and groups present at IYCF2010.

"Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself" - John Dewey

Community Service Activities by YES Alumni

During October 2010, YES Alumni focused on strengthening the alumni network by reaching the inactive members in Rawalpindi Islamabad region. The city chapters gathered for a meeting followed by a park cleanup activity at Jinnah Park. A group of 20 YES alumni participated in this activity. YES alumni changed their focus a little towards rehabilitation of the flood victims and collaborated with Pakistan Army and Freaks, a group of volunteers to rebuild a school in Tehsil Alipur near Multan, Punjab. The school was completely destroyed due to the floods. The school boundary wall was rebuilt, a new block for primary classes was constructed. Educational activities that came to a halt have now restarted for the 700 students at the Government High School Urla. The YES alumni, Karachi chapter

celebrated the International Children's Day at Dar ul Sukun with a concert for special children. Dar ul Sukun is a residential facility for the special children. Well known artists - Asfandyar Junejo, a beatboxer and Bali Z, a DJ - performed along with few of the alumni. The kids loved the music and danced with the alumni. YES Alumni in Karachi also made presentations about the YES program in ACCESS Schools during the last week of November.

YES Alumni Peshawar organized a sports day for a flood-affected girls school in Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The girls participated in various healthy recreational activities. Free stationery was given out to 500 students.

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

My iEARN Experience...

I attended iEARN Professional Development Program on 8th and 9th October. This workshop was based on Digital Story Telling in Classrooms. It was a great learning experience. I am integrating technology in my lesson plans. I found this workshop very effective and meaningful. It will help me to engage my students in creation of content-based digital storytelling to expand and deepen their understanding of classroom curriculum and to improve their oral, visual and written communication skills using technology as an integrated tool. It can be used in all subjects.

Samina Naz
ETAC Ambassador
Beaconhouse School System
Steel Town Branch



YES Alumni Rawalpindi at the park cleanup activity

iEARN Online Courses Scholarship to Educators

Visit <http://www.iearn.org/professional/online.html> to know more about 8-week iEARN Online Professional Development Courses beginning February 25th, 2011. These courses are offered by iEARN USA. A limited number of scholarships are available.

*"Do not go where the path
may lead, go instead where
there is no path and leave a
trail."*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



Members of Children's Council
having a consultation meeting
with Mrs. Zahida Hashmi,



Rozina Jumani conducting a
session for students of Children's
Council

Reception by Society for International Education

SIE hosted a reception on October 15, 2010 for the presenters of 26th SPELT International Conference at the Hotel Marriott, Karachi. The guests included some prominent educationist and the Public Affairs Officials of the US Consulate-Karachi. Different SIE programs and

activities were shared with the guests. Susan Harville, The Cultural Attache' from the US Consulate updated the audience on the YES Program supported by the US Department of States Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.



Micah Risher from US Consulate
addressing the guests

Little Ambassadors During the IEW



The YES students currently in USA showed great national spirit during the International Education Week (IEW) 15th-19th November. They all made presentations, delivered talks and put up booths orienting and educating about Pakistani Culture.

They were very well received and appreciated as Citizen Ambassadors by their the American hosts, peers and communities.



Syeda Wasti from Pakistan met
the Governor of the state of
Georgia during the International
Education Week (IEW).

Children's Council Networks with Children and Officials

A series of consultation meetings were held for the development of action plan 2011 for the Children's Council during October and November 2010. The executive members met children from various areas of life as well as some prominent personalities associated with social welfare including Mr. Mir Hakim Ali of the Azad Foundation; Justice (r) Ali Aslam Jafery; Mrs. Zahida Hashmi, Director SOS Village; Mrs. Jehanara

Sheraz, Academic Coordinator, Zindagi Trust; Mr. Abdul Latif Soomro, the Additional Secretary Education and Literacy, Govt. of Sindh; Mr. Nusrat Hussain, Superintendent Central Jail and Mr. Salam Dharejo, National Manager Child Labour, SPARC. The meetings aimed to bring to limelight the underlying causes of children's issues and to get their suggestions on future directions for the Children's Council.

Capacity Building Training for the Children's Council Executive Committee

Two training sessions were organized to build capacities of the Children's Council members on basic child rights and child participation issues. The first 3-day training on Child Right to Protection, conducted by Mr. Shoaib Ahmed, Youth Consultant and Trainer, was held from 15th- 17th October 2010 at Children's Council Office. The workshop aimed at developing the children's self concept, self identity, self perception and self confidence so that they are able to

identify their roles and responsibilities as child citizens of the society. Another, 2-day training was conducted by Ms. Rozina Jumani, Director Planning & Capacity Building at Non Profit Consultant Group, on December 10th and 11th 2010. The workshop focused on Gender Discrimination; Conflict Resolution; Child Participation and Child to Child Communication Approach. Members from Karachi, Mithi and Khairpur attended these sessions.