

Newsletter

April-June 2009

We learn with the world, not only about it...

iEARN Centre Pakistan

Volume 1, Issue 1

Message from President

Dear Readers,

I take great pride in presenting the first issue of the SIE Newsletter. Organizations that continuously strive for excellence finally do attain it; and I am convinced that this publication will go a long way in attaining our goal of reaching excellence. The initiative of taking out a publication to keep all stakeholders informed about SIE activities was much needed because there is such good work going on at the iEARN Center, Pakistan which definitely needs to be shared with our member schools, well-wishers, and partners in progress. We look forward to receiving your feedback on this publication to improve it further.

I wish the publication team success!

Mohsin Tejani (President)
Society for International. Education

Folktales Workshop for CDGK Schools

On 9th April 2009, iEARN Pakistan conducted Folktales workshop for 10 teachers of City District Government Karachi Schools (CDGK). The training was organized at the DEO (Academic and Training) office, Karimabad, Karachi.



The workshop helped teachers enable their students to write and share the Pakistani folktales to a global audience.

(<http://media.iearn.org/projects/folktales>)

iEARN Adobe Youth Voices Media Screening Event

As part of the iEARN Adobe Youth Voices Program, iEARN Pakistan organized a Youth Media Screening event on 28th May 2009 at Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi. 17 teachers and 95 students from 15 different schools of Karachi presented the final outcomes of their projects. These are short videos that they have developed on social issues from their immediate and extended communities. The event was also attended by officials from schools, teachers and CDGK. They all appreciated students' engagement in this innovative 21st Century learning experience. The chief guest Mr. Ibrahim Kumbhar, Executive District Officer (Education) applauded students for their



interest in media literacy and addressing social issues. The project first engaged teachers in participating in a 9 week online course along with teachers from 17 countries. These teachers then lead their students on projects as part of this course which produced media pieces carrying their voices on social issues important to them. The videos of the Pakistani students and those from other countries can be viewed at: (<http://media.iearn.org/ayv/gallery>)

Special points of interest:

- Students' projects screened at NECC- Washington DC 2
- Teachers and students presented at YouthCaN Conference at the Museum of Natural History, NewYork. 3
- The iEARN Mobile ICT Lab 3
- Selection of new schools for Adobe Youth Voices Project. 4

"iEARN Folktales workshops was a very good educational opportunity. It was a great learning experience for me. It gave me some new techniques for educating my students"

Nasim Ara (Govt. Girls Primary School, P.A.F.)

Connecting Classrooms Seminar in United Kingdom

Farah Kamal, Country Coordinator, iEARN Centre participated in the Connecting Classrooms, Contact Seminar held in London and Wales in UK from 15th-22nd May 2009 along with a group of distinguished educational leaders from Karachi. Connecting Classrooms is a British Council Program that builds lasting partnerships between schools in the UK and other countries around the world. The program aims to raise standards in teaching and learning by providing creative learning opportunities for young people through learner-centered activities, and by giving opportunities to teachers for professional development, particularly in child-centered learning, English and ICT.



NECC in Washington DC

Saleem Ibrahim from iEARN Pakistan presented at National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) in Washington, DC, June 28-July 1, 2009. Saleem along with his counter parts of iEARN networks from Canada, Egypt, Uganda and Belarus presented and discussed the implementation of the Adobe Youth Voices project in their countries. They emphasized how young people have used multimedia and digital tools to communicate and share ideas, demonstrate their potential, and take action in their communities. Some of the students' media pieces from Pakistan were also screened at this event and highly appreciated by the participants present.



<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/>

“Working with iEARN was a unique learning experience not only for me, but my students as well. Through the online forums I became a part of global community. This collaboration plays a vital role if we are to prepare our youth to lead us in the future . iEARN is playing a significant role in preparing them for their future endeavors. “

(Dua Ali, The City School, PAF Chapter, Karachi)

“The iEARN Online course not only enriched my learning experience but also broadened my vision and opened new horizons to exploit the modern technology. I am much impressed and influenced by Project Based Learning PBL and now I strongly believe that PBL is much better and instrumental than traditional method of teaching .”

(Tahir Hanif, IYS School, Malir)

Software delivered to schools for Adobe Youth Voices Program

iEARN Pakistan delivered 2 licensed Adobe Premiere Elements and Adobe Photoshop Elements software to the Adobe Youth Voices (AYV) participating schools. Adobe foundation provided one set each of these two software to each participating schools free of cost. These software are to be used by students and teachers who participated in this program to complete the media projects. In AYV round 2, the software was delivered to 8 schools whereas 4 schools from the first round of AYV had already received the software.



“It is a unique experience to have this hands-on experience with the most modern software, which I have never come across before. The workshop really stimulated me to work harder in AYV program as well as other iEARN projects.”

(Muhammad Farooq Shah, TEDC Manager, SITE Model Govt. Girls Secondary School, Karachi)

Online Teacher Training Courses

We congratulate the graduates of the iEARN online courses. This quarter 19 teachers from iEARN partner schools completed the 9-week online courses offered by iEARN USA. 8 teachers completed Adobe Youth Voices course, 4 completed English Language Arts, 3 completed ESL/EFL course and 1 each completed Creative Arts, Science and Social Studies courses.



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

iEARN Mobile ICT Lab – A YES Alumni Project

As part of the iEARN YES Alumni project, iEARN Pakistan has made a mobile ICT Centre. This is comprised of laptops that are networked and connected to access fast speed internet through a modem and router. The YES Alumni, a group of dynamic



young people who have spent a year in the USA and have experienced volunteering and community service, manage this ICT Centre. They take turns to carry it to Government Schools of Karachi and wherever participating students gather and engage

them in structured ICT activities focusing a wide range of curriculum areas.

YES 2008-2009 students return after spending a year in USA

On 16th of June 2009, the 2008-2009 group of YES students returned after spending a successful year in United States as part of the Youth Exchange and Study Program. 61 students departed in August 2008 to different US states and have been excellent Citizen Ambassadors. YES is a year long live and study in the USA scholarship program, supported by US Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. Tracey Brown, of US Consulate, Karachi, awarded certificates of completion to the returning students of Sindh, including Karachi.



<http://www.iearnpk.org/yespk.htm>

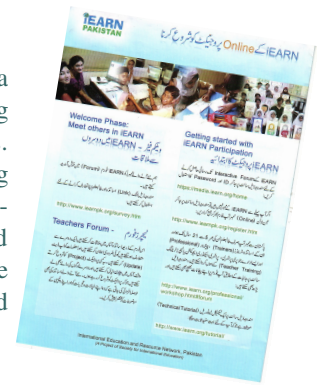
Orientation for Special Needs School

A day long orientation workshop on iEARN projects and programs specially the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program was organized at the iEARN Centre-Pakistan on 9th May 2009. The workshop was attended by professionals and leaders from organizations working for students with physical disabilities. Farheen and Haseeb, who are hearing and speech impaired students, shared their experience of being selected for the YES program.



Teaching Resources

Getting Started With iEARN is a quick start guide to begin integrating iEARN projects in the classrooms. An Urdu version of this guide along with a set of lesson plans are available free of cost to interested schools. One set per school can be requested on a school's letterhead sent to iEARN Office.



Summer Camp in Collaboration with the City District

38 YES Alumni conducted English Language, Information Technology and Sports classes in seven government schools from 8th to 24th June 2009 in Karachi. The project was conducted in collaboration with City District Government Karachi. Volunteers were trained by iEARN Pakistan facilitators before they actually conducted classes. About 1000 students from Government Schools participated in the summer classes.



Teachers and Students attend YouthCaN Conference at the Museum of Natural History-New York USA

As part of the iEARN CATALYST project, a group of two teachers and one student from Pakistan attended YouthCaN Conference held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA followed by a workshop on environmental issues from 3rd to 11th April 2009. The two teachers - Sadia Imam from Aga Khan Higher Secondary School and Fizza Naqvi from Al Murtaza Boys School - and a student, Sheherbano Rizvi from Al Murtaza Girls School, participated in CATALYST Animation training workshop and completed projects held in Karachi in 2008. This group representing Pakistan at the conference presented their projects before a global audience. Delegations of students and teachers from other countries like India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan also attended this conference and shared the Catalyst Animation projects. Catalyst is supported by iEARN USA and US Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.



(http://www.iearnpk.org/catalyst/animation_gallery.htm)

Adobe Youth Voices Program selection for the new schools in progress

iEARN Pakistan is looking for 3 more schools from Karachi for the 3rd round of the AYV program. Heads/Principals of interested schools can write to alema@iearnpk.org for participation details.

Celebrate UN International days by integrating iEARN projects

Schools are encouraged to celebrate UN International days by participating in iEARN online project activities and engage young people in authentic learning experiences.

July: World Population Day, integrate iEARN My Country project
August: International Youth Day, integrate iEARN Eye to Eye project.

September: International Literacy Day, integrate iEARN Write on project.

Download lesson plans:

http://www.iearnpk.org/iEARN_workshops/intl_days.htm

My iEARN Experience...

"Learning is a process of interaction among people who come together in a situation with their diverse backgrounds and tools. The online forums provide the opportunity of interaction to communities coming from various backgrounds who share their knowledge and experiences and thus, learn and grow together. As an M.Ed. Student, I had availed several opportunities of online learning before iEARN. However, the online learning forums of iEARN Projects are more meaningful for me as compared to other online forums."

(Nawab Ali Sadbarg-Northern Areas of Pakistan)

"My life has changed completely as I joined iEARN in 2002 in grade 9th. My first article was for the project Friendship Through Education that was published through iEARN and was highly appreciated by a global audience. This experience not only gave me ideas and knowledge, but a social circle of different communities around the world as well. I proudly represented Pakistani Youth in different iEARN and non iEARN conferences in Japan, Netherlands, Egypt, Canada and Dubai. I got the opportunity to present and participate in iEARN online projects that showed me the true meaning of education, friendship, academics and honor. While still very young, I was way ahead of my peers in using latest techniques in education and meaningful use of technology. I have conducted numerous workshops on social issues, designed and lead different community service projects with my fellows from Pakistan and other parts of the world. The past seven years made me a leader, and most importantly developed my interpersonal skills, gave me confidence and the ability to think 'out of the box' along with friends in many different countries."



<http://media.iearn.org/projects/mgdswithyourvoice>

(Mohammed Salman, 4th Year BBA Student, CBM)

Scholarships available for iEARN Online Professional Development Courses

iEARN-Pakistan as part of its Teachers' Training Program is providing a limited number of scholarships to teachers for iEARN Online Professional Development Courses beginning 28th September, 2009. These are 9-week long online certificate courses offered by iEARN USA and participated by teachers from 15-20 different countries around the world. The course titles are as follows:

- Creative Arts
- Creative Writing / Language Arts
- Social Studies / Contemporary Affairs / Geography
- Science/Environment / Math
- Teaching of Foreign and Second Languages
- Learning Circles
- Moving Voices (Making digital documentaries)
- PEARL: Integrating Journalism skills into the classroom

Visit <http://www.iearn.org/professional/online.html> to know more about these courses.



**iEARN
PAKISTAN**

International Education and Resource Network
Pakistan

(A project of Society for International Education)

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