

Society for International Education

Newsletter

January - March 2011

YES Students Represent Pakistan in BUBW Conference

This year, 21 YES Pakistani exchange students currently in different states of USA, were selected to expand their horizons through the wonderful experience of Better Understanding for Better World (BUBW) Conference held in Baltimore. They represented Pakistan as the largest group and took students from different countries on a ride to Pakistan through a presentation and performance. They had a chance to understand interfaith issues from others' perspective, think themselves and rest of the world as the power of "we" and contribute their part towards a better interfaith and cultural understanding for a better Pakistan and better world.

<http://cecf-net.org/activities/>



Skype Conference on Youth Media

On 25th March, iEARN Centres in Karachi and Islamabad, facilitated groups of students from iEARN partners schools from Rawalpindi and Karachi to participate in a Skype video conference with students and educators from Peapod Academy/Community School Central Redwood City, California, USA. The participating students explored the issues of students in the two countries as producers of knowledge/news/media, instead of simply being consumers. The highlight of the conference was Under Secretary McHale's presence at the USA end. She spoke to the participants and encouraged them to share their ideas through this kind of events. During the video conference, the participants shared their views on the issues and challenges faced by youth in Pakistan and USA and how media literacy can help them solve these issues. The role of media in addressing social issues was also discussed.



Access Class Representatives' Convention

Sunday 20th February, 2011 was an exciting day for many as the English Access Microscholarship Program-Karachi held its first Class Representatives' Convention at the Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi. The convention brought together 300 newly elected Class Representatives (CRs) of the sixty Access-Karachi classes to share their ideas for future, get some training for their roles as active and responsible representatives of the 1500+ Access students. Access teachers, staff and management of the Access Program and the SIE-iEARN, and the nearly 30 alumni of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange for Study (YES) program were also present in the Convention. The CRs were elected through elections at the class level. At each stage of the election, students' participation was ensured to train them on democratic process, and the attitudes and behaviors that go with it. Visit <http://www.iearnpk.org/accesskhi/index.html> for photos and videos.



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"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all"

~Aristotle

Celebrate UN International Days by integrating iEARN Projects

World Earth Day
(22 April)
iEARN Project: OF2- Our Footprints, Our Future

International Day of families
(15 May)
iEARN Project - Kindred

World Environment Day
(5 June)
iEARN Project: YouthCaN

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

British Council Connecting Classrooms Online

SIE has partnered with the British Council to train teachers to participate in Connecting Classrooms Online projects to train a group of 200 teachers from different schools in Karachi and Quetta. Teachers are trained in groups of 20 every Friday and Saturday during the month of March and April beginning 4th March. The workshops are aimed at training teachers to use the Connecting Classrooms Online Community to discuss curriculum development, potential links with other teachers globally and engage students in online collaborative projects. The participants developed their project participation and Social Action plans and posted them on the CCO portal for sharing with teachers from other participating countries. Around 100 teachers have been trained till now to work on these projects.

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



Country Coordinator, iEARN U.K. visits iEARN Centre, Karachi

Leo Vencint, Country Coordinator, iEARN U.K and teacher educator and Heather O'Malley, primary school teacher from Leeds, U.K visited iEARN Centre on Friday, 4 March, 2011. They were briefed about SIE projects and programs. They appreciated SIE's efforts to improve the quality of education generally and integration of technology in education particularly. They also met the teachers participating in Connecting Classrooms Online training workshop and shared their views about online collaborative projects.

Professional Development Workshops at iEARN Centre, Islamabad

iEARN Pakistan Centre Islamabad ran a series of 5 workshops on different topics from January to March. A total of 62 teachers benefitted from these trainings. Teachers from Islamabad, Pindi, Gilgit, Sakardu, Muzzafaraabd, Peshawar, Nowshera and Kohat attended these sessions and had valuable hands on experience of Online

project Based Learning, Youth Volunteering and Community Service, Writing Folktales, Digital Story Telling and Desktop Publishing in the Classroom.

http://www.earnpk.org/PD/Gallery_Highlights.htm



Professional Development Workshops at iEARN Centre, Karachi

iEARN Pakistan arranged workshops on YouthCaN and Youth Volunteering and Community Service on 12th and 19th of February at iEARN Centre Karachi. 30 teachers from different schools in Karachi benefitted from these trainings. It was an interactive session in which teachers were given ideas for environmental and community service projects through discussions, videos and web browsing. They also shared their experiences with others. During the workshop the participants identified different environmental issues and community issues and came up with plans to engage their students in Service Learning projects. Their plans can be viewed on iEARN online Civics forum and YouthCaN forum at http://www.earnpk.org/PD/Gallery_Highlights.htm



Workshop on Writing Grant Proposals

The working committee members of the Society of Pakistan English Language teachers participated in a day long workshop at the iEARN Centre Karachi. This daylong workshop facilitated by Farah Kamal, the Country Director, iEARN Pakistan introduced participants to step by step process of grant writing, reviewing samples of sections of an effective grant proposal. Participants also got an overview of the changing roles of Non Profits and what donors are looking for in fundable proposals and organizations. A session on budget design and template gave an insight into how to work on and calculate a convincing

and practical project budget. Later the day participants were engaged in a hands on experience of writing the executive summary of few project ideas. Each participant got a personal copy of a toolkit containing guidelines and template that would help them continue working on a proposal.



Workshop on Teaching Vocabulary

A workshop on 'Teaching Vocabulary: Some Important Ideas, Some Interesting Techniques' was held on Saturday, 5th March, 2011 at iEARN Centre, Karachi and repeated on 19th March. The workshop aimed at developing a proper understanding of role of the vocabulary in improving language proficiency. The participants were provided opportunities to practice some specific vocabulary building methods and techniques for classroom use. 32 teachers from 15 different schools participated in the workshop.



YES Alumni Projects and Activities

YES Alumni Islamabad and Rawalpindi Chapters held their first meeting at iEARN Centre Islamabad and planned a few projects. In the first week of January, the alumni spent a day with special children at Care for Special Persons Foundation, involving kids in several art and music related activities. Mid-January onwards, YES Alumni led a warm clothes collection campaign all over Pakistan. More than 1000 Kgs of sweaters, shirts, blankets etc. were collected in all big city chapters. These clothes were then delivered to camps of the victims of the flood in Charsadda and Nowshera by the YES Alumni in Peshawar. They also spent a day with special children engaging them in art activities on project Art for All. The Peshawar Chapter also engaged the kids in the camps in art activities

and distributed stationery as part of the Healing by Caring project. YES Alumni Lahore led Students from Fauji Foundation Model School in a community service awareness session and tree plantation activity in their school. Rawalpindi chapter ran a 3-week English Language Workshop for kids at SOS Village. The Karachi Chapter also facilitated during the Access Class Representatives convention on 5th March 2011. The topics covered included journalism, community service, youth clubs and active citizenship.



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



A Cricket Match with US Consul General –Karachi



YES Alumni were also invited to attend the Martin Luther King Jr. Day event at US Consulate. They also played a friendly game of cricket with the Consul General Mr. William Martin at his residence and networked with the other staff over lunch.

“Education sows not seeds in you, but it makes your seeds grow” - Khalil Gibran

Education Without Borders 2011

SIE supported Humayun Ansari, a YES Alumnus from YES 2007-08, currently studying at LUMS to participate in the Education Without Borders 2011 during March 2011. He was part of the 600 delegates from 110 countries who participated in the three-day conference in Dubai focusing on education, social outreach, leadership and technology. The conference helped YES Alumni network with international organizations and like-minded individuals and established some valuable connections that may result in meaningful collaborations in future.



Pakistani YES Ambassadors attend Youth Leadership Summit 2011

Falak Sher Marri, Muhammad Sameer Kayani, Naureen Khalfan, Nida Rasheed, Qaneeta Haseeb & Zoya Nazir were the six Pakistani students among the thirty YES students from all across the globe selected, based on a leadership essay competition, to attend the Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) held at Prescott, Arizona from 28th-30th January 2011. During their three-day stay, they worked on and further enhanced their leadership skills and qualities that would help them implement their proposed projects, a crucial part of their essay, as a commitment for the betterment of the society.



Youth Leadership Institute



“Youth Leadership Institute” was a 3-day program sponsored by US Embassy Islamabad and organized by State Alumni which brought together 30 participants from all over Pakistan. The workshop style event focused mainly on themes such as leadership, conflict resolution, democracy and community service. Syed Shehroz Hussain (YES-6) was part of the organizing committee and 8 YES Alumni from iEARN Pakistan participated in this event.

YES-2012 Preliminary Applications available at our website.

Please check http://www.learnpk.org/yes/preliminary_2012-2013.pdf



Group Photo after Soft Launch of 'Healing by Caring- an Anthology'

Soft Launch of "Healing by Caring - an Anthology"

SIE – Children’s Council and iEARN Pakistan YES Alumni , in collaboration with UNICEF Sindh and Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh, organized an event “ Successes and Challenges of Children’s Council and Soft Launch of Healing by Caring- an Anthology” on Sunday, March 27,2011 at a local Hotel. The event highlighted the milestones achieved by the Children’s Council and was followed by soft launch of 'Healing by Caring- an Anthology' and screening of the project documentary compiled by Children’s Council and iEARN Pakistan YES Alumni. Selected art pieces and stories of flood affected children were exhibited. Children’s Council members, Healing by Caring volunteers and children from the flood relief camps were present during the launching ceremony of their work. The guests included Ms. Susan Harville, the Cultural Affairs Officer, US Consulate Karachi and Ms. Jabeen Fatima from UNICEF Sindh, Ms. Seema Nazli from Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh and other representative of civil society. The event closed with the certificate distribution ceremony of volunteers who took part in the Healing by Caring activities.

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



Radio show, "Hamari Soch, Hamari Awaz going on air

Children’s Council Members go on air

A series of ten FM-100 radio shows of “Hamari Soch, Hamari Awaz”, were on air from 21st Feb to 23rd March 2011. These shows were presented by SIE Children’s Council members every Monday and Wednesday from 10-11 pm. The aim of the radio shows was to highlight child protection issues in the society and other issues such as Gender Discrimination, Corporal Punishment, Children Education, Child Abuse and Child Labour. Based on the experiences of working

with flood affected children, Children’s Council also highlighted problems of such children by inviting them on the show. 4 Executive members of Children’s Council also participated in “Hum Tum”, a radio show on FM 107 on the International Children’s Day of Broadcasting on March 06, 2011.

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



Members of Executive Council busy during the training session

Capacity Building Trainings for the Executive Committee of Children’s Council

Two training sessions were held for the executive members of the Children’s Council to enhance their communication skills and advocacy approach. The first 3 day training on “Child Participation and Child to child communication approach” was conducted by Mr. Shoaib Ahmed, Youth Consultant and Trainer, on 11, 12 and 14 Feb 2011. The workshop aimed at developing children’s understanding on use of correct form of communication so that they are able to interact with other children and adults effectively and to be able to present and advocate on the issues most concerned to children. Another 2 day training session was organized to build children’s capacities on role of social media in spreading awareness and highlighting child related issues. The training on some major issues concerning children was held on 15 and 16 March 2011. It was conducted by Children Council Staff.



My iEARN Experience...

"I have never tried Desktop Publishing before. After attending this workshop, I learnt many new skills especially using ICT as a tool and integrating it in different subjects to enhance learning of students. I learnt to make flyers and newsletters etc. Learning different software programs, especially working on Adobe Photoshop is new and interesting for me. I appreciate the efforts of iEARN Pakistan for providing these trainings to teachers. Long Live iEARN Pakistan!! "

Durdana Shaheen
Principal
Fauji Foundation Model School
Adiala, Rawalpindi

"If the Path is Beautiful, first Confirm where does it lead? But, if the Destination is Beautiful, Don't Check How the Path is. Keep Walking!"



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