

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

iEARN Centre Pakistan

Message from iEARN Morocco

Dear Readers,

There are many things in my life which I am truly proud of, working with iEARN Pakistan is one of them. The mutual collaboration and support between iEARN Pakistan and iEARN Morocco (MEARN) has strengthened over the years. The devotion and engagement of iEARN Pakistan team precede their names in so many countries of the world. Here in Morocco, we got to know a large number of teachers working in different schools, in different grades and disciplines. The projects our students and teachers worked on together are numerous and multidisciplinary; to mention but a few are Lewin, Laws Of Life, BRIDGE, CIVICS. While working with them, we experienced commitment, engagement, responsibility and positive thinking in all of them. We shared and exchanged ideas, visions and expertise, and thus we succeeded to establish long lasting relationships based on mutual understanding, deep respect, and exchanged care.

When it comes to students from Pakistan, I personally always admired and appreciated to work and collaborate with them. iEARN Pakistan delegate was distinguished and contributed a lot to the success of the 16th iEARN annual conference and 13th youth summit held in Morocco the July 2009.

I wish all of you in Pakistan a great learning experience through iEARN,

Nour_eddine Laouni
MEARN General Secretary

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

— Albert Einstein

SIE Successfully Completes Connecting Classrooms Training

Society for International Education (SIE) successfully completed British Council Connecting Classrooms training in 26 different venues in four provinces of Pakistan. The



training focused on project based learning and using the Internet and technology to connect teachers and students from Pakistan with their peers in the U.K. Teachers and students benefitted greatly from the training and have been connected with their U.K. cluster schools and working collaboratively on their projects. One example of success is that now teachers in one of the U.K. partner schools are teaching English and Math to students in a town in Baluchistan using the Internet. (http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-connecting_classrooms.htm)

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Pakistani Youth at UN for the 20th Anniversary of the Children's Rights Convention

Syed Aown Shahzad, a YES student from Pakistan, speaks at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s 20th Anniversary Commemoration of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This event was attended by many high level UN delegates at the Trusteeship Council of United Nations where he got a chance to meet Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General, United Nations and Ann Veneman, Executive Director of UNICEF, who highly appreciated his thoughts and also offered him internship. (www.iearnpk.org/yespk.htm)



Volume 1, Issue 3

Special points of interest:

- SIE completes BC Connecting Classrooms Training 2
- Universal Children's Day and 20th Anniversary of the CRC 2
- SDC Team Visits iEARN Centre 2
- YES Consortium Meeting - Muscat, Oman 3
- MDGs Workshop at iEARN-Centre 4
- Scholarships for iEARN Online Professional Development 4

Celebrate UN International Days by integrating iEARN Projects

- Global Family Day (Jan 1st) iEARN Project-My Identity, Your Identity Family Traditions
- International Mother Language Day (Feb 21st) iEARN Project - Calligraphy Art One Expression, Many Languages
- International Women's Day (March 8th) iEARN Project - Women in My Country Introducing Outstanding Women

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

iEARN Pakistan IT Village at SPELT Conference 2009

iEARN Pakistan team organized IT Village at the 25th International Conference of Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT) in Karachi on 17-18 October 2009. Workshops conducted at iEARN Pakistan IT Village were: Social Media for Language Learning; Media Literacy, a 21st Century Skill; Web Wonders for Language Teachers; Online Project Based Learning – a Step Towards Internationalizing Language Classrooms; and One Day in the Life.

Through these workshops participants learned to use Web 2.0 tools (Facebook, Youtube, Wikis, Blogs etc.) for teaching and using Project Based Learning as a tool for making teaching and learning authentic and related to real life world. The participants felt that these workshops helped them understand and realize the need to use technology in education, how they can make learning interesting for children. SIE also arranged a reception for national and international presenters of the conference and shared the details and success of projects that SIE manages.

I have been working with iEARN Pakistan team for three years in "Folk Tales" project with my students. iEARN Folktale project is very beneficial both for me and my students. Working on this project I found lots of friends from different countries, mainly from Pakistan. I share my opinion with my Pakistani friends and must say that I enjoy it. My students learned about their culture, and tradition and found interesting information. At the end I want to wish my Pakistani friends to be healthy and successful in their future work.

Shukufa Najafova, Azerbaijan

SDC Team Visits iEARN

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) team visited iEARN Centre, Karachi on 24 November 2009. The team comprised Ms. Corinne Beyer, Assistant Country Director and Ms. Kaneez Fatima, Senior National Program Coordinator. They were accompanied by officials from UNICEF-Field Office, Karachi. A group of youth and iEARN alumni gave a presentation on different projects and programs that Society for International Education is running. The presentation included a progress report of SIE-UNICEF program *Achay Dost*. After the presentation, in an informal questions and answers session, the SDC team asked questions about different aspects of SIE projects. They appreciated the efforts SIE is making to provide opportunities to youth and engaging them in projects that bring a positive change in their communities in particular and the society in general. The SIE team thanked the guests and presented them souvenirs. (<http://www.unicef.org/pakistan>)



Universal Children's Day and 20th Anniversary of the CRC

iEARN Pakistan in collaboration with UNICEF-Sindh and Social Welfare Department (SWD), Government of Sindh organized an event to commemorate Universal Children's Day and the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20th November, 2009 in Karachi. The event included an art exhibit by children, an oration competition and a workshop for participants on child rights. About 300 art works by children were exhibited. Winners and runner ups of oration competition were given awards. 50 children and 20 teachers participated in the workshop. The Minister for Social Welfare, Government of Sindh, Mrs. Nargis N.D. Khan was the Chief Guest for the event. She distributed certificates among the young artists who submitted their art works for the art exhibition. In her speech she appreciated the efforts and encouraged the children for their participation in child rights activities. Mr. Andro Shilakadze, Chief Field Office, UNICEF-Sindh also addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Mr. Shahid Gulzar Shaikh, Secretary, SWD, Sindh and Dr. Iqbal Saeed Khan, Additional Secretary, SWD, Sindh also shared their views with the audience. Ms. Farah Shafi Kamal, Country Coordinator, iEARN Pakistan shared with the guests iEARN Pakistan's efforts to bring awareness about child rights and providing opportunities to children to utilize their energy and potential for the betterment of society. About 300 children participated in the event including special children, children from orphanages set by SWD and students from public and private schools. Representatives of different organizations working in the field of social welfare, members of Child Protection Unit, UNICEF-Sindh, staff members of SWD, Sindh and heads of schools were also present and appreciated the joint efforts to bring awareness about the child rights and engaging children in child rights activities. (http://www.iearnpk.org/pd/uc_day.htm)



iEARN Beginners' Workshop at iEARN-Centre, Karachi

A group of 20 teachers from 12 different schools of Karachi, Pakistan attended a 2-day iEARN Beginners' Workshop on Nov 6-7, organized at iEARN Centre, Karachi and sponsored by Doris Duke Foundation of Islamic Arts. During the workshop teachers were involved in different project based activities and enjoyed the world of online learning. They learned about the importance of internationalizing classrooms and interacted with iEARNers online. The participants were introduced Calligraphy Arts project to explore the art of calligraphy and posted beautiful calligraphic work in the respective forum. They also got the opportunity of hands-on practice to explore different iEARN projects that correspond to their subject areas and learned to develop lesson plans for classroom implementation.



iEARN YouthCaN Workshop

On December 11, 2009, a group of iEARN YES alumni conducted Youth Can and “Global Art-Images of Caring” workshop using the iEARN mobile ICT lab, at Premier Public School. A group of thirty students participated in the poster making activity to make the environment better, and focused on issues like pollution, deforestation, toxic waste. The action plans were posted on YOUTH CaN online forum whereas posters and sketches were uploaded to Global Art online forum.



YouthCaN Tree Plantation Activity

Nine YES Alumni as YouthCaN members performed the planting of 120 plants at the Govt. Boys School, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi.



The first phase included the cleaning of the school ground which was full of trash, and the other one was converting the ground into a garden. This project lasted for more than fourteen hours and was performed in two days (Nov 21st -22nd). Along with the alumni the school students also volunteered to turn the project idea into a successful reality. This project resulted in creating awareness and developing a sense of responsibility for keeping the environment clean.

iEARN Workshop at Southshore School

On Nov 5, 2009 an iEARN Beginners’ workshop was conducted at the Southshore School for A-Level students by Talha Qureshi of iEARN Pakistan. The workshop lasted for two hours. In the first phase a verbal presentation about iEARN was given to the students. Students asked questions and also expressed their interest in different projects. The next phase was getting them online and showing the ways to enter different online forums and participate in discussions for different projects. Overall, the workshop was successful as all the 14 participants showed their interest to actively participate in these projects.



YES Earth Savers Clean the Beach

A group of 12 YES alumni after going through the statistics of environmental hazards in Pakistan, took the initiative of working as YES Earth Savers. The first action project performed was the beach cleaning. The alumni arrived at Sea View, Karachi at 10 a.m. along with garbage bags and gloves. They selected some spots and started picking up the trash. The participants worked energetically to clean the beach. Various kinds of trash including pieces of clothes, broken shoes, bottles, plastic toys, cans, juices boxes etc. were picked up. The alumni tried their best to make a difference in the environment. (www.earnpk.org/yespk.htm)



iEARN Youth at International Conference on CRC In Cairo-Egypt

I was very fortunate to get selected through iEARN Pakistan to attend the international conference on the child rights organized by UNICEF in Cairo, Egypt from 21st to 24th of October 2009. Altogether there were 40 child representatives from all over the world and Namra Ashraf and I were representing Pakistan.



During the first two days we discussed the aspects of the violation against the children and the other two days we presented them in 3 forms: speech, panel discussion and the round table. I participated in the round table with Miss Mushera Khattab of UNICEF with other four experts.

My visit gave me a lot of confidence and I learnt a lot about the causes and effects of the child violence and also the recommendations to stop the violence against the children, the role of the government, every individual and also the role of parents to stop child violation.

I am thankful to the iEARN, UNICEF and Social Welfare Department, Government of Pakistan that made this memorable experience possible for me.

Mohammad Raza, 10th Grade, Habib Public School, Karachi

YES Consortium Meeting - Muscat, Oman

Youth Exchange and Study program partners’ meeting was held in Muscat, Oman from 12-15 November 2009. Saleem Ibrahim, Manager Programs and Operations represented iEARN Pakistan and shared iEARN Pakistan’s expertise and experience with the participants from U.S.A, Oman, Morocco, Jordan, Qatar, Bangladesh, Mali, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Suriname, and Liberia.



“One Day in the Life” Event

iEARN congratulates the participants of the recent iEARN *One Day in the Life* event on Tuesday, 10th November. Students from more than 30 countries documented and posted their day on the iEARN forum. Over 1000 multimedia files (photos, Power Points, videos, etc.) were uploaded from all corners of the globe. iEARN is planning a new *One Day in the Life* event for which the dates will be announced soon. (<http://www.onedayinthelife.org>)



I have been working in online i-EARN forums since 3 years as student facilitator. It has truly been a learning experience for me, to look at students work from all over the world and reading their comments and stories. Their devotion to the project made me learn how creative and original young children can be. I also learned about a lot of different cultures especially in ‘One day in the life’ project. I feel extremely glad to see that at iEARN everybody respects and appreciates that difference of opinion. iEARN forums have made my experience insightful and inspirational.

Sakina Talib, BS (Arch.), University of Karachi

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 22nd February, 2010. These are 8-week long online certificate courses offered by iEARN, USA and attended 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.earn.org/professional/online.html> to know more about these courses.

MDGs Workshop at iEARN-Centre, Karachi

A group of 20 teachers from 11 different schools of Karachi, Pakistan attended a one day "MDGs-Only With Your Voice" workshop on Nov 13th at iEARN Centre, Karachi. The workshop was sponsored by Doris Duke Foundation of Islamic Arts. The workshop was about the importance of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and how teachers and students can be involved to achieve these goals. The workshop sessions included PowerPoint presentation on MDGs, poster activity, Team Building and clarity of goals. The MDGs *Action Project Guide* was also introduced which included some activities that teachers can organize to involve their students in MDGs. Teachers were enthusiastic and took equal interest in discussion and showed their earnest desire to be involved in MDGs Project in near future. (<http://www.earnpk.org/PD/MDGs.htm>)



AYV face to face Workshop at iEARN

Teachers and students of Adobe Youth Voices (AYV) 3rd round attended a training workshop arranged at iEARN Centre, Karachi on 31st October 2009. The participants learned different software skills to use Adobe Photoshop Elements and Adobe Premier Elements through interesting image editing and video making activities. These skills will help them to complete their projects. This face to face workshop provided them ideas for creating videos with purpose, and basic knowledge and skills to make effective use of digital tools.



Adobe Youth Voices Online Course

2 teachers from iEARN Pakistan have successfully completed an 8-week AYV online course as part of Adobe Youth Voices program. iEARN Pakistan is looking for teachers from 3 more schools for the 4th round of AYV program starting February 2010.



I have no words to say thank you for what I've learnt under your kind supervision. The opportunity iEARN-Pakistan provided me has improved my teaching. I was the language coordinator dependent on others for word processing on computer because I was always busy in preparing language worksheets etc. but that online course has simply brought a revolution in my professional life. It's iEARN that gave me the concept of very fruitful use of computers for example participation in online projects has been very beneficial for my professional development as a teacher. To continue learning and improving I think it's very important to be in touch with all the efforts you people are making and the trainings you are providing. I work in a Trust School where we try to provide quality education on minimal cost. iEARN has helped me improve my understanding about the aims and objectives of quality education.

Tubi Naz, Education Trust Nasra School, Malir, Karachi



International Education and Resource Network
Pakistan
(A project of Society for International Education)

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