

### Classroom Based Video Letter Exchange Program

"Talking to each other will help us solve our problems" (Sarah, 12 yrs).

At SIE we believe in people to people exchange for cultural understanding leading to a better world and continue to introduce innovative learning opportunities to our partner schools. A Video Letter Exchange is a 21st Century learning activity, piloted by Society for International Education. Collaborating with the Level Up Village (LUV) a US based educational organization helped partnered 58 middle school students of Stanmore Public School-Karachi with 58 of their counterpart at Eastern Middle School Connecticut-USA.

"It was so cool to receive a letter and that too in a video form from someone living in a different country; I have learned many fun and cool things about Pakistan" (Thomas, age 12).

As part of the regular classroom teaching and learning activity, for two weeks, from 3-17 December, 580 video letters were exchanged between the two classes across the Atlantic. Can there be anything as powerful as this virtual exchange to change the world hoping for a better tomorrow! The Video letters were primarily focused at providing opportunities and an environment for a cross-cultural virtual exchange that helps these young people share and discuss ideas on:

- Leadership understanding and possibilities
- Social issues in their communities
- Life in general as they experience at school and at Home
- Education and its role in improving the world
- Addressing misconceptions and breaking stereotypes

This exchange program turned out to be a wonderful experience. The students from both US and Pakistan were very excited and asked tons of questions from their global partners.

### Teaching Math with Technology Workshop

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, another exciting curriculum integration training conducted by SIE went successful at iEARN Centre, Karachi. 23 teachers from different SIE partner schools registered for this training. It was learnt that the Math teachers were willing to improve their teaching practices and were excited to learn new ways to integrate ICT into their lesson planning.

The workshop sessions were interactive. The hands-on practice sessions strengthened technology based approach for teaching Mathematical concepts. The participants realized that simply having access to technology is not sufficient; they need to adopt new ways to enhance students learning.

Some very useful and informative online resources and web based tools were shared with the participants. They did pair work and then discussed the outcomes of activity. As part of this training, the participants also learned to develop mathematical skills through online games. They were also asked to make ICT Integrated lesson plans incorporating the web resources shared during workshop. Lesson plans were presented to other participants and feedback was given for improvement.

"I learned a lot about myself through this exchange program, more importantly self confidence" (Laiba, 13 years).



The American students were eager to know about life in Pakistan, the families, education system what the Pakistani students think, community, sports, culture, importance of community service and leadership skills. While interacting with each other Pakistani kids replied to their questions and inquired a lot about life in the US. Hence moving the discussion forward and enjoyed a real exchange experience. As part of the exchange both the classes took an online leadership quiz that helped them uncover their leadership skills.

"These video letters made me think so deeply about me and my beliefs which I never did before" (Hasan, 13 years).

"From this Video Exchange I have learned about my leadership strengths and I can make others feel good with motivation. I also learned that I am brave enough to share this information over a video letter" (Charles-12 years).

The students' responses in this exchange program clearly reflect that the program has helped remove some of the common misconceptions between the two groups. The programme has brought them closer and helped overcoming the stereotype concepts that often lead to intolerance and generalization. This replicable model of classroom teaching and learning activity has immense potential to engage students in a rich meaningful cross cultural dialogue. We plan to carry out these conversations using technology with classrooms around the world.

### Level Up Village September Courses

Society for Intl. Education in collaboration with Level Up Village (LUV) conducted STEM based learning classes for their courses Global Investors in Training (3D printing) and Minecraft. The classes started in September for 8-week course (September-November 2015).

The Minecraft class had 15 students from DIL Schools who were partnered with Duschene School, USA. This course focused on the basic concepts of mathematics, geometry and geology. The game-based-learning approach helped them learn how to calculate rate, distance, and speed etc. and express their creativity using Minecraft design tools. Students made amazing designs and structures and enjoyed learning with fun.

"I learned a lot of things that were new to me and helpful for my studies. I am glad to be part of this" said Manahil Ehsan (Grade 5, DIL School).

The 3D Printing class had 10 students from CAA Model School who were partnered with Beacon Inventors Group, USA. Students in this course learned Engineering Design Cycle-Imagine, Plan, Create and Improve. Students used Computer Assisted Design software to learn 3D Printing and modeling.

"This program gave me an opportunity to gain knowledge about 3D modeling. I wish to learn more about it so that I can share with my friends from US." said Hoor-ul-Ain (Grade 5, CAA Model School-2).

The Level Up Village (LUV) program is a very good example of connected learning. Kids sent video letters to their US partners and share real life problems to find solutions for them. They also came up with some nice 3D designs. In December, SIE started 'Video Game Designer' class. This is another LUV course in which students are learning to code and build video game, and learn animation skills. Level Up Village Program also offers Chemistry, Biology and Coding courses to students of primary and secondary level for the new session starting in January 2016.



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# Society for International Education

iEARN Centre  
Pakistan



# Together for a better world

### SIE Celebrates Universal Children's Day 2015

The Society for International Education hosted Universal Children's Day on 20th November 2015. This event was organized in collaboration with UNICEF Sindh and Social Welfare Department (SWD), Government of Sindh. This event was celebrated to promote the ideals and objectives of the Declaration of Rights of a Child. Each year SIE organizes this event to show that children are valued members of society, and that they need love and respect to grow to their full potential.

More than 400 participants from different schools in Karachi attended the event and participated to make their voices heard. Program started with recitation of the Holy Quran followed by beautiful welcome song by children of SWD RCMHC. The event started with a short video made by students of SIE partner schools. Two students from SIE schools were invited to make speeches and share their views on child rights.

An Art Exhibit was arranged to showcase art work made by the students of SIE partner schools. Around 250 art pieces were displayed on the theme of child rights. Mr. Shariq Ahmed, Secretary SWD, Government of Sindh and Dr. Nargiza Khodjaeva, Chief Field Office, UNICEF Sindh made keynote speeches and opened up the art gallery for audience. They appreciated students' artwork and their efforts to express their views through art.

The later half of the program included theatre, panel discussion, poetry recitation, songs, sharing of true story etc. The program ended with a song by students of Shanti Nagar School and vote of thanks by the director, Social Welfare Department (SWD) Sindh. Students were awarded certificates for their participation in artwork, essay/poem and the video making entries they posted on the forum.



### Message from Fizza Iqbal

Hello Everyone,  
My name is Fizza Iqbal I am an architect by profession. I am from the YES 2nd batch (2004-05) that went through this program.



Reminiscing over my YES journey, I can confidently say that one year has played a huge role in helping me decide my career path. I am an Architect by profession currently working as an Architect at the Indus Hospital Planning & Design department. I graduated from the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture a couple of years back. As we are all aware that we have to decide certain subjects to study at high school; I chose interior design and Engineering design as part of my curriculum. After studying these for a year I realized that I had a knack for designing, of observing all the intricate details; hence after coming back, I took admission in an arts school to pursue my interest.

This program is more than just sending your kid to the States so they can have a taste of the 1st world country; it is about developing and grooming the child's personality. Self-control, acceptance to differences, independence and budgeting are some of the various things you learn throughout your exchange year. The art of managing and striving for more has shaped me into what I am today. To completely push things on my own, manage my finances without any hassle, and to have this goal of starting my own firm in the next few years is all because of the self-confidence and assurance that I gained during my exchange program.

My advice (just like a wise lady) to all the kids that are going this year: Remember that you are the young ambassadors of Pakistan; make your family and this country proud. I wish you all the best :)

Regards,  
Fizza Iqbal



### Daniel Pearl World Music Concert

On October 8, 2015, US Consulate General, Karachi organized a musical concert at Old Consul General Residence focusing Daniel Pearl World Music Week in which 200 Access students participated joyfully. Access students had an amazing experience by participating in the musical concert. They learned how to promote love, peace and harmony through music. Students got an opportunity to meet and interact with the American and Pakistani musicians.

### Halloween Celebration

This year Access students celebrated Halloween with joy and excitement on October 31, 2015. Students set up their classes depicting a horror house and dressed up in costumes and masks of their favorite celebrities. Students also learned chants of Halloween and sang in groups. The students not only enjoyed this traditional holiday but also learned the historical background of Halloween.

### Intensive Session – 2

Intensive Sessions were organized during the school summer/winter break. The Intensive Session - 1 was organized in the month of June 2015 and The Intensive Session - 2 in the month of December 2015.

Intensive Session – 2 began at all Access Centers on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 and ended on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Students were very excited to receive very useful resources in the form of manuals, water bottles, stationeries and diary folder.

Agenda of Intensive Session – 2 included Youth Leadership Development, Public Speaking Contests, Performing Arts Activities (songs, skits, short plays etc.), Guest Speakers Presentations on Personal Development and Career

### International Day of a Girl Child

Access students observed The International Day of Girl Child on October 12, 2015 to highlight the rights of Girl children. All of the students were quite excited to talk about the rights and role of girls in the society.

They performed role plays to show gender discrimination and how to stop it. Short skit to support girls' rights to educate were also presented. It was very nice to see boys talking and expressing about girls' rights.

### Professional Development Training

Erin Sled, lecturer at Kennesaw State University, USA was invited by the US Consulate General, Karachi to conduct two sessions on Instagram application for Access teachers. It was a professional development workshop scheduled on November 8th and 28th, 2015 at iEARN Training Center, Karachi. Erin gave the orientation and explained the applications of incorporating

Instagram in English language teaching. Access teachers were also given the opportunity to have hands-on practice on Instagram. US Consulate General, Karachi officials participated in the training session including Mark Kendrick, Public Affairs Officer, Li Ping Lo, Cultural Affairs Officer, Griffin Rozell, Cultural Attaché and Aisha Amanullah, English Programs Coordinator.



### Thanksgiving Day Celebration

Thanksgiving dinner was hosted by Farah Kamal, Executive Director of Society for International Education on November 27, 2015 in which Access students and US Consulate officials were invited including Mark Kendrick, Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate General, Griffin Rozell, Cultural Attaché, US Consulate General, Aisha Amanullah, English Language Programs Coordinator at US Consulate General, Karachi. Thanksgiving dinner helped the Access students to gather the exposure of thanksgiving ritual through all the items which are included in the dinner. The main course of the dinner was "Turkey". Mark Kendrick, Public Affairs Officer and Griffin Rozell, Cultural Attaché, US Consulate General, Karachi, oriented the Access students regarding Thanksgiving and the proceedings of the whole day.



### International Education Week



National Anthem of each country was played before the presentation of each country. Delegates of each country shared their location, culture and educational system. Access students also shared about Access program running in these countries as well.

### 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence



Access students observed 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence from November 25, 2015 to December 10, 2015. Students came up with fun filled yet worth sharing and strong messages to eliminate violence against women through their performances. In order to celebrate and show the importance of this day - Access students performed on various tableaux, sang songs, short-plays and skits. Ms. Aisha Amanullah, English Programs Coordinator, US Consulate General, Karachi, participated in the event and interacted with the Access students as well. She took feedback from the boys and girls both regarding their learning from the event.

### Society for International Education

### U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program Alumni Activity

Saffa Imran from Lahore, attended American University's Community of Scholars Program in 2015 through U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program. Upon her return she indulged in different community service initiatives. One of them was Green for White Campaign. She says "I was a part of Green for White campaign aimed at creating interfaith harmony; I made and distributed goodie bags in the Christian community of Youhanabad, Lahore. I hope to continue my work and making the little impact that I can."



### YES Alumni Christmas and New Year's Festivities Share a Bear

YES alumni Karachi celebrated Christmas and New Year 2016 with about 250 kids from the slum area. These kids live in one of the areas of the city where easy access to basic education and health care is not possible. The alumni collected toys from their friends and families through a week long online campaign (that included several graphics), the toys included plush toys along with toys for all ages and genders. Once the collection was done, the alumni gathered to wrap the toys in a way so that the kids may feel the festivities. A proper event was organized for the celebration which involved music, dance and a lot of smiles to go back home with. Alumni sat with the kids and sang with them various songs. The kids got toys as gifts along with candies and chips as a celebration of the eventful occasion they celebrate with each other.

The project was not only to celebrate Christmas but also to promote interfaith harmony within the city, where people from different religious backgrounds gave out their part of happiness (toys) for those who need them. "Thank you so much for making our Christmas colorful and filled with gifts and treats. If we ever get gifts in Christmas we have to share it with our siblings, this time we got our separate gifts."



### YES Alumni Project Eye Can

YES alumni Karachi conducted a day long activity with visually impaired students in a project called "Eye Can." The main focus of the project was to bring creativity out of these kids, and through the power of feel the kids can make things out of their imaginations. The day started with a motivational speech by a visually impaired YES alumna Safira Bibi, later the kids were given time to think about what they want to make. The play dough cans had Braille writing colors on them for kids to identify and chose which color they want. The kids started the activity and made various objects, wrote their names and had much fun. They also went ahead and felt what their partners had made and tried to identify what the object was. Kids spent the later part of the day playing UNO that was specially designed for visually impaired kids along with tic-tac-toe for younger kids too. Overall, it was an amazing day, brought so many hopes in the children that they can do something only if they are given a chance. "Opportunities like these boost the morale of these kids which is being shattered each day by either their family members and community members." - Teacher



### English Works - ORIENTATION

"English Works" Program aims to improve participants English language proficiency and employment skills in job market. The participants of program are 18-25 years youth from under-privileged communities who are either students at different universities or working in different sectors. Program is sponsored by US Department of State and administered by SIE in collaboration with US Consulate General, Karachi. Before the classes began, orientation sessions were held at Karachi and Hyderabad to provide details about the program to the participants and to answer their queries.

### Hyderabad

Orientation session was held for 50 selected participants of English Works Program on November 5, 2015 at English Works Center, Hyderabad. The session was attended by program participants, community members and representatives of Hyderabad business community. Mr. Irfan Baloch, Senior Superintendent of Police, Hyderabad was the chief guest of the program. Ms. Aisha, English Programs Coordinator for Sindh and Baluchistan represented the U.S. Consulate General, Karachi.

Community representative, Dr. Haroon Iqbal, welcomed the guests and participants. He affirmed full cooperation to make this program a great success. Majid Khan, Program Coordinator and SIE team member, provided details of the program. He highlighted the importance of program for participants' career development and growth.

### Karachi

On November 7, 2015 an orientation session was held for 150 selected participants of English Works Program at Sughra Bai Agha Auditorium, Al-Murtaza School, Karachi. The orientation session was attended by Karachi program participants. M. Saleem Ibrahim, General Manager, Society for International Education, welcomed participants and congratulated them on their selection. He thanked the management of Al-Murtaza School for providing the venue and facility for classes. Ms. Aisha, English Programs Coordinator for Sindh and Baluchistan represented the U.S. Consulate General, Karachi. She addressed the audience and highlighted the support of the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad and the U.S. Consulate General, Karachi for youth educational and professional development programs.