

# Newsletter

Jan - Mar 2017



## SIE-LUV Global Conversation Course

Society for International Education completed two 'Global Conversation' courses with Level Up Village during month of March. These 5-week cultural exchange courses started in January with partner classes from Eastern Middle School and Perimeter School, USA. Students from grade sixth participated in this course.

During this course students communicated with their global partners via video letter exchange and written collaboration. The discussions and exchanges focused on cultural perception, improvement through education, leadership traits and role of community service in both countries. After discussion sessions, students recorded their video letters which gave them opportunity to share and exchange their thoughts about each other countries, their life styles, school life etc. They discussed their academic career, analyze leadership strengths in themselves and what traits they need to be a good leader.

Student liked this video exchange program very much because this process gave them confidence, improved their interpersonal communication skills and changed their perceptions about their partner country. Here are some student quotes.

"I learnt how to communicate with each other and we asked each other's opinion and told them about our culture."

"I have learnt how to talk to other country people, and I have learnt so much from children from USA, about their daily routines, life styles, their occasions and what they think. It removes so many misconceptions and it's good to know they also respect their elders and have their own religion."

"I felt great about this video exchange, because it helps us to speak with someone we never knew before. It also helps us to develop peace in the world. It is my opinion that this type of courses should be in every school, so that people learn to know each other very well. If this happens, world will not be filled with violence and there will be peace everywhere."

# SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

## School Leadership Meeting

Society for International Education organized a 'School Leadership Meeting' on Wednesday, 11 January, 2017. In this meeting, SIE invited people from leadership positions from its partner



schools and as well as new schools interested in exploring SIE programs and activities. The guests included school principals, heads teachers, board members, coordinators and section-heads from various private and government schools in Karachi and Hyderabad.

During the session, an introduction to SIE programs were shared by Ms. Farah Kamal, General Secretary, Society for International Education. Mr. Saleem Ibrahim, General Manager and the SIE team members briefed about other SIE programs and activities and how schools can benefit from them. The guests gave their feedback for the SIE Professional Development program by filling out Need Analysis Survey, which would be quite helpful in redesigning of this program as per school needs. In the end, lunch was served and the attendees spent good time discussing these program opportunities with SIE staff and socializing with each other.



Together  
for a  
better  
world



## Recruitments for Summer Sisters Program

The recruitment of 23 dynamic females was completed for U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program 2017. The U.S. Summer Sister Exchange Program offers high school females an opportunity to attend pre-college summer programs at prestigious American universities. The exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State and is administered by a consortium of partners, including American University, iEARN, the Society for International Education, and the US-Pakistan Women's Council.

The program received over 800 applications from 78 different small and big towns of the country. The scholarships for this program have been provided by the following prestigious educational institutions: American University, Babson College, Barnard College, Brown University, Duke University, Eleanor Roosevelt Leadership Center, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, National Student Leadership Conference, Smith College, University of Chicago and Washington University. The selected students are from: Bahawalpur, Gilgit, Haripur, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Khairpur, Lahore, Nowshera, Peshawar, Quetta and Rawalpindi.

## English Language Enhancement Workshop for YES 2017-18 Students

Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES) 2017-18 Students' Workshops and English Language Enhancement Workshops were also carried out in Karachi and Islamabad. The workshops focused on introducing the students to International Education and Resource Network's (iEARN) project based learning, the collaborative forums, various assignments and projects to be completed before their departure to U.S.A. and the importance of program.

The students also learned regarding the protocol for social media usage and ways to stay safe while on the web. In addition, the students worked in various groups activities to learn from their peers, enhance team work and nourish the notion of leadership.



## YES 2017-18 Parents' Orientations

Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) 2017-18 Parents' Orientation was conducted for 27 students and their parents in Karachi on February 4th, 2017 for Sindh and Balochistan students and their parents. The same event happened with 48 students and their parents in Islamabad on February 12th, 2017 for Central, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and Tribal Areas of Pakistan.

The guest from US Consulate Karachi Anthony Dean Tranchina- Public Affairs Officer was present at YES Parents Orientation in Karachi. He congratulated the students on their selection as YES participants and thanked their parents for their support to the children.

Mr. Tranchina shared the importance of educational exchanges that help people understand each other better. He also emphasized on building bridges and respect between cultures. The guests mingled with the students and their parents at their tables during break and answered their queries. The students and parents were excited talking to Mr. Tranchina.



The guests from US Embassy Islamabad Daniel Mattern-CAO, Kristine Hawkins-Assistant Cultural Attaché, Maureen Y. Mimnaugh-Deputy Cultural Attaché, Tom Montgomery-Assistant Cultural Affairs Attaché, Ariel Jahner- Vice Consul, John Runkle-Vice Consul and Sabir Sharif-Cultural Affairs Specialist joined the Parents' Orientation in Islamabad. Mr. Daniel Mattern congratulated the students on their selection as YES participants and thanked their parents for their support to the children. Mr. Daniel Mattern shared his exchange experience with students and their parents and told the students to take chances, be courageous and take advantages of opportunities. The guests mingled with the students and their parents at their tables answered their queries. The students and parents were excited talking to the guests.

## Abilities Expo 2017

A group of YES Alumni Karachi participated in 'Abilities Expo 2017' on 25th Feb 2017 held at Expo Center, Karachi. The basic aim of this exhibition was to appreciate the abilities of people with special needs. The YES alumni with disabilities participated in this expo to showcase the projects carried out by them and their fellow peers from their communities. The event served as a great motivation for other special need students to feel confident and apply for Youth Exchange and Scholarship (YES) Program and be part of it.



A stall was setup by YES alumni to exhibit their projects as well as provide information about program to students visiting from other organizations and schools for students with special needs. Alumni showcased their exchange year videos, pictures and their achievements during exchange year. The YES alumni stall had over 300 visitors, who showed their interest in YES program and process to apply for it. YES brochures and flyers were given to the visitors to provide more details.

## YES alumni Medical Camps 2017

YES Alumni Bakhshoo Pull, Guluzai, Mardan, Peshawar, Quetta and Rawalpindi organized a day long Medical Awareness Camp in their respective cities which served approximately 2,500 patients in total. In Pakistan, there is dire need of quality public health awareness as the mothers are not aware of prevention for small diseases that result in severe issue for families, which are not well-off and cannot afford medical tests and medicines. In order to address the issue, YES Alumni geared up to organize a series of medical awareness camps that not only provided medical tests but also the medicines to the targeted beneficiaries. A team of doctors and experts along with alumni volunteered and facilitated the patients with free medical check-ups and medicines. The project was regarded as extremely successful with widespread positive outcomes.



## Youth Development Camp

Youth Development Camp was arranged for the very first time in small town of Jacobabad. YES alumni chose students from different schools, providing them with a unified platform to showcase their talents. The Camp comprised of educational competitions as: creative writing, logic quiz, debate, minute to win, etc. whereas the workshops included career counseling, entrepreneurship and character building. The students were guided under the topic of volunteerism, community service and one small community service project was also done. Students ranking in position in competitions were awarded with books from the book fair. Book fair enhanced the reading among the students as there is no proper library for girls and boys usually do not use it. The students learned the importance of reading too. A small social event was organized in the end. Overall, a total of more than 100 participants participated in the Camp. The Camp was widely appreciated by the locals as well as the students as it provided them with great insight and way forward in terms of choosing the right career pathway for themselves and how to move forward. The alumni also found it a great experience as it nourished their team building and leadership abilities.



## Random Acts of Kindness

YES Alumni Lahore, Peshawar and Rawalpindi carried out random acts of kindness project in their respective cities. The alumni in Lahore provided the students from an underserved school with an excursion to Local Park and a chance to enjoy the day out of routine through sports. The alumni in Peshawar celebrated birthday of 20 Thalassemia patient children and doubled their happiness on their special day. The alumni in Rawalpindi reached to the children's ward in the Holy Family Hospital and provided the children with gifts and sweets.

The projects were great success and a source of motivation, happiness and pleasure for everyone involved. A total of 140 students participated in the project.



## Collaborative Learning with iEARN Projects

On Saturday, 15 March, a workshop was held by Society for International Education on 'Collaborative Learning with iEARN Projects.' This workshop focused on introducing iEARN Projects to participants and steps to engage students actively in these projects.

The participants explored iEARN projects that are based on the pedagogy of project based learning approach that enhances the 4Cs – Critical thinking, Creativity, Communication and Collaboration essential learning for 21st century. Facilitator shared various lesson plans and activities that could be easily incorporated in the lesson plans for curriculum integration. They learnt importance of online collaborative learning in education and discussed strategies for meaningful technology based learning in classrooms.

Participants registered themselves as educators and explored the iEARN collaboration center for projects of their interest.



## Bringing Web 2.0 Tools in Classrooms

SIE conducted a workshop on 'Bringing Web 2.0 Tools in Classrooms' on Saturday, 4th February at SIE training center. This workshop introduced Web 2.0 tools to educators that can be used in the classrooms to enhance students' learning.

Workshop focused at several online tools that are designed specifically for classrooms like presentation tools, collaboration tools, class management tools etc. Participants were given hands-on practice time to get acquainted with these software to incorporate e-learning in the regular classroom teaching. The participants enjoyed the session and learnt many ideas for effective integration.

"It was a good experience to learn new tools and to make my class more interactive", said workshop participant Faiza Latif.

"The workshop was really interesting. I love it and definitely going to apply Web 2.0 tools in my planner", said another participant.



## Shoot and Edit Quality Videos

SIE conducted another exciting workshop 'Shoot and Edit Quality Videos' on Saturday, 11 February, 2017. The workshop was designed for school teachers and other interested participants who wanted to learn video editing and utilizing these skills to enhance their raw footages through commercially used Adobe software tools and make video editing fast and fun.

The participants learnt to incorporate video editing into classroom learning. Several ideas were shared for integrating these skills into specific subject areas. The participants practiced scripting, storyboarding, camera angles and type of shots to capture creative footages.

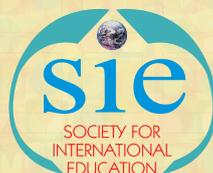
Workshop was completely interactive and hands-on to provide them opportunity to try different editing modes, transition effects, and other powerful video editing and blending techniques.

## وڈیو مذاکرے

Society for International Education came up with an exciting and unique learning opportunity for Urdu language teachers. The workshop titled 'وڈیو مذاکرے' was conducted at SIE on Saturday, 4 March. The duration of the workshop was 4 hours and about twenty teachers participated from reputed schools in Karachi. Khurram Ali Shafique conducted this workshop for primary and secondary school teachers about video discussions. Video Discussion is an exciting activity that is becoming increasingly popular for teaching different subjects.

The purpose of this workshop was to help teachers learn to develop custom activities for video discussions and incorporate in their Urdu language classrooms.

The basic aim of this workshop was to introduce this concept to teachers that for classroom teaching it is not enough to show just a video, teachers need skills to be able to develop a custom activity for a video discussion with students on any video of their choice.



Society for International Education

