

**Greetings to Friends at the International Education Summit, Washington State, USA**  
**From IEARN Country Coordinators**  
**(The following greetings were presented to the Summit Participants by video.)**

**Doris Wu, iEARN Country Coordinator, Taiwan**

Hello, everyone, I am Doris Wu from Taiwan.

It's my great honor to share my experience and my opinions on international education. Basically I think the importance of the global village is very important. Genetically, we are almost the same. We do not look like the same but we like to make friends with people around us. But think about it, if the earth is like a global village, how can we not understand each other. I think that international education is so important. We need to know and learn about each other. Not only the friends around us. Not only the neighbors around us. But also, the international neighbors around us. iEARN Taiwan has been involved in iEARN international projects for 5 years. In the past 5 years, much involvement and inspiration are found and gained from the participation of iEARN Big family. Many teachers and students in Taiwan embrace the excitement and enlightenment from working with our international partners--- no matter what level they are in.

I was person who only knows how to type in my computer four years ago. A miracle of things happened four years ago. I started get contacted with what we call online digital school classroom. I learned to communicate and learn to design the teacher materials in the Internet online digital schools so that I teach my students how to get into the virtual classroom. And then we have a discussion there and I taught my students how to hand in their assignment on the Internet. Then we can have a chatting room so that teachers and students can share our opinions on a specific subject or some ideas. And it turns out my children love it and I love it too.

It opened my mind and it also opened the minds of my students. Most importantly, I think it really changed our mindset. Maybe we have only a limited way to reach each other, but right now, we can do it thanks to the technology improvements,

Right now when I turn on my computer, I can get in touch with teachers and students around the world. So sometimes in the morning, when I get on, maybe one teacher from El Salvador is there to say "Hello" to me and then maybe twenty minutes later, another teacher from Washington, D.C. can say good morning to me. Can you imagine that? My world becomes very colorful!

So in the future and right now I really hope that if someone can make great improvements in the videoconference that would be wonderful!! The creativities of the ICT, the purpose, are it helps to improve the quality of communication. This is very important because we are all human and we need a better way to build up and strengthen the network of humans. When working with their international partners, children learn to know the differences among them, then think on their own, and then come out of appreciating their unique differences. Of course, all the above won't happen unless the good guidance from their teachers.

Dearest educators, YOU are the key people who bring our children to a better world and better future in the light of building global relationship with their international partners. This is what I think is important.

I use be the teacher who only knows how to use "Word" but through iEARN, now I know how to use the World.

**Kakinda Daniel, iEARN Country Coordinator, Uganda**

Greeting to Washington State. I'm Kakinda Daniel. I'm the Country Coordinator for Uganda. I'm happy to have visited your beautiful city of Seattle. I was there between June 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> [2004]. I had come to attend the Community Technology Network Conference. We have used a number of technologies for collaboration between students for collaboration between teachers. We have used the Internet, have used the email, and have used the discussion boards, the videoconferences. Now, some of this technology has affected the teaching because now the teachers are learning together with the students. Through collaboration, you have more up to date information. I think that it is important for somebody to belong to these networks. There are a number of benefits. Some of the benefits are knowledge sharing. You can share your experiences - good experiences, bad experiences. But there also issues which are beyond the capacity of individual countries and individuals which have come to be addressed in a global scale - issues to do with environment - issues to do with education. But also it is important for us as students for us as teachers to help with global cultural understanding.

**Dalia Khalil, iEARN Country Coordinator, Egypt**

Hello to everyone in Washington State in the U.S. I'm Dalia Khalil, the country coordinator for iEARN-Egypt. I'm glad to meet you. My role mainly in Egypt is about to promote new teaching methodologies to the teachers along with the Ministries of Education and other networks and other organizations. I would work into the schools. We mainly work with public and experimental schools and recently also private schools. What the teachers and students are doing is mainly interacting with the world using very simple technology but they are doing a great job and at the same time they are serving their communities in different ways to find problems, looking for solutions and to find local partners but also global partners.

For us in Egypt, it's very important for us to reach out into the world and to give a clearer picture of what Egypt is. And to build, for teachers or students or anyone, on the idea that Egypt is not just about pyramids and people living in tents. Many students would like to show the real image of Egypt right now and the development of their country. On the same level of importance for them is to look out at other countries' experiences, to learn from them, to share ideas, solutions, experiences and to look for future partnership with their colleagues. More than any time in history and time of human life, right now getting together is vital.

For technology, we are using very simple technology - PCs, printers, scanners, videoconferencing, webcams, digital cameras, and video - so it's very simple. So at the same time, we look for partners. Our partner is the Ministers of Education so we can use their sophisticated equipment. At the same time, students work from home. They are identifying local partners like IT companies that can help with the infrastructure in the schools. So, yes so it's simple but at the same time it's effective and efficient for their use.

For the future, we are really looking into further collaboration with other countries and get the real sense of iEARN into many many more countries. For Egypt right now our Ministries are looking into iEARN very seriously and getting it into the curriculum.

**Cheryl Morgan, iEARN Country Coordinator, United Kingdom**

I'm Cheryl Morgan. I'm the coordinator of iEARN-UK. We have our major center in Wales, which many people might know about. Within the education in the UK our students will often times have exchange visits with students in France or Germany and that's their international education. Or often times students will raise money for charities and that's their international education. But we don't feel that's enough.

We really feel that you have to get involved with teaching and learning on an equal human basis with students in other parts of the world. So in the UK, we have developed some very exciting programs like YouthCaN so that students are working at cleaning up the environmental black spots in the old mines in Wales or we have students who are working on the Bullying Project and looking at how they can reduce bullying in their own area and their own community - just a few examples of what's been happening. I really believe that global education is very important for us. And, indeed, in terms of accrediting learning, we've established some very strong standards for how you can use project-based learning in order to develop ways to measure student's own growth and improvement in their own skills. And it's very exciting.

We use many technologies in our classroom in the UK. For example, whiteboards and we have videoconferencing in which we can link students in different parts of the UK and in fact different parts of the world. What our students are used to using are collaborative activities such as emailing, discussion boards and notice boards as part of their everyday work in their classrooms so that they're working on a much larger scale than "what's happening between me and my teacher". Some of the latest work that we're doing is using things such as digital storytelling to enable students to tell their own story in their own voice in their own language and be able to share that and use that as a resource for discussion - because what it does is break down barriers and helps with people to understand what's happening in other parts of the world.

So technology to us is the way we do teaching and learning.

**Cheikh Darou Seck and Faye Ndiaye Aminata Kole, iEARN Country Coordinators, Senegal**

(Aminata) Bonjour... Greetings in French by Faye Ndiaye Aminata Kole

Translation:

(Cheikh) Good morning, Washington people. My name is Cheikh Darou Seck from Senegal. I'm translating for Aminata. She just said Good morning to the people of Washington. Her name is Ndiaye Kole Faye and she is a Natural Sciences teacher. She is saying "good morning" on behalf of all Senegalese people because we are the ones who are going to organize the iEARN conference next year.

(Cheihh) I'm an English teachers and I've been teaching English now for 14 years in a secondary school. We have a school where there are only girls in Dakar and it's called the Martin Luther King, Jr. Girls' School.

(Amanita) I teach in a high school. I've been teaching for 23 years now. I think that global relationships is something that can help my students get a broader mind - with some other different countries - with some other people from different backgrounds, from different

civilizations and accept differences, understand differences in people, and exchange and share their own experiences. This will help them better live their own life - better understand what's going on in other parts of the world - better help people help each other.

(Cheikh) Global relationships are important because now it seems like we can't live without knowing each other, without exchanging experiences. It seems that cultural diversity is something that has become very strong now. And it's something people can help living with which means students can now more and more meet strangers, share their views, their own cultures, understand and accept the diversity among each one of us. Which is capital for the survival. If you want to build a new world, build a world where everyone will find his own place. You can't find your place in a world without understanding the differences among people. I'm very much in favor of people meeting people and sharing.

(Aminata) Translation: She is saying that in Senegal we are using the Internet and computers a lot even though all the Senegalese schools or high schools are not well equipped with computers and the Internet. But what's great is that students and Senegalese teachers have been able to use the Internet to build overseas relationships to exchange with overseas people, and to build strong relationships that help them better understand each other - countries, life styles, ways of life - things like that. This program has been going for some years now. Many people are actually using the Internet to go and meet other people to exchange and share their experiences and exchange and share what they have as a daily life. And this is actually great!

(Cheikh) My own point of view is that in Senegal people are working a lot and doing great things with the Internet. I have been corresponding with a school in Highland Park, New Jersey. It is just we are just like brothers now! My students have been writing to their students and they have been answering and sending emails and we have been talking about America women. And today my students know about Amelia Earhart and they know about what she did as a pioneer in the piloting world - it was something great. We told them about people like Mamadou Ly who is first to become a Prime Minister in our young republic Senegal. I think this is great. Now, you go to Highland Park, you ask some students and they can tell you who Mamadou Ly is and this is absolutely wonderful. We are exchanging some aspects of our culture, some about our civilizations. Now I think that this is something very valuable for American students because they learn to understand differences - to meet and get ready for meeting other people's differences in terms of civilization - in terms of finding their own way in present life and in the present world!

Now people have got to understand that the world has become a global village and you've got to act just like you would in a village where everybody knows about everyone.

I can't finish without inviting my American colleagues to come and join iEARN, which is a world where people are learning how to share to understand differences. It turns out that we select to have the next iEARN conference in Dakar and we know how to treat people. Our country is actually called the country of hospitality so we invite all of you to join the conference. As a teacher, I would like to have some of my colleagues in America to have some exchange with students, with teaching techniques, teaching experience and everything that they might be interested in terms of culture, differences, civilizations - that's the whole, it's all of it!

(Aminata) I'm the coordinator of iEARN-Senegal and I invite all the American teachers, students to come to Senegal to the iEARN Conference in 2005

**Yoko Tagaki, JEARN Country Coordinator**

Hello, I'm Yoko Tagaki. Japan representative. Let me tell a little bit about iEARN-Japan and my role. In Japan, we have quite good environment at public schools as well at private schools. A good environment with ICT. So, our mission is to take children in Japan out, not physically but through ICT and Internet. IEARN projects take them out of Japan and connect them to the children in the world.

So, we are doing the workshops in Osaka area and also Okinawa, or Kyushu or the North part of Japan. Changing, first, teachers' minds to use the ICT environment in the real sense - to reach the Internet and use Internet as a tool to take children [to the world] and connect children in the world. - sharing things and working together. And Japanese kids, once they got the goal, they have tremendous ideas. We are just amazed at their good ideas!

Luck in our schools is to provide them that stage.

**Mojgan Momeni, iEARN Country Coordinator**

Hi, my name is Mojgan from iEARN-Iran. I'm grateful for the beautiful, beautiful artworks quilts students and teachers of Seattle prepared for us. It's a great way of connecting people, love, from Seattle all the way to Bam. It's amazing. Nothing is compared to that much of love. Thank you.

**Virgina King, iEARN Australia**

Hello to all the teacher in Washington State. My name is Virginia King and I work with iEARN-Australia. At the moment I work with a group of students in the remote Aboriginal community in Northern territory. I've been there for six months and I've started working on iEARN projects with them. They don't speak English very well so we had to be very careful about the projects we've selected. So far, we've done the Great Fly-Off with them where they make paper airplanes and they share the results of how far their plane flies with other schools around the world. Next we're going to do the Teddy Bear Project. I hope your going to have a great workshop.

**Sunita Bhagwat, India iEARN Country Coordinator**

Hello Teachers from Washington State. I'm Sunita from India. I'm the Country Coordinator. It's really important to be with telecollaboration projects. I have seen my teachers and my students growing with it and really becoming broad-minded, improving their language, improving many skills. My teachers are improving their teaching methodologies. They're more with their students. They're more with the human side with iEARN projects and with people all over the world.

**Eliane Metni, iEARN Country Coordinator Lebanon**

Hello. I'm Eliane Metni from Lebanon. I'm excited to be sharing with you my experiences. My experience with iEARN has been to see how we can use this technology to make a better

world and to connect with others teachers and youth. They often ask me how do I get so much energy and I say it's from youth from seeing it happen from seeing our youth connected in a real world that's making a difference around the globe.

**Gordon Ondiek Nyabade iEARN Country Coordinator, Kenya.**

This is your friend, Gordon from Kenya. I read about this great and important summit that you will have in October, 27th and I send my greetings from Kenya.

As Kenyan Country Coordinator for iEARN Kenya, I wish to express my deepest enthusiasm, joy and heartfelt greetings to Washington State and the USA

International Education Summit at large!! On behalf of my country, Kenya and members of iEARN Kenya, kindly receive our spirit of mutual participation and concern together with you as you experience greater scopes of educational endeavors!!

**Tommie Hamaluba, iEARN country Coordinator, Botswana**

Hi new friends in Washington State!

I am Tommie Hamaluba an iEARN Educator in Botswana who has been active in this global village since 2000. I have been involved with my students in various projects such as Value of money, Environmental online, Traditional Math games, My Hero, Bullying, and now they are working on Education and Eradication of Malaria Project. We invite you to join us in aiming to wipe out malaria from human face. This is a great problem for sub-Saharan Africa and Tropical countries. We need you folks in Washington. I have been to two annual iEARN international conferences in Japan, 2003 and Slovakia, 2004. In both meetings, I came to learn that this family of iEARN is full of knowledge sharing.

Now you know me :-) let me take this opportunity to say: Warm greetings from Botswana the land lying south of Africa. The temperatures right now are quite high as you might know that our country is semi-desert. It is wonderful and exciting to know that you are coming together for such an important International Summit today the 27th of October, 2004. Indeed, you will find great chance to also explore ways and means of connecting students globally through iEARN and as educators building those necessary global positive relationships needed in the world today.

Enjoy the conference and hope to hear from you. See you all in 2005 in Senegal!