

iEARN CIVICS

Community Voices Collaborative Solutions

**Regional Meeting
Cairo, Egypt November 10-13, 2000**

Sponsored by:

**iEARN
International Education and Resource Network**

and

**RITSEC
Regional Information Technology & Software Engineering Center**

**With support from the Regional English Language Office of the American
Embassy, Cairo and the United States Department of State**

**Computer Lab donated by The Egyptian Ministry of Communication and
Information Technology**

Friday, November 10

6:30-7:30 PM *Registration* - **Memphis Hall**.

8:00-10:00 PM *Welcome* – **The View, Zamalek Tower 20th Floor**

Saturday, November 11

9:00-9:45 PM *Opening Plenary* - **Eugenie Hall**

Note: will split people up into small groups that will rotate between three sessions. The morning and afternoon sessions will be the same in order to allow everyone to attend each session.

9:50-11:00 *Concurrent Sessions:*

Group 1 - **Memphis Hall Computer Lab** for hands-on introduction to iEARN website.

Group 2 - **Suite 141** for small group work: introductions and project planning.

Groups 3 & 4 - **Tiba Hall** for introduction to interdisciplinary iEARN projects for English Language and Civic Education.

11:00-11:15 *Coffee/Tea Break and Group Transitions* – **Salon Vert**

11:20-12:30 *Concurrent Sessions:*

Group 1 - **Suite 141** for small group work: introductions and project planning.

Group 2 - **Memphis Hall Computer Lab** for hands-on introduction to iEARN website.

Groups 3 & 4 - **Tiba Hall** for continued introduction of to iEARN interdisciplinary projects for English Language and Civic Education.

12:30 *Lunch* - **Salon Vert**

1:30-2:45 *Concurrent Sessions:*

Groups 1 & 2 - **Tiba Hall** for introduction to interdisciplinary iEARN projects for English Language and Civic Education.

Group 3 - **Memphis Hall Computer Lab** for hands-on introduction to iEARN website.

Group 4 - **Suite 141** for small group work: introductions and project planning.

2:50-4:00 *Concurrent Sessions:*

Groups 1 & 2 - **Tiba Hall** for continued introduction of to iEARN interdisciplinary projects for English Language and Civic Education.

Group 3 - **Memphis Hall Computer Lab** for hands-on introduction to iEARN website.

Group 4 - **Suite 141** for small group work: introductions and project planning.

4:00-4:30 *Coffee/Tea* - **Salon Vert** / **4:00-5:00** informal meetings/free computer time.

Sunday, November 12

9-9:40 Plenary Session

note: small groups will meet again at assigned times for more intensive planning and practice. If you are not a classroom teacher, you may choose not to join your small group that day. All participants may choose among all other sessions. If your group is meeting at the same time as another workshop that is important for you to attend, then you may join another group on this day. However, we do recommend that you take advantage of the opportunity to sustain your collaboration with your small group.

9:45-11:00 Concurrent Sessions

- *Problem/Project Based Learning* - **Tiba Hall**, Mike Pease
- *Student Leadership* - **Suite 141**, Celia Einhorn
- *Group 1- Memphis Hall Computer Lab* , group planning and practice

11:00-11:15 Coffee/Tea - Salon Vert

11:15 -12:30 Concurrent Sessions

- *Integrating iEARN into your curriculum/class* - **Tiba Hall**, Donna Hurst -
- *Introducing iEARN projects school-wide* - **Suite 141**, Farah Kamal
- *Group 2- Memphis Hall Computer Lab* , group planning and practice

12:30-1:30 Lunch - Salon Vert (**12:45-1:15** lunch time exchange orientation for participants traveling to the U.S. after Cairo.)

1:30-2:45 Concurrent Sessions

- *Cooperative Learning* - **Tiba Hall**, Barry Kramer
- *Local Organizational Development* - **Suite 141**, Panel
- *Group 3- Memphis Hall Computer Lab* , group planning and practice

2:50-4:00 Concurrent Sessions

- *English and Writing for International Collaboration Projects* - **Tiba Hall**, Donna Hurst (this is a repeat of a session offered Monday morning)
- *Problem/Project Based Learning continued: in-depth planning of an iEARN project* - **Suite 141**, Mike Pease
- *Group 4- Memphis Hall Computer Lab* , group planning and practice

4:00-5:00 Coffee/Tea, and “Jigsaw” Time to discuss what was valuable in today's workshops, and learn about sessions that you missed.

Monday, November 13

All meetings will be held at RITSEC.

You can walk to RITSEC from the Marriott in under 10 minutes: exit from the ground floor of the Gezira Tower. Take a right out of the gate onto the sidewalk and walk three blocks. Take a right at the Motorola store and walk till the road forks. At the fork take the middle road. Take your next Right, the gates to the RITSEC driveway/gardens are immediately on your Right.

9:00-10:30 *Concurrent Sessions*

- *Integrating iEARN into your curriculum, class* - Barry Kramer (Meeting room)
- *General iEARN Professional Development* - Celia Einhorn (LAB)

10:30-12:00 *Concurrent Sessions*

- *Integrating iEARN into your curriculum/class* - Diane Midness (Meeting room)
- *Online Professional Development* - Eliane Metni (LAB)

12:00-1:30 *Lunch and Closing Remarks:* Small Group Reports and presentation of Certificates to participants

After lunch there will be an optional visit to see a 21st Century Club, community technology centers that RITSEC has introduced to Egypt, and other countries in the region.

Descriptions of Concurrent Sessions

Local Organizational Development: This workshop will focus on how to develop a sustainable iEARN program in your local community or country, and will also provide a general overview of the structure of I*EARN as an international network. **(Sunday 1:30-2:45)**

Project Based Learning: Hey Culligan Man: A Beginner's Guide to Problem-Based Learning. This workshop will introduce participants to problem-based learning, which is an authentic, experiential form of learning centered around the collaborative investigation and resolution of a messy, real-world problem. A theoretical background for experiential learning will be established. Participants will then review a successful problem-based unit from initial project development through student completion. **(Sunday 9:45-11:00)** In a follow-up session, participants will be coached in the initial development of their own problem-based unit for in depth planning of an iEARN project. **(Sunday 2:50-4:00).**

Online Professional Training for Teachers: "A Community Responsibility." This workshop will introduce to I*EARN coordinators an online course designed to train teachers integrate Web-based projects into their classroom. The coordinators will use this online course to train teachers in their respective countries, highlighting the role of each member of the community: the coordinator, the institution and the participating teachers. What behaviors should the coordinator encourage in the online classroom, what problems the participants may face and how to adapt to "learning" in this new environment. **(Monday 10:30-12:00)**

Teaching English and Writing for International Collaboration Projects: Given that today's language teachers are responsible for teaching language through relevant content, a focus on global / peace issues provides students with both the chance to improve language proficiency as well as to interact with others in meaningful ways to use critical thinking to help resolve conflicts, to demonstrate social responsibility, tolerance, social justice and a respect for diversity. Writing then becomes the tool to develop the ability to become a world citizen. In this workshop, participants will develop units in teaching English that bring together writing skills and civics issues via the participation in iEARN Projects. **(Saturday 10:45-11:00) (Sunday 2:50-4:00)**

Cooperative Learning and the Power of the Internet: The use of the technology and the impact of collaborative projects are excellent resources to develop student based cooperative learning skills. This workshop will begin with the basics of cooperative learning and identify why this is an important methodology to consider when developing teaching strategies. We will examine the differences between cooperative learning methodologies and traditional teaching methods. We will also explore the vast realm of cooperative teaching techniques and look at how collaborative Internet projects can provide us with the opportunity to change the way we teach, empower students, and create new learning communities. **(Sunday 1:30-2:45)**

Civic Education and iEARN Projects: This session will look at how involvement in international collaborative projects can be used to teach students their responsibilities as a citizen. We will look at environmental projects and explore ways they can be used to develop values, critical thinking and attitudes about participation in the community. **(Saturday 11:20-12:30)**

Descriptions of Concurrent Sessions

Integrating iEARN in Your Curriculum/Class: Participants will learn how to evaluate projects to see if they will enhance their curriculum. Practical tips will be shared on how to motivate students, how to get support from your school, how to get community support, and how to fit projects in your lesson and schedule. **(Monday 10:30-12:00)**

Integrating Internet Projects Into Your Curriculum: IEARN and Internet Projects. Now that you have the Internet what do you do with it? How will it affect the way you teach? How can you integrate into your present curriculum? Many educators are faced with the difficulty of how to integrate computer and technology skills into their curriculums. IEARN resources and collaborative projects provide an excellent opportunity to extend student learning into the real world. This workshop will provide instruction on how to create, integrate, and publish student projects using IEARN and Internet resources. Actual student projects and work will be examined. Project ideas will be discussed that can reach and have an impact on students, parents, the community, and the world. **(Monday 9:00-10:30)**

Student Leadership - Cyberkids and CyberTechs: Who does a teacher call to get a group at school into an IEARN Forum? How can you print out an email? How do you navigate the IEARN Website? You can call a cyberkid or cybertech! A school is a community of learners; teachers teach and learn and students teach and learn. The Cyberkids/Techs' project is an example of that assumption in practice. Help draw a continuum of technology tasks, then discuss and share what is in it for the students, the teachers, the school, the logistics, and the pitfalls. **(Sunday 9:45-11:00)**

IEARN Professional Development: How can I do all this IEARN stuff at my school with my teachers? There is no single formula for designing an IEARN workshop. Attention should always be paid to the particular needs and interests of each participating group in determining which content and skills should be covered in a workshop. IEARN has created a toolkit of general skills and concepts which may serve as building blocks for an IEARN workshop. It contains successful Warm-up Activities, an Overview of IEARN, Sending and Receiving E-mail, Navigating the IEARN Website, IEARN Across the Curriculum, Configuring, Reading, and Posting to IEARN Forums, How to Find People and Projects, and Creating a New IEARN Project. **(Monday 9:00-10:30)**

Introducing iEARN Projects School Wide: The session would focus on Including I*EARN Projects as a part of mainstream teaching and learning activities that is classroom teaching, assignments and assessment. A sample unit plan would be shared that is written for integrating Language (Story Writing) and Science (writing research reports) and how students and teachers worked on it. The workshop would focus the importance of planning and curriculum review for integrating I*EARN activities in schools. Participants would be encouraged to share what possible problems and constraints they may face while implementing I*EARN Projects in their own school context. The presenter would also share a successful model of institutionalizing I*EARN tele-education projects and some tips that has proved useful for overcoming time and resource constraints. A variety of Formats and templates would be shown that would help in effective planning and implementing I*EARN Projects school wide in participants own context. Participants would be encouraged to use some of them during the workshop to take back to their own school for implementation. **(Sunday 11:15 -12:30)**