

## **REPORT JUNE 2003 – MAY 2004**

### **Outline of the main activities and projects in the last 12 months**

#### **June – July 2003**

- Publication of a final report on the participation of the 2 member delegation at the 10<sup>th</sup> iEARN conference in Japan and sent to all companies who contributed to the successful participation.
- Publication of the final report on the school year 2002-2003 iEARN Suriname activities

#### **August-September 2003**

- Preparations of the coordination team for the execution of several iEARN projects on different school levels with the focus on the junior high school level and primary school (new).
- Completion of a project dossier of several iEARN projects to be organized in the upcoming months.

#### **October-November 2003**

- Students from the St. Aloysius School (primary school) participate in the iEARN project 'Side by Side' (conducted nationally)
- Students of the General High School in Suriname start working on the AACTION project.
- Presentation for members of the Roman Catholic Church Congregation St. Clemens as part of the cooperation between iEARN Suriname and the St. Clemens Church for setting up an educational youth center which will participate in iEARN projects and programs.

#### **December 2003 – January 2004**

- Discussions between iEARN Suriname and GTP Suriname (Global Teenager Project Suriname) start for a closer cooperation and starting up an initiative on setting up a platform of NGO education organizations and business community which must function as counterpart of the ministry of Education for the future development of the education in Suriname.
- Students of the General High School in Suriname start participating in a creative arts based iEARN project: A Magic Flower of wishes.
- Appointment of Elizabeth Burgos as Online iEARN Course facilitator for the creative arts course

#### **February-march 2004**

- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between iEARN Suriname and GTP Suriname (Global Teenager Project Suriname) for close cooperation on projects concerning education in Suriname.
- Introduction presentation for teachers from the Global Teenager Project learning circle 2004
- Start of the Global Teenager Project Learning circle march 2004 (students). Trainings conducted by iEARN Suriname; Facilitation with computers cared for by GTP Suriname
- Start of preparations for sending in the necessary documents tot iEARN International Secretariat; on becoming a iEARN Center
- Students of a primary school (OS Welgelegen 1) start participation in the 'My Hero' project (national based)
- Students of the General High School participate in the projects: Friends & Flags and Legends & Myths (international based)

#### **April-may 2004**

- Presentation conducted about 'iEARN in Suriname: past, present and future' for teachers, school boards, business executives, ministry of education as part of the 5 year celebration of iEARN Suriname. Special lecture by the Public Relations officer of the Association of the Business Community in Suriname on the subject: the relationship between education and the business community.
- A end activity project organized by iEARN Suriname for students participated in the Global Teenager Project learning circle march 2004: the iEARN project 'around the world with love'

- Start of active campaign by the coordination team to get enough financial support from the business community and other organizations and institutes to continue organizing iEARN Suriname activities and to participate with a delegation in the 11<sup>th</sup> international iEARN conference in Slovakia.
- Successful media exposure of iEARN Suriname with the goal to promote iEARN in Suriname and to attract and interest a number of businesses to invest in iEARN Suriname and to interest teachers to get involved with iEARN projects.
- The final preparations are set into motion for setting up an iEARN Center in Suriname and to be recognized as member of the iEARN International Assembly.
- The initiative for setting up a platform for the education renewal in Suriname is getting shape with the start of discussions between the foundation for clean environment education in Suriname (SSS) and the Association for the Business Community in Suriname (VSB) at one side together with iEARN Suriname and GTP Suriname at the other side for closer and structural cooperation.
- Official appointment of Dave Abeleven (iEARN Suriname Country Coordinator) as iEARN online course facilitator for science.
- Publication of a book about poems and short stories of students of the General High school (AMS) who participated in the folk costumes project, the Magic flower of wishes project and Myths and Legends project as part of the 5 year anniversary of iEARN Suriname and the ending of the number of projects at that school .

### **Plans for the next 12 months**

During the period June 2004 until May 2005 iEARN Suriname has the following plans:

- Application for recognition and the official start of the iEARN Suriname Foundation as a iEARN Center and member of the iEARN International Assembly (october 2004).
- Setting up an institute for research, development and training on education as part of the iEARN Suriname Center and getting this institute legally recognized (January 2005).
- Getting computers that are donated by organizations in the Netherlands to Suriname for schools, youth centers and the iEARN Suriname training and research and development institute(continuous).
- Setting up and executing a National Teenager learning circle together with the department of culture (ministry of education) and GTP Suriname. The main objective of the project is to research the ways how the several cultures in Suriname came together and melted as one during the history. This project is a national spin off of the international iEARN project Global Teenager. Students will have the possibility to learn more of all cultures represented in Suriname (November 2004).
- Organizing presentations about iEARN and its method for several schools on primary, junior and senior high school level. This way expanding the iEARN network through Paramaribo schools, getting students and teachers to join the iEARN vision as well outside the capital (continuous)
- Facilitation of several iEARN projects (national and international projects) together with teachers and students on several levels(continuous).
- Organizing trainings and workshops for teachers and students from the several schools and other interested people from the ministry for Education and other education institutes and organizations in Suriname(continuous)
- Intensive cooperation with other institutes, NGO's, business community and youth organizations that have objectives to improve the education system in Suriname. This is one way for iEARN Suriname to help getting several organizations and institutes on one track for the future of the education system in Suriname as part of the proposed platform.
- Finalizing the website of iEARN Suriname with full input of teachers and students (December 2004)
- Promotion of iEARN and iEARN Suriname throughout the media, getting the Surinamese people familiar with the iEARN education method and vision (continuous).
- Actively working on getting financial and non-financial funds for all iEARN Suriname activities with the goal of long term and permanent financing of the activities (continuous).

### **Postal address and webpage**

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**IEARN Suriname coordination team (iEARN Suriname Foundation)**

Country Coordinator -	Dave Abeleven	administrative officer -	Henna Coulor
Project Coordinator -	Elizabeth Burgos	Project facilitation officer -	Nila Pershad
Trainings coordinator -	Dorothy Traag	financial administrative officer -	Priscilla Parana
Officer for financial programming – vacant		Officer for training and research -	vacant

**Number of schools/teachers/students participating in iEARN Suriname during the period June 2003 – May 2004**

The students and teachers participating in iEARN Suriname are from the following schools :

- General Senior High school of Suriname (AMS)
- Arthur A. Hoogendoorn Atheneum (junior- and senior high school)
- Wulfingschool (junior high school)
- Shri Hanoemanschool (junior high school)
- St. Aloysius School (primary school)
- General Primary School Welgelegen 1 (primary school)

Number of teachers participating in iEARN Suriname: approximately 30

Number of Students participating in iEARN Suriname: approximately 150

**Cooperation and start of cooperation with other national based organizations**

Global teenager Project Suriname– organization set up for the Global Teenager Project in Suriname

Association for the Business Community in Suriname

Foundation for clean environment education in Suriname

Roman Catholic Education Board in Suriname

St. Clemens Congregation

Ministry of Education/ ministerial workgroup for iEARN

Ministry of Education/ department of youth affairs

**Challenges and concerns**

The main concerns for iEARN Suriname are the following:

- the outdated education system of Suriname and the growing gap with the education in the rest of the world
- the very slow progress of getting teachers involved with iEARN projects.
- the limited interest of the business community in education renewal in Suriname in general and the iEARN method in particular.
- The limited financial resources of the iEARN Suriname organization.

The main challenges are:

- Integrating iEARN projects and the project based learning method as a alternative learning method into the formal and non-formal education system
- Getting the Ministry of Education more involved into the process of getting iEARN integrated into Suriname
- Getting the Surinamese companies to acknowledge the importance of the renewal of our education system and getting them to invest more into those efforts and with that iEARN Suriname.
- Getting enough financial and non-financial funds to continue all iEARN Suriname activities on a long term basis.

**Most important outcomes and accomplishments in the past year**

- The breakthrough of iEARN projects on the primary school level
- The formal restructuring of the iEARN Suriname Foundation and the official start of applying iEARN Suriname for iEARN Center ship
- The cooperation with GTP Suriname and the signing of a MoU with this organization
- The appointment of two iEARN Coordination team members as online iEARN Course facilitators
- Participation of a growing number of teachers and students from junior high school level in more iEARN projects in Suriname and GTP Project
- The successful execution of a number of national based iEARN projects.