

REPORT JUNE 2004 – MAY 2005

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

June – July 2004

- Publication of a final report on the participation of the 3 member delegation at the 11th iEARN conference in Slovakia and sent to all companies who contributed to the successful participation.
- Presentation of the results of the 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’.
- Media exposure with interviews about 5 year iEARN Suriname: past, present and future.
- Publication of the final report on the school year 2003-2004 iEARN Suriname activities.

August-September 2004

- Start of talks about setting up a platform of all education related Government organizations and NGO's in Suriname. Parties involved were the representatives of all education related government agencies and NGO's in Suriname. Talks initiated by iEARN Suriname, Foundation TANA (Towards A New Alternative), Protestants Education Board, and other leading education NGO's. The representatives of iEARN Suriname and last named organizations are appointed to the first workgroup on forming the platform. Workgroups for several other issues related to education are appointed by the representatives of all organizations.
- Completion of a project dossier for the execution of several iEARN projects on different school levels with the focus on the junior high school level and primary school (new).

October-November 2004

- Start of preparations for the installation of a new board for and restructuring of the foundation of iEARN Suriname. Also the revisal of the foundation goals is put into motion.
- Active recruitment of interested teachers by the iEARN Suriname project coordinator for participation in several iEARN projects.
- Participation of Dave Abeleven (Country coordinator) and Betty Burgos (project coordinator) as facilitators in the international online iEARN development courses for science and creative arts.

December 2004 – January 2005

- Primary schools in the neighborhood of the St Clemens Roman Catholic Church (Paramaribo-South) take part in the ‘My Hero’ project and the ‘ Flowers-The Smile of Divine Love’ project. Results are displayed in an exhibition. There is also some media exposure. Execution of the projects is the result of a ‘basic use of computer’ workshop conducted by iEARN Suriname and some St. Clemens Congregation members for the students of these primary schools.
- Continuing of talks within the workgroup of representatives of all education related NGO's concerning setting goals, structure and main issues for the platform of education related NGO's.

February-march 2005

- Several junior and senior high schools and vocational education schools take part in the Peace through poetry project and the Get to Know Others project. Results are published in iEARN forums.
- Preparations continue concerning the revisal of the iEARN Suriname foundation structures, preparations for sending in the necessary documents tot iEARN International Secretariat, on becoming a iEARN Center and appointing officially a iEARN representative for Suriname. Revisal of the structure (goals, and regulations) of the iEARN Suriname foundation is mostly focused upon broadening of the working field of the foundation within the education sector in Suriname and Internationally.
- Start of active participation by students and teachers in the ‘Appreciation of our Culture and Traditions’ project, of which iEARN Suriname is one of the initiators. Still project is still going.

April-may 2005

- Students of the General High school in Paramaribo take part in the art miles project. This is also due to the celebration of 55 years of existence of their school. There is also much media exposure for this project.
- Start of an 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 12th international iEARN conference in Senegal.
- Several students of junior and senior high schools take part in the 'Kindred' and 'Lewin' project. Results are also published by students in the several forums.
- 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.
- Participation of Dave Abeleven (Country coordinator) as facilitator in the international online iEARN development courses for science, math and the environment
- Start of talks between iEARN Suriname and the youth ambassadors for Suriname on possibilities for closer cooperation and active participation by youth officers and representatives in the iEARN programs and projects.

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 official international (by the iEARN Assembly) appointment of Dave Abeleven as iEARN Suriname Country Coordinator.
- Presenting and getting the revised structure of the iEARN Suriname Foundation approved by the Government of the Republic of Suriname.
- Official installation of the iEARN Suriname Coordination team as the Governing Board of the iEARN Suriname Foundation.
- 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 (January 2006).
- 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.
- 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).

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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 2004 – May 2005

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

- General Senior High school of Suriname (AMS)
- Wulfingschool (junior high school)
- St. Aloysius School (primary school)
- General Primary School Welgelegen 1 (primary school)
- And several other primary and high schools throughout Paramaribo

Number of teachers participating in iEARN Suriname: approximately 20

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

Roman Catholic Education Board in Suriname

St. Clemens Congregation

TANA Foundation

Youth Ambassadors and Youth representation program of the republic of Suriname.

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 continuing breakthrough of iEARN projects on the primary school level
- The start of formal restructuring of the iEARN Suriname Foundation and the official start of applying iEARN Suriname for iEARN Center ship and appointment of a iEARN Suriname representative.
- The participation of two iEARN Coordination team members as online iEARN Course facilitators
- Start of talks on a closer cooperation between iEARN Suriname and the Youth ambassadors.
- The successful execution of a number of national based iEARN projects.