

REPORT JUNE 2005 – MAY 2006

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

June – July 2005

- Publication of a final report on the participation of the 1 member delegation at the 12th iEARN conference in Senegal and sent to all companies who contributed to the successful participation.
- Media exposure with articles about the art miles project of iEARN Suriname in DWT
- Publication of the final report on the school year 2004-2005 iEARN Suriname activities.

August-September 2005

- Start of planning for strengthening of the internal structure of iEARN Suriname. iEARN Suriname is looking towards possibilities of taking up more qualified persons into its board.
- 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 2005

- Start of preparations for the 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 2005 – January 2006

- The St Aloysius Primary School conducts the Side by Side project. Side By Side celebrates the unique individuality of each of your students through art as they produce elongated self-portraits on paper approximately 8 x 36 inches.
- Students of OS welgelegen 1 take part in 'the picture tells a thousand words' project. The project is utilizing the power of images to engage students in developing their writing skills. The project provides stimulating topics to students that motivates them to think and write
- Start of a campaign on getting more Primary and secondary schools involved in iEARN projects. The result is that a few more schools got acquainted with iEARN and started exchanging ideas with other schools in countries like Japan and the Netherlands
- 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 2006

- AMS students take part in a special Learning Circle session. In this Learning Circle Project students in the age from 14 - 18 years old focus on virtual collaborative learning around Global Citizenship. The Learning Circle is a collaboration between schools in Suriname, the Netherlands and Curacao.
- Preparations continue concerning the revisal of the iEARN Suriname foundation structures, preparations for sending in the necessary documents to iEARN International Secretariat, on 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 of Wulfingschool, Richenel Sloote School en A. A. Hoogendoorn Atheneumin the 'Appreciation of our Culture and Traditions' project, of which iEARN Suriname is one of the initiators. Students research the history of people who came to their country, the legacy they left and the impact on their population today. By discovering their personal connections to other parts of the world they can gain a sense of their global citizenship. This year the focus is on contact between Japan and Suriname.

- 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 13th international iEARN conference in the Netherlands.
- Talks are continued 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.
- Together with iEARN Netherlands the decision is made to take up a special Suriname theme within the ‘De Nederland dag’ during the conference on July 3rd, 2006.
- Official visit of iEARN Suriname coordination team to the director of the department of Youth affairs. In this meeting the director is informed about the conference and iEARN Suriname’s activities.

April-may 2006

- The final preparations are set into motion submitting the application for the country representative to be recognized by the iEARN community..
- Participation of Dave Abeleven (Country coordinator) and Betty Burgos as facilitators in the international online iEARN development courses for science the environment and creative arts.
- First formal meeting between the iEARN Suriname coordination team and the minister of Education and Public Development. In this meeting the minister is officially informed about the activities of iEARN in Suriname and the planned participation in the 13th World iEARN conference. The ministry takes up a active role in supporting the foundation in its efforts to get enough funding for the participation in the conference.

Plans for the next 12 months

During the period June 2005 until May 2006 iEARN Suriname has the following plans:

- Sending in the application for official international (by the iEARN Assembly) recognition of Dave Abeleven as iEARN Suriname Country Coordinator (June 2006).
- Presenting and getting the revised structure of the iEARN Suriname Foundation approved by the Government of the Republic of Suriname.
- The main focus during the upcoming months will be on the strengthening of the internal organization structures of iEARN Suriname by getting more people actively involved in the iEARN Suriname organization and its projects.
- 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 funds and sponsorships/support from the business community, Institutes, etc. for all iEARN Suriname activities with the goal of long term and permanent financing of the activities (continuous).
- Revision of the iEARN Suriname webpage on the iEARN website.

Postal address and webpage

Daniel Coutinhostraat 20 upstairs

Paramaribo

Telephone: (597) 401936 / 401937 or 530094 (private line of the iEARN Suriname country Coordinator)

E-mail: iearn_suriname@yahoo.com

webpage: www.iearn.org/globe/iearn-suriname.html

IEARN Suriname coordination team (iEARN Suriname Foundation)

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|--|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 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 2005 – May 2006

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)
- Richinel Sloote School (primary school)
- And several other primary and highschoools throughout Paramaribo

Number of teachers participating in iEARN Suriname: approximately 10

Number of Students participating in iEARN Suriname: approximately 100

Cooperation and start of cooperation with other national based organizations

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

Advisor to the minister of Education

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.
- Finding people (teachers, etc) who are interested to actively participate in iEARN projects and the iEARN Suriname Foundation Coordination Team.

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
- The participation of two iEARN Coordination team members as online iEARN Course facilitators
- Continued talks on a closer cooperation between iEARN Suriname and the Youth ambassadors.
- The successful execution of a number of national based iEARN projects.
- MOST IMPORTANT: breakthrough for iEARN Suriname with the ministry of Education in the form of formal meetings with the minister, director of youth affairs and getting the advisor of the minister to participate in and present at the 13th iEARN Conference.