

REPORT JUNE 2006 – MAY 2007

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

June – September 2006

- Publication of an article written by Henry Ori, Senior Advisor to the minister of education, in one of the major newspapers in Suriname 'De Ware Tijd' about the participation of iEARN Suriname at the 13th iEARN conference in Netherlands. This article was sent to all companies who contributed to the successful participation.
- Continuing of working out strategies for strengthening of the internal structure of iEARN Suriname. iEARN Suriname is still looking for possibilities for taking up more qualified persons into its board.
- Planning for the execution of several iEARN projects on different school levels with the focus on the junior high school level and primary school.

October-December 2006

- Participation of the Petrus Donders Primary school in the 'Christmas Cards Exchange Project'. There was great media exposure about this project and some great compliments from the Project coordinator in Australia.
- Succesfull 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 respectively science, math and the environment and creative arts.
- Students of the "Algemene Middelbare School" participated in the Eye to Eye project. They had to make postcard size paintings. All postcards will soon be exhibited at school as well on the forums.

January 2007 – May 2007

- Thanks to the iEARN Conference in the Netherlands several international exchange projects started with Dutch schools. The exchanges between the Petrus Donders school and the Oscar Carre school in Amsterdam, Netherlands is well on its way. In February a teacher from the Oscar Carree School visited the Petrus Dondersschool.
- Furthermore there was also the start of several iEARN projects at the St. Clemens Congregation (childrenclub) and the Public Primary school Welgelegen 1. The projects they are involved in are: "My Dream World" and "Global Art: Images of Caring".
- The "Connecting Cultures" project is being continued by participation in discussionforums on the "Traditions and Cultures" forum. The Senior Sceondary school "Algemene Middelbare School" is actively participating in this project. Students had to research and discuss 5 Afro Surinamese people who had a great impact on the history of Suriname. This was especially because of the Black History Week. Soon the results of the student's research will be published on the forum.
- As a result of the iEARN conference in Enschede cooperation has started between teachers in the subjects Geography and History of the "Algemene Middelbare School" and teachers in the same subjects at the Koning Willem 11 College in Tilburg (VWO). Ideas are now being worked out and exchanged for the start of an international project between the two schools. This project shall start in the new schoolyear.
- Together with the Foundation Projects for Protestant Christian Education in Suriname (PCOS) possibilities are worked out concerning the participation of several schools in iEARN Projects and cooperative projects between schools in Suriname and the Netherlands.
- 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.

- There are now talks being held with teachers of other senior secondary schools concerning participation of students in iEARN projects.
- A Senior Secondary school in Enschede has offered about 40 second hand computers for several primary and junior secondary schools in Suriname. iEARN Suriname is now working out ways to get these computers shipped to Suriname. Funds are very important for the execution of 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 14th international iEARN conference in Egypt.
- The final preparations are set into motion submitting the application for the country representative to be recognized by the iEARN community..
- Participation of Betty Burgos as facilitators in the international online iEARN development courses for creative arts.

Plans for the next year

During the period June 2007 until May 2008 iEARN Suriname has the following plans:

- The main focus during the upcoming months will be more 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.
- Facilitation of several iEARN projects (national and international projects) together with teachers and students on several education 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.
- 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

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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 2006 – May 2007

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

- General Senior High school of Suriname (AMS)
- OS Welgelegen 1
- Petrus Dondersschool (primary school)
- Children Club of the St. Clemens Congregation
- And several other primary and high schools throughout Paramaribo

Number of teachers participating in iEARN Suriname: approximately 16

Number of Students participating in iEARN Suriname: approximately 100

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

Roman Catholic Education Board in Suriname

Oscar Carre Primary School (Netherlands)

Koning Willem 11 College (Netherlands)

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 is still a major concern and challenge
- 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 slow pace on the internal strengthening of the iEARN Suriname Organization. There is for example a lack of interest from teachers and other people to participate in free lance education project work.

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 Foundation for Projects for Protestant Christian Education in Suriname (PCOS).
- The successful execution of a number of national and international based iEARN projects.
- MOST IMPORTANT: breakthrough for iEARN Suriname with the ministry of Education in the form of support from the minister of Education in order to participate in and present at the 14th iEARN Conference.

On behalf of the iEARN Suriname Coordination team

Dave Abeleven
Suriname Country Coordinator