

iEARN and iEARN-Qatar

iEARN, the **International Education and Resource Network**, is a non-profit organization that works to connect schools and youth organizations via email, web and video technologies, in order to empower young people, to connect classroom learning with real world issues, and to work collaboratively to find solutions to these issues. iEARN is now active in more than 25,000 schools and youth organizations in over 120 countries.

iEARN-Qatar:

Reach Out To Asia's (see www.reachouttoasia.org) Connect ROTAsia program is the official representative for iEARN in Qatar and will be providing opportunities for students and teachers to collaborate through the network with other iEARN communities around the world. Educators will also have an opportunity for professional development to enable them to integrate internet technologies and project-based learning into their curriculum.

Educators in the iEARN-Qatar community will be collaborating online through the Connect ROTAsia Knowledge Network platform: www.rotaknowledgenet.org.

For more details, email learn@rotaknowledgenet.org.

Benefits of iEARN:

- iEARN offers you the opportunity to join a global community of educators and students who share the vision that Internet-based collaboration can both enhance learning and improve the quality of life on the planet.
- iEARN enables youth and teachers to communicate with and work together with others locally and internationally, using the Internet to enhance learning and make a difference in their own communities and around the world.
- iEARN projects are teacher designed and student driven
- iEARN promotes interactivity, not passivity: students receive feedback from other students, motivating them to continue the dialogue and learning

What is an iEARN project?

iEARN projects are designed by teachers to meet specific curriculum needs in their classrooms while developing higher level skills in students. There are three types of projects in iEARN:

- On-going projects: run continuously
- Short term projects: defined start and end date
- Online Learning Circles: temporary learning environments for 12 weeks

• On-going and Short Term Projects:

In **Project Based Learning**, students are involved in individual and collaborative work to explore real-world problems and create presentations to share what they have learned. Students participate in projects and practice an interdisciplinary array of skills from math, language arts, fine arts, geography, science, and technology. As compared to learning from textbooks, this approach has many benefits for students, including:

- Deeper knowledge of subject matter;
- Increased self-direction and motivation;
- Improved research and problem-solving skills.

iEARN Project Samples:

YouthCaN (Youth Communications and Networking) project:

Students write about and interact on environmental issues facing their communities during the year. Among the projects taking place as part of YouthCaN are Hike the World, and the Solar Cooking Project.



What do students do...	Possible Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss regional, local and global environmental issues • Appreciate nature through commonly planned activities • Acquire leadership and management skills • Learn effective presentation techniques • Participate in a video conference with their peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and studies • Write essay and reports • Conduct tests and analysis • Cross-compare results • Conclude and compile work • Create presentations, workshops, websites • Plan and participate in YouthCaN conference



Laws of Life: Virtues Project: Students write about their personal values in life (Languages: Arabic, English, Spanish).

What do students do?....	Possible Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can reflect on their experience and inspirations • Find out and share culturally relevant proverbs, colloquial sayings and adages • Exchange points of view with their peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview their community • Reflect on relevant proverbs, sayings and adages in their culture • Write essays, stories and poems • Produce artwork • Compile and produce publications and/or sites

• Online Learning Circles:

Online Learning circles are temporarily learning environments that group an average of 6-12 classes in highly interactive thematic online collaboration for an approximate period of 12 weeks. Every participating class sponsors a project idea and presents it to the other members of the circle. The learning circle participants research and answer each project proposed in the circle. This is followed by discussions amongst participants which culminate with participants compiling and analyzing responses received and producing a final product.

The aim of online Learning Circles are for classes to:

- Search, analyze and evaluate information
- Organize the information
- Find collaborative solutions
- Enhance their collaborative skills
- Acquire self-confidence
- Develop individual and collaborative responsibility skills
- Use effectively ICT in collaborative projects