

HIGHLIGHTS

December 2009

A Monthly Newsletter for projects of Habib University Foundation

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INSPYRE and ILEAD are public-private partnership projects of the Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sindh and Habib University Foundation (H.U.F.) with technical support being provided by the British Council.



Inspiring Leadership, Empowerment and Development in Youth

- ILEAD focuses on promoting a healthy life style, leadership & personal development in youth through sports education and community service
- ILEAD will build partnerships with 5 colleges and 25 schools in Karachi and Hyderabad
- ILEAD aims to develop a sports education curriculum, organize sports weeks, summer camps, sports festivals, coaching camps etc. for youth



Inspiring Pakistani Youth to Reach Excellence

- INSPYRE aims at providing youth with a platform for their personal growth, career enhancement and social development
- INSPYRE provides free of cost career education to youth for their career building in Information Technology, Retail Management, Digital Media, Call Center Industry, Fashion and Textile Designing
- Internships are an essential component of the INSPYRE learning experience



Youth Affairs Department
Government of Sindh



Habib University Foundation

Technical Partner



Foreword

'HIGHLIGHTS' is the Monthly Newsletter of ILEAD and INSPYRE. These are two youth development initiatives of the Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sindh that are being implemented by Habib University Foundation (H.U.F.) with technical support provided by the British Council, Pakistan.

November 2009 was an exciting month for both the projects as various activities were completed, reaching their culmination points successfully. Simultaneously, November saw the initiation of plenty of new activities. These new activities are being designed based on the ongoing review and reflection of past experiences. The cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing and reflecting is a dominant feature of all INSPYRE and ILEAD activities. We aim to raise the quality bar consistently through this process of proactively responding to new ideas and situations. This issue of HIGHLIGHTS captures essential updates regarding both projects and their achievements.

I would also like to share the philosophy behind the color combinations used for both projects: we have used the colors blue and yellow for INSPYRE, and purple and green for ILEAD. INSPYRE colors represent a vibrant and energetic youth, communicating zest and vivacity. The color purple was chosen for ILEAD because it represents energy and courage, whilst green was chosen since it is our national color for sports. Throughout this newsletter, you can see a blue bar running at the top of those pages containing INSPYRE-related news, and a purple one for ILEAD-related information.

We openheartedly welcome your opinions and suggestions vis-à-vis both projects. Please share all of your thoughts at yasmeenbano@huf.org.pk.

Hope you will enjoy reading this issue of 'HIGHLIGHTS'!

Yasmeen Bano
Head Research and Projects

INSPYRE Highlights

Personnel from Youth Affairs Department Visit iACT

Minister for Youth Affairs Visits iACT

A meeting was held at iACT that was attended by Mr. Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Honorable Minister for Youth Affairs and Mr. Khurshid Ali Sheikh, Project Director for INSPYRE and ILEAD and Director Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sindh. Mr. Subzwari visited the construction site for INSPYRE and ILEAD, and was updated on the progress and challenges of construction work.

Detailed presentations were made by INSPYRE and ILEAD teams. These highlighted key achievements and challenges of both projects. The minister ensured his complete support for both projects.

An exciting proposal for the creation of a 'Youth Empowering Space (YES)' adjacent to iACT was also shared with the Minister. YES will be a diverse, flexible, open and creative space for youth in order to:

- EDUCATE them about issues of their own and societal life
- ENGAGE them in a variety of activities to foster leadership, creativity, collaboration, volunteerism and active citizenship
- EMPOWER them to think for themselves and for their society
- ENLIGHTEN them with their potential and power

The minister admired the concept of YES and suggested various ways of realizing it.



Facts and Figures

Completion of First INSPYRE Cohort

24 students completed Call Center Agent Training course

41 students completed IT Skills for Beginners courses

Employment of INSPYRE Graduates

12 Call Center and 7 IT students have obtained jobs

5 Call Center and 12 IT students have commenced internships

INSPYRE Goes Beyond Karachi

In the first INSPYRE Cohort, 15 students from various parts of Sindh also successfully completed their courses

Overwhelming Response Received for Second Cohort of INSPYRE

2500 students visited iACT for admission details

500 registration forms were downloaded from the iACT website

INSPYRE Highlights



Consultant for Youth Affairs Department Visits iACT

Mr. Mir Ali Nawaz Talpur, Consultant Youth Affairs Department and Mr. Mohammad Hanif Mirchawala, Director Sports Sindh visited iACT. The visitors took a detailed tour of the premises, which included the construction site. They also observed the Admissions process. The visitors highly appreciated iACT's efforts for facilitating youth to become proactive and productive by providing them with high quality courses under INSPYRE.

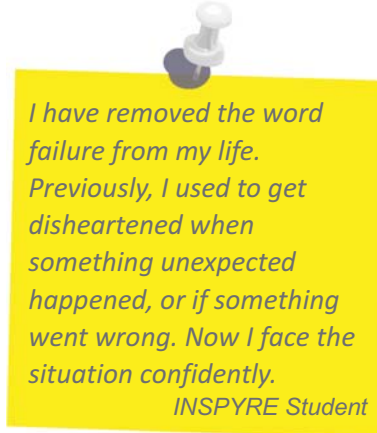
INSPYRE Learning and Teaching

November was a busy month for INSPYRE, during which a variety of activities took place that engaged both students and faculty in furthering their learning processes.

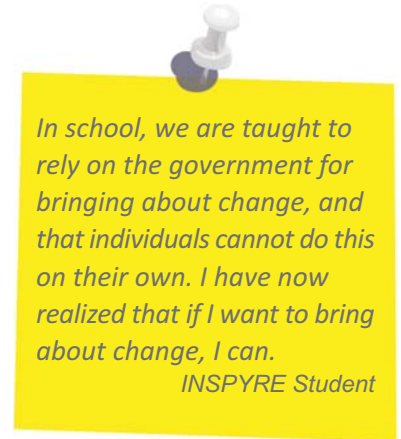
Conclusion of Leadership and Personal Development Module

November marked the completion of the Leadership and Personal Development Module which was designed and implemented by the School of Leadership (SoL). This module is one of the most important components of the INSPYRE learning framework. It aims to help students enhance their self-concept, be proactive and positively contribute toward society.

A majority of students agreed that the sessions were a unique learning experience where they learned the importance of time management, self control, hard work, dedication and setting goals. The module taught students the importance of contributing to their families, the community, environment and country.



Upon completion of the module, a reflective session was conducted to gauge the module's impact on students. Participants provided interesting feedback: Many felt their self-confidence had improved significantly.



Completion of Courses for First INSPYRE Cohort

During November, all INSPYRE courses planned for the first cohort came to an end. All students completed their iACT-based training and began internships. Overall, 65 students completed their training at iACT, out of which 41 students were enrolled in the IT Skills for Beginners Course, and 24 were enrolled in the Call Center Agent Training Course. Students found the experience worthwhile as they not only learnt new technical skills, but they also got the opportunity to reflect more about self, society and their career.

Upon completion of these courses, 50% of Call Center students found jobs with iACT's facilitation, and 20% of IT students have commenced internships in various companies. The remaining students are currently appearing for their degree examinations and will initiate their internships once these are finished.

INSPYRE Highlights

Learning from the Past to Navigate the Future

Habib University Foundation (H.U.F.) believes in learning from one's own past experiences to continuously refine its plans and strategies. Upon the completion of the first INSPYRE cohort, H.U.F.'s Center for Educational Research and Planning (CERP) designed a comprehensive plan to capture the experiences and insights of students and faculty vis-à-vis the courses implemented. Three Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with IT and Call Center students and the faculty members involved in the implementation of these courses, which provided an opportunity to students and faculty for openly sharing their experiences in response to focused questions. Through these discussions, participants shared their opinions regarding the program's strengths and weaknesses. They also gave recommendations for the further enhancement of course quality of the second cohort.



iACT Learning Experience: Student Reflections

After completing their courses at iACT, graduating students shared their views on their experience. Most students felt that their confidence and self-esteem had grown, as they were given the opportunity to express themselves freely through class discussions, group projects and presentations, thus becoming effective communicators. They felt empowered since they were engaged intellectually. One of the important aspects highlighted by students was that they felt valued because their ideas were given due consideration and they were respected as individuals. Due to INSPYRE's holistic method, students were equipped not only with a specialized skill set, but also with skills for life.

Students had inspiring things to say about the institute and the program:

Before joining iACT I used to think, "I am nothing and I can't do anything". At iACT, I learnt that I can make a difference.

Afshan Yousuf
INSPYRE Student

*INSPYRE نے ہماری تقدیر سنواری ہے۔
ایسے پروگرام پاکستان میں ہونے ضروری ہیں۔*

Saman Fatima
INSPYRE Student

Through INSPYRE, I not only developed technical skills, but the program also tapped my hidden potential.

Bilal Mujahid
INSPYRE Student

**Such a Great Experience
by Anam Moqesh**
INSPYRE Student



*Place of findings,
Different teachings,
How to be happy,
How to make others happy,
and how to study.*

*I learnt ...
How to build my hidden skills
How to avoid life's barriers.*

*The teachers did their best,
Taught continuously without rest,
Our management was also the best,
Worked without rest.*

From the Career Development module, I have learnt to set goals for myself, and have also planned how to achieve them.

Syed Adil Ahmed Shah
INSPYRE Student

*یہاں پر ہمیں اچھے مواقع ملے اور آگے بڑھنے اور
گورنمنٹ کیلئے کچھ کرنے کی خواہش پیدا ہوئی۔
میری خواہش ہے کہ اپنی اور اپنے ملک کی اصلاح
کر سکیں تاکہ ہم بھی کامیاب ممالک میں شامل
ہو سکیں۔*

Mahrukh Zaidi
INSPYRE Student

INSPYRE helped me build my confidence and I learnt how to work in a team.

Marya Hashmi
INSPYRE Student

INSPYRE Highlights

Moving Towards the Second INSPYRE Cohort

Introducing INSPYRE to Prospective Candidates

Several sessions were conducted with youth to introduce them to the INSPYRE program and to highlight its main objectives. One such session was conducted in collaboration with the Civil Society Support Program (CSSP), a youth network based in Hyderabad. Around 50 young people participated in the orientation session and demonstrated keen interest in the program. The session was followed up by a question and answer session, which addressed students' concerns vis-à-vis the program.

INSPYRE team also visited Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Library and Knowledge Center in Larkana, and organizations in Khairpur including Young Students Welfare Association, Mumtaz College, Superior College, Women Degree College and Indus Resource Center where they held similar INSPYRE orientation sessions. The team received excellent feedback at both places.



Faculty Learning Program

Faculty plays an important role in creating a dynamic and conducive environment for learning. A five-day faculty learning program was organized by the Center for Educational Research and Planning (CERP) to develop the faculty's skills for creating an active learning environment. The faculty was engaged in reflection, discussions and planning along the following themes:

- Challenges and opportunities faced by youth of the 21st century
- Vision and goals of iACT
- Understanding the learning process of the human brain
- Active learning pedagogy
- Assessment and evaluation of learning and for learning
- Taking responsibility for self-learning
- Developing course plans



The faculty actively participated in this program. The program emphasized the importance of taking a holistic learning approach focusing on knowledge building, skill development and values related to learning and life. Additionally, it provided an opportunity to reflect on learning and teaching experiences of the first INSPYRE cohort, and integrate these ideas into the plans for the second cohort.

Academic Planning

iACT is offering the following exciting courses to its second cohort of INSPYRE students:

- Call Center Agent Training
- Web Designing
- Graphic Designing
- Textile Designing
- Basic Fashion Designing
- Retail Management

iACT faculty has embarked upon an intensive process of designing the course plan and other resources required for effective implementation of these courses. Services of consultants and resource organizations are also being commissioned to aid these plans.

INSPYRE Highlights

Announcing the Admissions for the Second INSPYRE Cohort

Classes for the second INSPYRE cohort will commence on 4th January 2010. Marketing for this cohort began in November, when admissions were advertised in leading Urdu and Sindhi newspapers in Sindh. In addition to this, promotional banners were placed across Malir district and its surrounding vicinities. Course flyers encapsulating course particulars were also printed. These activities were carried out in order to raise awareness about the courses being offered under INSPYRE.

The Institute received an overwhelming response as droves of eager applicants showed interest: Around 2500 young people directly approached iACT for course particulars and the registration form. About 500 young people visited the Institute's website to download the registration form.



Networking and Partnership

- Several organizations were also contacted during the month for internships which include Market Dimension, Nexcom, Dawood Family Takaful etc. The organizations were given an overview of INSPYRE, and student profiles were shared with them.
- Meetings were organized with MAKRO-Habib to finalize the planning and execution of Retail Management Course to be offered in January 2010. MAKRO will provide the expertise of its human resources to facilitate various sessions. The most exciting part of this partnership is the availability of MAKRO's state-of-the-art facilities for hands-on learning. After each session, students will be taken to MAKRO stores, where they will be involved in actual store operations in order to enhance their understanding of retail marketing. MAKRO is responsible for the retail management component of the course, whilst the remaining components including English language, personal and career development and basic IT skills will be supervised by iACT.

Youth Development Activities

In collaboration with iACT, British Council is launching its Active Citizenship Capacity building program in Malir District. Several meetings took place to develop plans for organizing related workshops for youth at iACT. Besides working on the logistics of the program, a team member from the Center for Educational Research and Planning (CERP) was selected for "Master Trainers" Training of Active Citizenship Program. He attended the program and now CERP and iACT are jointly in the process of developing a plan to integrate INSPYRE's community development component with it. This integration will help the youth to develop and implement their actual community development projects with the support of INSPYRE



ILEAD Highlights

Formalizing Partnerships with ILEAD Colleges

One of the critical features of ILEAD is to establish partnerships with five colleges which will actively be engaged in all ILEAD activities. In this regard, the ILEAD team reached out to several stakeholders in order to formalize the partnerships in the following ways:

Meeting with the Secretary of Education, Government of Sindh

A meeting was held with Mr. Rizwan Memon, Secretary Education, Government of Sindh. He was briefed about the areas where he could help in formalizing partnerships with the colleges. Mr. Memon appreciated the initiative and provided the needed support.

Introducing ILEAD to EDO Education Hyderabad and Karachi and District Officer for Secondary Education

ILEAD partner colleges will create partnerships with five public and private schools in their vicinity. To this end, the team engaged all the relevant stakeholders governing public schools in Karachi and Hyderabad by orienting them about ILEAD's deliverables. The team met with Niaz Hussain Leghari, Executive District Officer Education Hyderabad, Ilyas Bhatti, District Officer Sports Hyderabad, Shabbir Ahmed Jokhio, Karachi's District Officer Education (Male), Khurshed Fatima DOE (Female) and Ahmed Nawaz Niazi DOE (HQ). Strategies were discussed on how to engage nearby schools. The gentlemen shared positive feedback, assuring full support of the program.

Commissioning Support of Regional Directors for Colleges

Regional Directors for Colleges, Karachi and Hyderabad were engaged further to commission their support for ILEAD. Mr. Ali Asghar Balouch, Regional Director Colleges Hyderabad and Ms. Najma Niaz, Regional Director Colleges, Karachi granted permission to the selected ILEAD partner colleges to work with the program and participate in ILEAD activities.

Discussion with Director General, Colleges, Sindh

An important meeting was organized with Mr. Rafique Siddique, Director Colleges, Sindh. The ILEAD team provided him with the details of the program and the role of its partner colleges. He acknowledged the value of programs like ILEAD and offered to fully cooperate and support program implementation. Additionally, he instructed the Regional Director, Colleges to extend their cooperation to the ILEAD team.

Sports Education Curriculum

Designing a National Sports Education Curriculum is one of the key deliverables of ILEAD. Certain steps have been taken in this regard:

Initiating the Report Writing of Situation Analysis Study

In order to design a relevant and realistic Sports Education Curriculum, the Center for Educational Research and Planning (CERP) had undertaken a detailed study to analyze the current sports education framework. The data of this study has been collected, and its documentation is underway in the form of a report. The report will provide a comprehensive overview of the current status of sports education at local colleges, and will provide recommendations on how to address the challenges of implementing an effective sports education curriculum at the college level.

ILEAD Activities with Partner Colleges

The ILEAD team has initiated work with its partner colleges. The following activities were undertaken to introduce the program in colleges:

- A draft of the formal agreement to be signed by Habib University Foundation and the partner colleges was provided to each college for review and comments. The agreement chalks out the roles and responsibilities of both parties, and will provide them with a legal framework to work within. Once feedback is received, the agreement will be finalized and signed by both the parties. To date, colleges are reviewing this draft.
- ILEAD team had a detailed meeting with all partner colleges in order to initiate the work. Colleges are now in the process of identifying ILEAD sports faculty, five partner schools and the prospective students to become the part of ILEAD Sports Youth Council. ILEAD Sports Youth Council will be a group of dynamic young leaders who will play a key role in designing and implementing all ILEAD activities.



ILEAD Highlights

ILEAD at iACT



This month, an exciting T20 cricket match was organized at iACT under the initiative of ILEAD. The match was played at Kokan Ground, Bahadurabad among students of iACT. A significant point to be noted about both teams was that male and female team members played together. Both enjoyed themselves thoroughly, playing enthusiastically and energetically. Students showed plenty of talent during the match, and certain students have been identified to make up the Institute's cricket team.

Afterwards, a compelling T20 match was played between iACT staff members and the Habib University Foundation team, which was won by iACT.



Upcoming Events & Activities

- As a part of the INSPYRE Cohort II admission process, tests and interviews will be undertaken for Karachi and non-Karachi based students
- Finalizing plans for British Council's Active Citizenship Program training at iACT
- Finalizing the ILEAD Agreement with partner colleges
- Initiating the process for appointing sports faculty at ILEAD partner colleges
- Finalizing sports education plan for colleges

Habib University Foundation
147, Block 7 & 8,
Banglore Cooperative
Housing Society,
Tipu Sultan Road,
Karachi - Pakistan
Phone: +92-21-34301051-55
Fax: +92-21-34301056
Web: www.huf.org.pk