iEARN: INTRODUCTION, METHODOLOGY & CURRICULUM INTEGRATION
What will we do today

• Introduce ROTA, iEARN, and what we do

• Define Project-Based Learning (PBL)

• Introduce our Global Education framework

• Provide necessary tools for teachers experienced with PBL to implement an iEARN project

• Introduce the online iEARN platform and its collaboration center www.iearn.org
Reach Out To Asia (ROTA)

Reach Out To Asia

Is a program of Education Above All and was founded in November 2005 under the auspices of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and guided by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al Thani.

ROTA’s Vision

We envision a world in which all young people have access to the education and training they need in order to realize their full potential and shape the development of their communities.

ROTA’s Mission

Together with partners, volunteers, and local communities, we work to ensure that people affected by crisis across Asia and around the world have continuous access to relevant and high-quality primary and secondary education.
Education Above All (EAA)

Is an initiative founded in 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. EAA envisions bringing new life chances, real hope and opportunities to improve the lives of poor and marginalized children, youth and women especially in the developing world. It aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for vulnerable and marginalized people especially in the developing world, as an enabler of human development.

EAA believes that education is a fundamental right for all children and an essential condition to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is the single most effective means of reducing poverty, generating economic growth and creating peaceful and just societies, which is at the core of EAA’s philosophy.
About ROTA

Where do we work?

• Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Qatar and Yemen

What do we do?

➔ National Programs: youth development (volunteerism; English, Arabic and digital literacy programs)
➔ International Programs and Online Education Department (TVET, Quality education, innovative use of Technology)

➢ Improve access to ICT infrastructure
➢ Develop Teachers professionally through Trainings and collaborative platforms
➢ Provide opportunities to improve the quality of education (like linking education to community development)
Watch 25th anniversary video

Reach Out To Asia
Motto: *Learning with the world, not just about it...*

Vision: is to enable young people to undertake projects designed to make a meaningful contribution to the health and welfare of the planet and its people.

Organization: iEARN is a non-profit organization with presence in more than 140 countries. iEARN empowers teachers and young people (Over 2,000,000 so far) to engage in online collaborative project work. Since 1988, iEARN has pioneered on-line school linkages to enable students to engage in meaningful educational projects with peers in their countries and around the world.

iEARN is:
- a **safe** and structured environment for students to communicate
- an opportunity to apply knowledge to **make a difference**
- a **diverse** and **collaborative** community of educators and learners (140 countries)
iEARN improves learning by

- Exposing students to a diversity of cultures which improves their tolerance
- Putting students on a path to take actions addressing local or global issues which helps to ignite their civil awareness and global citizenship
- Providing opportunities to enhance students’ skills and understanding of the world
- Linking education to students’ interests, and facilitating integration between different subjects
We in ROTA believe that education is a right, and hence strive to improve access to quality education in Asia and MENA regions. Our programs aim ultimately at equipping youth to become productive and active citizens in order to shape the development of their communities.

The objectives of iEARN-Qatar are to:

- Provide a unique professional development experience for teachers in Qatar through a meaningful and relevant integration of technology and project-based learning into their curriculum
- Facilitate a practical Global Education experience for students in Qatar through safe online collaboration within the iEARN network
- Support a collaborative, Qatar-based learning community of educators and learners
- Link classroom learning to local or global issues, and enable students to make a meaningful contribution to the health and welfare of our planet and peoples
iEARN-Qatar

ROTA is the Official representative of the iEARN program in Qatar

✓ is facilitated by Reach Out To Asia (ROTA)
✓ is co-implemented by ROTA & National Center of Educators Development
✓ Is sponsored by Muntajat
✓ provides workshops for educators
✓ provides online professional development for teachers
✓ provides support and collaboration through ROTA Knowledge Network website
✓ provides access to other iEARN communities around the world
✓ hosts an annual Open House Celebration in May to showcase student’s work
✓ sponsors teachers and students to go to the Annual iEARN Conference and Youth Summit
What is your relevant previous experience?

- Have you done a curriculum-based project with your students before?
- Have you done an iEARN project with your students before?
- Are you a member of an online collaborative educational network?
- Have your students worked online with other students before?

After implementing an iEARN project, your answer will be Yes to all of the above questions.
Teachers work on projects

Pilot Phase: First iEARN projects

March 08
- ROTA becomes the iEARN Qatar representative
- First Introduction to iEARN Project Workshop

June 08
- Celebration: iEARN-Qatar Open house
iEARN-Qatar
October 2008 – July 2018

October-November
Workshops for teachers

Project implementation & online support

April-June
iEARN-Qatar Open House
Since the beginning of 2014, the iEARN-Qatar program is run in partnership with Qatar University’s College of Education as one of the programs of the National Center for Educational Development (NCED).

Qatar Chemical and Petrochemical Marketing and Distribution Company, Muntajat, is the official sponsor for the iEARN-Qatar program from 2014 till 2019.
iEARN-Qatar

Professional Development for Teachers

Workshops

✓ Project-Based Learning (PBL) pedagogy
✓ A Framework to improve Global competencies and 21st C skills
✓ Project Planning and Curriculum Mapping
✓ Assessment templates
✓ And more

Project implementation

✓ Global education experience
✓ Different subjects integration
✓ Enjoyable active learning experience for students
✓ Collaboration with facilitators and other teachers
✓ Satisfy the NPST requirements
At the Open House, students and teachers have the chance to display their work and achievements in their iEARN project.
ROTA and iEARN-Qatar hosted the iEARN International Conference and Youth Summit in Qatar in July 2013!
iEARN conference & Youth Summit 2018 in Virginia, USA

The Qatari stand in the Cultural Night
What are iEARN Projects?

iEARN projects

… can take on many different forms, but are all rooted in the pedagogy of Project-Based Learning and the end results are collaborative final ‘products’ or project outcomes that are shared between the participants.

Project outcomes:

These have included magazines, creative writing anthologies, websites, reports to government officials, arts exhibits, performances, and many more examples of youth taking action as part of what they are learning in the classroom.
Domains of Learning

Knowledge
- What the students will know when they finish the project

Skills
- What the students will be able to do with what they know.

Attitude
- What the student will care about or value at the end of the project.
Domains of Learning

Watch at least one of the below videos, and note down what Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes would your students develop if they implemented such a project.

Global Education: Learning with the world

The Teddy Bear project

Finding Solutions to hunger
Form the K, S & A that you have drafted, what added value could an iEARN project bring to your students and to you as an educator?
Characteristics of iEARN Projects

Projects are …

✓ curriculum-based and cover all subject areas
✓ connected to real life issues and the Sustainable Development Goals
✓ collaborative
✓ designed by teachers
✓ flexible yet structured
✓ an active learning experience for students
✓ enhancing students’ Success skills, or 21st Century skills
✓ encouraging global citizenship and leadership
Here’s a reflection of a grade 8 student on the Solar Cooking project:

“I think that this project really taught us a lot of things like to care for poor people, how solar cooking can reduce deforestation and decrease pollution; but the most important thing I learned, is the importance of team work and applying it to solar cooking. We actually read much about solar energy and now we know that we can cook and reheat food using nature renewable energy source and affordable materials.”
Project-Based learning

• Define the term ‘Project’: 
Project-Based learning

• A Project is …

• ...a collaborative enterprise frequently involving research or design that is carefully planned to achieve a particular aim

• Source: Oxford Dictionary

• Activity: Can you define PBL?
Project-Based learning

• Define ‘Project Based Learning’:
PBL is a systematic teaching method that engages students in learning essential knowledge and life-enhancing skills through an extended, student-influenced inquiry process structured around complex, authentic questions and carefully designed products and tasks.

Source: What is Project-Based Learning?  
http://pbl-online.org/About/whatisPBL.htm
Project-Based learning

PBL is about students learning through working on meaningful projects engaging them with issues relevant to their lives. PBL is a learner-centered approach where students can take ownership and have a significant input on shaping and planning the project and its outcome or ‘final products’. The projects can support the formal teaching and be linked to the curriculum and lessons taught in the classroom.
*Find it in your Handbook

Source: www.BIE.org
Buck Institute for Education
Adapted from Setting the Standard for Project Based Learning:
What are the Benefits of PBL?

- Learning skills ("do") and knowledge ("learn") integrated across subject areas
- Allows flexibility yet structured
- Promotes civil responsibility
- Opens horizons
- Interesting
- Allow creativity and experiential learning
- Developing habits of mind: life-long learning, working with peers
- Better teaching and learning
- Engaging and empowering for students
Coffee Break
(please indicate sufficient time)
Global Education in iEARN

• Video on Global Education
• Definition
• Global Education in iEARN
Global Education in iEARN

Definition

Global Education is Education for global competence that can promote cultural awareness and respectful interactions in increasingly diverse societies. **Globally competent individuals can examine local, global and intercultural issues, understand and appreciate different perspectives and world views, interact successfully and respectfully with others, and take responsible action toward sustainability and collective well-being.**

Global Education in iEARN

Definition

Global education is the term used internationally to describe a form of education which:

• enables people to understand the links between their own lives and those of people throughout the world
• increases understanding of the economic, cultural, political and environmental influences which shape our lives
• develops the skills, attitudes and values which enable people to work together to bring about change and take control of their own lives
• works towards achieving a more just and sustainable world in which power and resources are more equitably shared

(source: http://www.unesco.org/education/tlsf/mods/theme_c/popups/mod18t05s02.html)
Adding a **global aspect** to the students’ learning is **necessary** in this day and age for the following reasons:

- To better prepare students for **future careers** as our workplaces are becoming more multi-cultural
- Global awareness is a necessary building block for **active global citizenship**
- Education is a powerful tool that can help in **dissolving barriers and building tolerance amongst peoples** and cultures, and hence teachers must play a key role in this.
In order to help teachers, we drafted the below 3 level approach of introducing a global dimension into the curriculum for students:

a. Realizing from personal experiences that our lives are interconnected globally

b. Building understanding beyond personal experience: how global issues affect our/others’ lives, and how individual choices can affect global issues

c. Taking action: Contributing to a more peaceful, just and equitable global society, through collective action (iEARN project) or personal choices

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<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Suggested Activities or questions</th>
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| Realizing from personal experiences that Our lives are interconnected globally | ‘Human Bingo’ game  
Individual Questions: What has been your experience....? |
| Beyond personal experience: similarities amongst peoples of the world, how global issues affect our/others’ lives, and how individual choices can reverse those effects | Videos, SDGs, Literature on the topic  
Questions for research and group discussion:  
To what extent are students in country x similar to us?  
To what extent is global warming affecting our lives? What can we do to reduce its effects locally or globally?  
How are regional conflicts affecting us? What can we do to people most affected by it? |
| How can we contribute to a more just, peaceful and equitable society through our iEARN project? | The project’s Leading Question can frame and steer the project in a direction to address a local/global issue  
Include a section on Global Competencies in the project plan |
The 8 key concepts

Underlying the idea of the global dimension to the curriculum are 8 key concepts

**Global citizenship**
- Gaining knowledge, skills and understanding of concepts and issues necessary to become informed, active, responsible citizens.
- Developing skills in evaluating information and different points of view, cross-cultural awareness and intercultural understanding.
- Understanding the impact of the global world on local communities and the nature of global issues and how they affect citizens and decisions.
- Understanding the role of language, ethics, arts, religion and science in shaping global trends and intercultural understanding.
- Understanding the impact of cultural and social values on global citizenship.

**Conflict resolution**
- Understanding the nature of conflict, its impact on development and why there is a need for its resolution and the promotion of harmony.
- Developing a sense of respect for the diversity of people and their environments and the need for conflict resolution.
- Understanding the concept of conflict resolution in its various forms and its impact on developments.
- Understanding the role of language, ethics, arts, religion and science in shaping global trends and intercultural understanding.
- Understanding the impact of cultural and social values on global citizenship.

**Social justice**
- Understanding the concept of social justice.
- Understanding the impact of values, cross-cultural awareness and intercultural understanding.
- Understanding the role of language, ethics, arts, religion and science in shaping global trends and intercultural understanding.
- Understanding the impact of cultural and social values on global citizenship.

**Human rights**
- Knowledge about human rights, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Understanding the principles of universality, indivisibility, non-discrimination, equality and non-discrimination in all situations.
- Understanding the right to liberty and security of person and the right to effective remedy and reparation.
- Understanding the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- Understanding the right to freedom of association and assembly and the right to participate in cultural life, education, science, arts and culture.

**Diversity**
- Understanding and respecting differences and relating these to our common humanity.
- Understanding the importance of respecting differences in culture, customs and traditions and how these differences are organized and governed.
- Developing an awareness of the variety of people and environments around the world.
- Understanding the role of language, ethics, arts, religion and science in shaping global trends and intercultural understanding.
- Understanding the impact of cultural and social values on global citizenship.

**Interdependence**
- Understanding how people, places, policies, economies and environments are all interdependently related and that change at one place affects change at another place.
- Understanding the impact of globalization on both local and global issues.
- Understanding the impact of the environment on human rights and the human rights on the environment.
- Understanding the relationship between human rights and the environment.

**Values and perceptions**
- Developing a critical evaluation of representations of global issues and an appreciation of the effect these have on people’s attitudes and values.
- Understanding that people have different values, attitudes and perceptions.
- Developing an understanding of values and the role of human rights.
- Developing an understanding of the concept of sustainability.

**Sustainable development**
- Understanding the need to maintain and improve the quality of life for future generations.
- Understanding the concept of sustainability and its impact on the environment and the economy.
- Understanding the relationship between social, economic and environmental systems.
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To sum it up:
- Next workshop we will talk about the project’s Leading Question
- Include Global Competencies in your project plan
- Design your project activities and final product to walk students through the 3-level process:
  - Realizing from personal experiences that our lives are interconnected
  - Building understanding beyond personal experience
  - Taking action through the project activities and final product
The Pre-planning activity

- Group Activity: Pre-Planning Exercise

- Join one of the groups of your grade level
  ~ 3 groups of Primary, 4 groups Middle, and 2 groups Secondary

- Using the activity handout, start the pre-planning activity

- Duration of the activity is 40 minutes.
The Pre-planning activity

40 minutes

1. Choose an iEARN project that suits the curriculum that you have to teach in this term. *

2. Map the project to your curriculum

3. The big picture - What do you want your students to learn (Knowledge, Skills and Attitude)?

4. The scope of your project: what duration of time and resources will be allocated?

5. Think of your project final products. These need to be agreed upon with the students.

*The trainer may select relevant iEARN projects, or else teachers may refer to the iEARN Project book for a complete list of iEARN projects available for the current academic year.
Mini Project Plan activity
30 minutes, followed by some presentations

1. Fill in the sections that you have already thought of in the previous activity.

2. Decide on the Learning outcomes

3. List the project activities and timeline

4. Think of the assessment tools that you will use to assess the students' performance, as well as Knowledge and Skills they acquired throughout the project

5. Be ready as you might be asked to present your Mini-Plan *

* For teachers who are experienced with PBL, and are confident to start implementing their project after this workshop, they can self-assess their plan using the Project Plan Rubric
Break
(please indicate sufficient time)
What makes a Project Successful?

Elements of Successful Collaborative Online Projects

- Real life issues
- Curriculum
  - more than one curriculum area

- Connected to

- Interesting
  - For students
  - For teachers

- Engaging
  - In critical, reflective, creative thinking
  - In collaboration with their peers
    - Locally
    - Internationally
  - Applying knowledge in new situations
  - Applying their skills

- Well managed
  - Transparent
    - Clear
    - Realistic
    - Measurable outcomes
    - Timely demarcated

- Igniting
  - Creativity

Reach Out To Asia
Benefits of Collaboration

Examples of collaborative projects: Wikipedia, Open educational resources, iEARN-Qatar.
Benefits of Collaboration

• Teaches students to collaborate, a lifelong skill for their career life

• Builds diversity understanding among students

• A group can achieve more than the sum of what each individual member can achieve. Collaboration saves time and energy, and accelerates the professional development of individual members as in turn it can build upon the work of others
Preparing Students for Online Collaboration

Do we need to prepare our students for online communication & collaboration? *

* This question is to generate discussion. As a result, teachers can be directed to section 5 in the iEARN Workshop A Handbook 2018 which includes useful resources for international collaboration, e.g. Netiquette and the iEARN Buddy Support Contract.
In the iEARN network, you will connect with other educators and youth across iEARN's 140 country network!
iEARN Collaboration Centre

• Go to www.iearn.org, and register
• Forums, and projects
• Register students (Collaboration-Management)
• Find teachers

Details in your iEARN Workshop A Handbook page 63
Workshop B
CLASSROOM, IMPLEMENTATION & TOOLS

• Applying PBL in an iEARN project
• Project planning
• Next Steps for project implementation
Workshop Resources

You may find the workshop handbook and other resources on:

rota.org/resources
• **Create an account:** on [www.iearn.org](http://www.iearn.org) (Workshop A handbook)

• **Homework:**
  - Decide on the iEARN project that you will implement (by looking through the iEARN project book)
  - Complete your pre-planning activity in preparation for workshop B
  - Have a look at the resources in the workshop A handbook
Please fill in the survey

Thank You!
ROTA Knowledge Network

For project portfolio and teachers collaboration