



ICT Training on Birzeit University

An ICT training course was held on 10 November 2005 at BirZeit University for teachers from West Bank directorates as well as UN-RWA school teachers. The training was sponsored by the British Council. The Ministry also invited students from one of the ILCs in Ramallah to give a presentation on one of the lesson plans they had previously completed. The students decided to present on



Agriculture in Palestine. At the end of the presentation, the students answered audience questions. Some of the teachers and representative from the British Council were interested to learn more about the lesson plan such as how the students go about choosing the subject, data collection, the problems face them while working in addition to the benefits of ICT in school. The stu-

dents also had the opportunity to present their general views on teaching in Palestine and what they want from teachers.

The agriculture lesson plan was jointly designed by one of the teachers at the Khawla Girls' School, and the OnSite Monitor in coordination with the On-Site Educator.

A teacher from one of the UNRWA schools expressed interest for RISO collaboration to train teachers on ICT.

Table of Contents

PAGE 1: ICT Training at Birzeit University

PAGE 2: Teachers Share Exchange Visit to US with Ministry of Education Staff

PAGE 3: Meeting with Principals from Hebron's Area
Lessons at ILC
Spirit of Volunteerism

PAGE 4: Celebrating IEW at Our Schools
Students Commemorate National Event

Page 5: Working with Teachers and Students
Fashion Project

The Global Connections and Exchange Project – Palestine is a project of Relief International - Schools Online's Global Citizenship & Youth Philanthropy Program and has been made possible with major funding from the United States State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Global Catalyst Foundation.

Teachers Share Exchange Visit to US with Ministry of Education Staff

On 20 November, Palestinian teachers, Banan Hammouri, Anwar Almohtaseb and Mohammad Abu Hatab shared their exchange experience to the US with forty staff from the Ministry of Education, which also included principals and teachers from the six GCEP schools in the West Bank. The teachers ex-



pressed their appreciation for this unique opportunity to learn about the American education system and American culture. Also on hand to express MoE appreciation were Dr. Assaf, As-



sistant Deputy Minister and Dr. Abu Sharkh, former head of the Directorate of Training and Supervision. Both reiterated the importance of the GCEP and how it has benefited both teachers and students and emphasized the need to expand the program to include more schools. They thanked RI-SOL, ECA and the US Consulate General for facilitating the teachers visit to the US and again, they conveyed their satisfaction for the positive outcome of the exchange and indicated that such exchange

visits should continue. Ms. May Bargouthi, Cultural Affairs Officer at the US Consulate General in Jerusalem also attended the meeting. She thanked the MoE and RI-SOL for their active involvement and commitment to the program.

The three teachers shared their experiences through PowerPoint presentations that included the three components of the exchange visit – Educational Training at UCLA, Home Stays and their trip to Washington DC. The teachers were in agreement regarding the advantages of participating in exchange visits such as:



- Encouraging and sustaining partnerships with American teachers
- Adapting some of the teaching methodologies and education system practices used in the US (ie. Backward planning, introducing electives, rotational system, emphasize greater student participation in the class room, extra curricular activities and establishing social clubs, involvement of teachers in ICT and curriculum development), just to name a few
- Learning first hand about the American way of life – its history and people.

The teachers concluded their presentation by outlining suggestions for the Ministry of Edu-

cation to consider adapting or further developing in the Palestinian education system:

- Encourage and support such programs for more teachers
- Further develop teachers skills
- Encourage teachers to use ICT to improve student learning
- Reduce teachers' educational load and administrative duties
- Standards to judge students' performance
- Develop curricular and extracurricular activities
- Involve community to support schools and school ac-



- Encouraging and sustaining partnerships with American teachers
 - Adapting some of the teaching methodologies and education system practices used in the US (ie. Backward planning, introducing electives, rotational system, emphasize greater student participation in the class room, extra curricular activities and establishing social clubs, involvement of teachers in ICT and curriculum development), just to name a few
 - Learning first hand about the American way of life – its history and people.
- The teachers and RI-SOL representatives opened the floor for comments or questions regarding the exchange.

Continued

Teachers Share Exchange Visit to US with Ministry of Education Staff

In general, most of the questions were related to curriculum development and how some of the US teaching methodologies can be adapted to the Palestinian context. The teachers included some examples of what they have already adapted for the subjects they teach and this included the backward planning lesson plan as one example.

The information presented by the teachers was well received by the audience of educators and administrators, because it not only reflected the visit as a cultural exchange activity, but it also highlighted the educational perspective and new knowledge Palestinian teachers gain from other educational systems and the prospects for

adapting some of this new knowledge in the Palestinian educational system. During the next several months the exchange teachers will also share their visit with other teachers from nearby schools.

Sport lesson at ILC

On 8th of November at Huda Abdel Nabi School, The OSM arranged with the sports teacher to give his class training on how they can use the internet to search for sports information, news and game results. The training was first given to the teacher and then the teacher gave students the training with OSM help.

Expanding to other Hebron schools

The Huda School Headmaster and the OSM arranged for a meeting with principals from 15 Hebron district schools to discuss the benefits and challenges of ICT and learning in their respective schools. There was general consensus among the attendees that incorporating ICT in the classroom has proven to be effective teaching tool that should be applied in the classroom. The Huda School Headmaster and OSM briefed the principals on the latest Schools Online activities and lesson plans as well as the opportunities provided to teachers in developing their IT skills in addition to teaching methodologies that can be applied to the Palestinian curriculum. At the conclusion of the meeting three school principals invited RI-SOL to visit their schools to discuss future prospects for cooperation.



GYSD continue at Alawda School

Voluntary work that started in April 2005 continued in Alawda School. On 23 November, the Palestinian Wildlife Society has continued to support Alawda School by donating five trees. The Headmistress, students and Palestinian Wildlife Society staff did not hesitate to plant the trees. The students planted the trees in the school courtyard.



IEW at Khawlah Bent Alazwar Shool

On Nov.19th, students and teachers at Khawlah Bent Alazwar school, celebrated International Education Week by organizing OPEN DAY activities for parents and the community. The ILC students spoke about IEW, and GCEP. Several teachers spoke about the benefits of ICT and learning and curriculum development. Banan Hammouri, one of the teachers who participated in this past sum-

mer's exchange to the



US shared her exchange to US with attendees. The students also presented seven of their ILC projects and other activities, which included lesson plans on folklore and tradition, as well as agriculture in Palestine. The students

answered many questions from the audience, which mainly focused on how the students



work together to prepare the presentations and the benefits of such activities in school.

Ministry of Education Schools Commemorate first Anniversary of the Death of Palestine President, Yasser Arafat

November 11th was the first anniversary of the passing of Palestinian president Yasser Arafat. To commemorate this day, the Ministry of Education requested all Ministry schools to hold a memorial service on 10 November in remembrance. On this day, students presented on the life of the late president. Some of the students worked in groups at the ILC to research and prepare the presentations.



The presentations also included information on the Palestinian struggle against occupation.



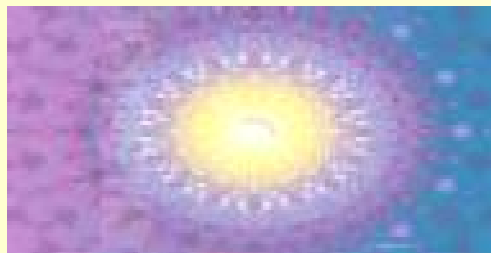
Teacher Training

The OSM at Alhashemya School started a training for two new teachers at the school on computer basics. The teachers began the course by learning about the hardware of the computer and how to use the mouse and keyboard. Once they were comfortable with using the mouse, the OSM introduced them to Windows. More and more teachers are now taking advantage of the trainings provided at the ILCs.



Health & Environment

At Alhashemya Secondary School, we worked with the students from the tenth class on health and environment subjects. The teachers and students first shared ideas finally agreed to research in groups using the net at the ILC. The students then designed a poster and hung it in the schools' main hallway.



Fashion Project

Fashion is a very important part of our lives here in Palestine, especially teenagers and young adults. However, the traditional Palestinian dress is as prevalent as western style clothing. Whether one is in Ramallah, Hebron or Gaza, there is something for everyone—young and old, traditional or modern. Our ILC students were excited about this lesson plan. They enjoyed it because they had chance to visit shops for clothes, jewelry, shoes, and bags. Some of them bought new clothes for winter and made it as a chance for shopping with his or her friends. Many participants in this project took picture of themselves and included them in his or her own presentation. Several students even took pictures of their teachers and families. They also completed a survey for the project on the different types of fashion. Students also talked about the school uniforms. Using the ONLINE Forums our students also had the opportunity to exchange information and views on fashion with their counterparts in the US. To learn more about Fashion in Palestine, click



Address

Relief International - Schools Online
Ramallah-Tarifi Building-Al Masyoun Street
Palestine

Tel : 00970 2 2953798

Fax : 00970 2 2953798

<http://www.connect-middleeast.org>