

Title of Session: GPBL - Projects that make a difference in the world!

Moderator: Linda Ullah

Title of File: 20050217gpbliearn

Date: February 17, 2005

Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

BJB2: Welcome to tonight's GPBL discussion! Linda has recently returned from a trip to Bangladesh and has some great information to share.

LindaU: Hi David.

BJB2: we usually start the discussions in Tapped In with introductions.

DavidWe: Hi, Linda. Welcome back from Bangladesh

LindaU: Thank you.

LindaU: Shall we start with introductions?

LindaU: My name is Linda Ullah. I'm a former K-12 teacher who now runs a technology integration staff development program at a community college in the SF Bay Area. my passion is global pbl.

LindaU: as BJ has just told you I've recently returned from Bangladesh where I met with the director of the Bangladesh iEarn program.

SusanR: K to 8 Occasional Teacher from Ottawa, Ontario and my passion is computer integration in the classroom

LindaU: and the rest of you are?????

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City (Christo's "The Gates" project is pretty cool, all over Central Park). I help teachers learn more about technology and math and science

RachelPe: Rachel P. from south Texas, college instructor for the computer science department, graduate student towards education leadership, my passion is teaching

DavidWe: Cool, Rachel

LindaU: and Emily?

DavidWe wonders if Linda has met with Ed Gragert of I*EARN?

EmilyW: Emily from Dallas, college graduate who would like to get into technology integration in schools

LindaU: Yes, Ed and I have met.. that's how I got in touch with Hiru (Golam Rabany) in Dhaka.

DavidWe smiles

LindaU: First I'll tell you a little of my trip and what I hope to do with iEarn Bangladesh..then

SusanR interested in hearing about Linda's experiences in Bangladesh

LindaU: I want to share the iEARN site with you.

DavidWe listens

LindaU: When I met with Ed Gragert here in San Jose, we discussed the possibility of CA teachers getting units for their iEARN training courses.

LindaU: Now NY and other states do this

LindaU: During the discussion we talked about the fact that I have family in Bangladesh... and he connected me with Hiru to see if I can help his schools there find projects/partners in the U.s.

KaseyM joined the room.

JoeGst2 joined the room.

LindaU: Hi Kasey and Joe ..we are just getting started. How about introducing yourselves and telling where you are and why you are here?

JoeGst2: hi

KaseyM: Thanks, hello

LindaU: Anyway... I contacted Hiru and we are now writing a joint proposal to help him train his teachers to use technology and integrate it with the curriculum and possibly to get some technology for his schools.

LindaU: In Bangladesh, the technology is NOT what it is here.

KaseyM: I am in Houston, TX and I am interested in learning about integrating tec. in the classroom. (I am still a student at UH)

LindaU: There are few computers in schools (except maybe schools for the more affluent) and little Internet connections in schools.

KaseyM: I plan on teaching Science

LindaU: The Internet is still VERY EXPENSIVE.. per minute charges... and not very reliable.

LindaU: Electricity is not always reliable, too.

LindaU: Thank you Kasey and welcome.

LindaU: This is one of the problems in trying to do global projects.

LindaU: Now, I'll pause and give you all a chance to ask some questions.

LindaU: oh.. Hiru is working with schools for the emerging middle class.

RachelPe: That is Bangladesh what about the rest of the world

DavidWe smiles

LindaU: This is true for many emerging nations. and even some others.

LindaU: We are ahead of the curve in Internet use. Japan may have caught up to us now....UK and many European countries are catching up...

RachelPe: interesting, I was not aware of this

DavidWe wonders if the recent southeast Asian tsunami affected Bangladesh

LindaU: Sometimes we assume the rest of the world has what we have.

LindaU: Remember that the economies of emerging nations is very different from ours. People make less money and cannot afford what we can afford.

RachelPe: Very true

LindaU: Until recently you could not get standard American kitchen appliances in Bangladesh.. Now you can, but they are not always the same standard we are used to...

LindaU: Until recently hot water was only a luxury in Bangladesh.. and now the more affluent have it as a standard, but others do not...

LindaU: Some villages still don't have electricity...or all day electricity where it exists.

DavidWe imagines that CLEAN water may be more important than hot water

LindaU: tell me about it ... I picked up a parasite this trip in spite of my efforts to be careful.

DavidWe hopes Linda's tummy is okay

BJB2: oh, no!

LindaU: Any more questions before I move on to iEARN?

LindaU: Bastocystis Hominis... and yes, now I'm fine...

DavidWe is glad

LindaU: I want to walk you through their site.. so please try to stay with me.

LindaU: I'll give you the url and some info

LindaU: click on the url then come back to this chat screen please

LindaU: iEARN <http://www.earn.org/> is the International Education and Resource Network. They sponsor global projects, train teachers and help monitor and mentor the iEarn Projects. You can find a complete listing of their projects by scrolling to the bottom of the left-hand column and clicking on Click here for a complete listing of iEARN projects. 20,000 schools in more than 109 countries participate in iEARN. I believe the annual cost to join is \$100 for an individual teacher and \$280 for a school. Their projects are high quality.

LindaU: As you can see.. for American teachers iEARN is not free, but it is reasonably priced.. and as you will see the value added it tremendous.

LindaU: Let me know when you are ready to move on.

LindaU waits for everyone to be ready

DavidWe nods

KaseyM: I think that this is really neat. I like the fact that kids can get involved with kids around the world. It opens their eyes.

DavidWe agrees with Kasey

LindaU: We'll start by clicking on One Day in the Life Project. So click on that link left of the big ONE

LindaU: and come back here

SusanR sees the benefits of membership

LindaU: After looking over this project.. what do you think about it.. could you use it with students?

EmilyW left the room.

LindaU: You might want to compare it to this web site.. and see if the two could be used together; Photographer Peter Menzel has published a wonderful book called MATERIAL WORLD. Some of the photos from this book can be found at:

LindaU: <http://www.menzelphoto.com/gallery/mw.htm> How could you use these photos as the starting point for a project to help students value each others cultures?

BJB2: oh, cool!. I just got that book.

KaseyM: It seems to be really interesting and I am sure it will give kids an better understanding rather than just reading something in a book. We all know most kids do not like to read and this looks like a fun way to get kids interested in different cultures

RachelPe: Wow! diversity at our kids fingertips

LindaU: Notice how surprised you all were about the state of technology in Bangladesh and some other emerging countries.

DavidWe nods

RachelPe: yes

LindaU: Do you think this project..and/or Menzel's work would help students clear up misconceptions?

SusanR nods

RachelPe: no doubt

LindaU: Rachel.. in what way.?

LindaU will be in Napa this weekend hmm

RachelPe: opening eyes to cultures unheard of, Americans geography is limited

RachelPe: world geography!

SusanR: understanding diversity

LindaU: absolutely... we are really quite isolated from the rest of the world...

KaseyM: Not only geography but also living styles, clothes and over all things that are unlike themselves

RachelPe: culture

LindaU: How can we use this to promote cross cultural understanding, world peace, etc.

RachelPe: world peace

RachelPe: yes

LindaU: When I go to Bangladesh---we have an apartment there.. my pace of life and way of life is very different than it is here.. My days are structured very differently... and the way I live, entertain, move about, dress, etc. is very different.

LindaU: If our children were to grow up understanding the cultural differences, what difference might it make in the way they view other cultures... even here within the U.S.?

KaseyM: I think that the pics are a very strong tool in bring unknown cultures home

KaseyM: I think that if they were aware of different cultures from the get go then they would not perhaps judge as quickly as they do now

LindaU: and would a day in the life ... make this even more clear?

KaseyM: Of course

DavidWe thinks it would

LindaU: exactly Kasey!

LindaU: okay--Now, pick a subject area in the left (orange menu and in c 5 minutes come back and tell us about a project you love and could do with your students.. or a class you know about could do.. or why you love it.. or....????

LindaU will see you all in 5 minutes for your report out to the group...;-)

LindaU: that is on the iEARN site:<http://www.iearn.org/projects/oneday.html>

DavidWe: Oh, no, a test!

LindaU doesn't believe in tests... this is just a sharing.

LindaU thinks David has known Linda virtually long enough to maybe have figured that out.

DavidWe believes that this is true

RachelPe: I found a great one ICT Project-math/technology

RachelPe: I can use this one

SusanR: I would use the Comfort Quilts Project

SusanR: It gives students an opportunity to exhibit their national culture and help needy children in other countries

RachelPe: Gives my students roles in programming this is a great group project.

KaseyM: Well I went to the science projects. I like the ENO project for starters because it is student-centered. Also kids can learn about info in their local area as well as the same data but from the other side of the world. Pretty cool!

LindaU: Comfort Quilts is one I looked at and loved

LindaU: Kasey, tell us more about this project

LindaU: Rachel, tell us more about the ICT Math project

LindaU: Susan, can you share how the comfort quilts project helps needy children?

KaseyM: Well, kids gather info based on their area on topics such as social, natural environments and record the data online and others can view it around the world. Then the students are to compare the different data.

RachelPe: It's focused on programming, which is very difficult to conduct group projects of such complex concepts. But this one provides great tools "e-Club" with news, forum, etc. Each student takes care of a section or a function

KaseyM: They get to see how their local areas compare to others

KaseyM: I enjoyed looking at the sites.

LindaU: David, since you seem to know Ed Gragert..are you a member of iEARN?

DavidWe: I've known Ed, a bit.

DavidWe: I'm not a member

DavidWe: Does it cost \$\$\$?

LindaU: yes..

LindaU: <http://www.learn.org/projects/oneday.html>

SusanR: What about Canadian membership?

LindaU: I believe the annual cost to join is \$100 for an individual teacher and \$280 for a school.

LindaU: Thank you all for being here...

RachelPe: Thank you Linda

KaseyM: Thanks!

BJB2: Thanks, Linda! Inspirational resources.

BJB2: I need to look more closely at personal symbols

LindaU: I hope this resource is useful.

LindaU: bye all