

First BRIDGE Regional Conference Evaluation

No of respondents: 25

Following is the analysis of the participants' responses to the First BRIDGE Regional Conference evaluation form. The conference was held from June 22 through 25, 2003 at Hilton Green Plaza, Alexandria, Egypt and was organized by iEARN Egypt.

The evaluation form consisted of three parts:

Part I: 14 statement that assessed participants' satisfaction on a 4-point scale (4= strongly agree, 3= agree, 2=disagree and 1= strongly disagree.) The statements included registration, location, schedule, variety of topics presented, relevance to participants' needs, value of time spent in the conference, presentations being informative, organization of the event, networking possibility, effectiveness of audio-visual aids, the effectiveness of the ASK-ME team, availability of IT services, efficiency of the computer lab and overall satisfaction.

Part II: 4 open ended questions eliciting data on the best presentation the participants attended, what they liked in the conference, what they didn't like and their suggestions and recommendation for future events.

Part III: Elicited information about the new knowledge/ideas/skills acquired in the conference and how the participants may apply them.

Data Collection:

The conference evaluation form was distributed to all the participants and they were reminded several times that they are requested to complete them and submit them by the end of the third day. Only 25 participants turned in their evaluation forms out of who attended the conference (...%).

Data Analysis:

The evaluation data was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively by iEARN evaluation consultant and following are the findings.

Part I Quantitative Data Analysis

Following is the statistical analysis of the 14 items and the minimum and maximum rating scores per item in addition to the mean and standard deviation of each item.

Mean, Percentage and Standard Deviation of Part I Items

Item	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	%	Std. Dev.
1. The registration process was smooth.	23	3.00	4.00	3.65	91%	.47
2. The presentation room was comfortable.	24	1.00	4.00	2.33	58%	.80
3. The schedule of the event was appropriate.	24	2.00	4.00	3.22	81%	.64
4. There was a variety of topics presented.	25	2.00	4.00	3.48	87%	.59
5. The topics presented were relevant to my needs.	25	2.00	4.00	3.28	82%	.61
6. I found the time I spent at the conference worthwhile.	25	3.00	4.00	3.68	92%	.48
7. The presentations were informative.	23	3.00	4.00	3.48	87%	.49
8. The event was well-organized	25	2.00	4.00	3.44	86%	.58
9. The event was a good chance for networking.	25	2.00	4.00	3.64	91%	.64
10. Audio-visual aids (Overhead projectors, data-shows, and sound systems) were used effectively.	23	2.00	4.00	3.43	86%	.56
11. The Ask-me team (students) were helpful	25	2.00	4.00	3.64	91%	.59
12. IT services (Internet connection-computers) were available at the computer lab.	24	2.00	4.00	3.21	80%	.58
13. IT services at the computer lab were efficient.	23	1.00	4.00	3.22	81%	.76
14. Overall, the event met my expectations.	23	2.00	4.00	3.39	85%	.56
TOTAL	25	2.86	3.76	3.36	84%	.25

Interpretation of findings:

The above items should be interpreted according to the following scale:

1.00-1.50 = Strongly Dissatisfied

1.60-2.50 = Dissatisfied

2.60-3.50 = Satisfied

3.60-4.00 = Highly Satisfied

The participants were **highly satisfied** with items 1, 6, 9 and 11.

- The smoothness of the registration process. (m=3.65, 91%)
- The time spent in the conference was worthwhile. (m= 3.69, 92%)
- The chance for networking (m=3.64, 91%)
- The helpfulness of the ASK-ME team (m=3.64, 91%)

They were **satisfied** with items 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14

- Appropriateness of the schedule of the event (m=3.22, 81%)
- Variety of topics presented (m=3.48, 87%)
- Relevance of the topics presented to the participants' needs (m=3.28, 82%)
- Topics presented being informative (m=3.48, 87%)
- Organization of the event (m=3.44, 86%)
- Use of audio-visual aids (m=3.43, 86%)
- Availability of the IT services (m=3.21, 80%)
- Efficiency of the computer lab (m=3.22, 81%)
- The event meeting the participants' expectations (m=3.39, 85%)

There was **ONLY ONE** item that the participants generally were **dissatisfied** with; item 2.

- The presentation rooms being comfortable (M=2.33, 58%)

NO items received Strongly Dissatisfied average from the group.

Overall the event was satisfactory: M= 3.36 (84%)

The items that highly correlated with **overall satisfaction** were as follows:

1. Availability of the IT services
2. Efficiency of the computer lab
3. Variety of topics presented
4. Presentations being informative
5. Appropriateness of the schedule of events

Part II Data Analysis

Part II consisted of 4 questions as follows:

1. Which **presentation(s)** did you like **best**?
2. What did you **like most** about the conference?
3. What did you **like least** about the conference?
4. What **suggestions** and **recommendations** do you have for future events as far as program structure, topics, location, hotel, schedule, transportation, IT facilities, etc. are concerned?

Findings:

The data was coded and analyzed and following are the findings.

Question 1: Which presentation(s) did you like best?

The following presentation were highly rated

The following table shows the presentations were mentioned by the participants as the ones that they liked best and their frequencies.

It shows that there was a variety of topics that were liked by the participants which agrees with the statement no 4 in Part I, which received satisfaction from the participants. Assessment seemed to be the most liked area of presentation, which shows the strong need for knowledge and skills about assessment.

Presentations Liked Most By Participants & Their Frequencies

Presentation title	Presenter	Frequency
Assessment in civic education	Ahmed Dewidar & Deena Boraie	8
Content based learning	Nadia Touba	3
Lewin Project		3
Online curriculum courses	Elian	3
Roles and Strategies in collaborative learning		2
Hatching new ideas		2
Research ethics and academic responsibility		2
Managing change	Ahmed Dewidar & Margo A. Aziz	2
Hands on PowerPoint and front page		2
Youth can	Elian	1
Pre-departure		1
Civic Education in English classes		1
Partnership for learning youth exchange and study program		1
A collaborative approach to LL on line		1
mine marks		1
On line web based Elaine	Elian	1
Fund raising and proposal writing		1
Learning service and iearn		1
Using Children's literature		1
Dr. Inas		1
Kerry WDC		1
Farah		1
Brain based learning		1
Effective leadership	Ali Abo Leila	1
Presenters from Pakistan		1
Make your presentation more effective		1
Bridge 7 civics in Morocco		1

THE TITLE NEED TO BE REVIEWED TO IDENTIFY THE CORRECT TITLES OF THE PRESENTATION AND TALLY THE NAME WITH THE TITLES

Analysis of Question 2. What did you **like most** about the conference?

The following table shows the issues liked most by the participants and their frequencies.

Issues liked most by the participants and their frequencies

Issues Liked	Frequency
Networking and meeting colleagues from different countries	12
Organization	5
Variety of the given sessions/topics	4
Settlement at the hotel	4
The nice friendly atmosphere	3
Sharing experiences	3
ASK-ME team cooperation	3
Everything	2
IT facilities	2
The gala dinner	1
Benefiting from our colleagues in the different sessions	1
Some presentations were very informative	1
The organizers were very friendly and helpful	1
Collaborative work	1
Entertainment	1
The presenters level of expertise	1
Traveling	1

The participants praised the networking opportunity most followed by the organization of the conference and then the variety of the topics presented. Several issues were also praised like the hotel, sharing experiences, the ASK-ME team and the IT facilities.

Analysis of Question 3. What did you **like least** about the conference?

The following table shows the issues disliked most by the participants and their frequencies.

Issues disliked most by the participants and their frequencies

Issues Disliked	Frequencies
Uncomfortable rooms. The institute is not a suitable place (not air conditioned)	11
The short time which made everything condensed	2
Plenary in Arabic which left no place for non-Arabic participants	1
Being late (timing)	1
Buses leaving sometimes late	1
The confusion of the schedule on the first day	1
Just the lunch breaks!! It was difficult to go on working after the generous meals	1
<i>Nothing</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>I can't find any negative points. The conference was successful</i>	<i>1</i>

The issue that received the highest dissatisfaction was the room of the session being uncomfortable, which agrees with item 2 in Part I as this item received the lowest rating or the only item that received dissatisfaction from the participants ($m=2.33$, 58%). Two participants complained about the program being condensed, whereas individual participants were concerns about issues like having one plenary in Arabic, buses leaving late sometimes or lunch being “too” generous.

Two participants cared to write “nothing” and praise the conference instead of leaving it blank like others participants to indicate that they had nothing against the conference.

Analysis of Question 4. What **suggestions** and **recommendations** do you have for future events as far as program structure, topics, location, hotel, schedule, transportation, IT facilities, etc. are concerned?

The following table shows the suggestions and recommendation made by the participants and their frequencies.

Suggestions and Recommendation Made By the Participants and Their Frequencies

Suggestions/Recommendations	Frequencies
Better air conditioned/comfortable venue	7
More hands-on activities	3
Emails of all presenters and conference organizers should be given in the program book for better networking	2
I would like to see students in some of the sessions sharing what they have learned through their experiences with iEARN and Bridge	2
I recommend to have lunch after the event in the midday (less food at lunch)	2
Evening trips for all of us to have more fun and joy	2
Location: sessions to be held in the hotel or in a walking distance from the hotel	2
Increase the number of presentations	2
Less number of sessions	2
Next time, Sharm El Sheikh or the Red sea & Presenters should be university professors	1
Having the chance to deal with more nationalities	1
Program for the day should be posted on the wall/door, so people can be sure of the sessions they are attending	1
A “presenters’ lounge” should be allocated on the conference site to give presenters the facility to sit in peace and review/organize their work if they need to	1
It should be insured that presenters have their commitment and present the topic they have declared. Example: “grant writing workshop”	1
Please put toilet paper in the bathrooms	1
Everything was marvelous	1
Topics should be varied and cover all aspects of iEARN	1
Frequent changes in the program should be avoided	1
Transportation was good, however, it could have been better if there is a small vehicle left behind for the late comers and regular buses should proceed on time	1

Inform us beforehand if it is in Arabic or English	1
To have a closing ceremony for the conference	1
Decrease 1h:45m workshops to 45 minutes.	1
Some sessions were only 45 minutes so I suggest to give at least 90 minutes for every session to give us more chance for discussion	1
Future events in hotels near the center of the town	1
Scheduling should match holiday time for teachers so that they can attend easily	1
Time: to start everything at the times announced. Stick to the schedule.	1
Sessions: attendees pre-register for the sessions before the conference starts and provide some information about their expectations as well as language level. Some sessions were very crowded.	1
I would like to thank each and everyone who contributed to making this conference a success. A lot of effort has evidently been you and I congratulate you all.	1
Insist that mobile phones be turned off during sessions	1
Provide a website for teachers to post photos taken at the conference so we can share them when we get home	1
Representing the general administration of the educational computer in presenting next time	1
More time to work on computers	1
All hand outs should be given to all participants on a CD	1
Conference sessions should be scheduled from 4.00 to 10 pm because of the heat	1
Depending on teachers from other areas other than English language teachers	1
Having end of the year exams time in mind for both teachers and students	1
Avoid topics that are not related to the aim of the conference	1
Avoid programming important topics in the same day. There were interesting workshops but I had to select one. I wanted to be in all workshops.	1
Share rooms with other nationalities to be more familiar with them	1

The main suggestions made by the participants were to have a more comfortable venue for the conference (more comfortable rooms for presentations), to have more hands-on activities, to have the students as active participants in the presentations or as presenters, to include presenters and conference organizers' emails in the program book for better networking, to organize evening trips and to have more hands-on activities.

There were conflicting suggestions regarding the time devoted for the sessions. While one participant suggested reducing the time of the workshops to be only 45 minutes, another participant suggested increasing all 45 sessions to be 90 minutes. On the other hand, a third participant suggested reducing the number of sessions. However these were all individual concerns that are almost impossible to accommodate in any event.

There were some useful suggestions regarding the organization of the conference like having the program for the day posted at the door of each presentation room to help participants identify where they are and having all presentations in the same area in order to save time and avoid transportation delays.

Part III Data Analysis

Knowledge and Skills Acquired by attending the Conference. The following table shows the new knowledge/ideas/skills acquired and how the participants may apply them. The areas acquired are classified into six areas: presentation skills, assessment, teaching methodology, IT skills, management skills, and civic education concepts and culture.

New Knowledge/ideas/skills acquired	How to apply
Presentation Skills	
Way of presenting (Ahmed and Deena)	Use same technique in class
How to b a good presenter	Applying in presenting my ideas
Using audio-visual aids	
Presentation skills	Conduct a session with my colleagues
ASSESSMENT	
Testers' code of practice and test takers rights	
Implementing new assessment techniques with better vision and holistic view	Assessment for students, teachers and different other cadres
Testing and testers	Good for the teachers to implement in the class
TEACHING METHODOLOGY	
Critical thinking skills1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach students how to be critic when they read a passage • Encouraging students to produce arguments
New approach for training	
Collaborative approach to teach a foreign language	As suggested
Creative writing process	As suggested
Knowledge about children's literature	We can benefit not only from the elder but also from children
Combining learning with awareness	
Using iEARN projects in language teaching	Giving my students sample of projects and then explain the way will work in the future
Roles of the teacher/students in and strategies of cooperative learning	Make good use of them/apply with my students
Through networking and discussion, I have new books and resources to	I will use these resources in my classes and as I work with other

use	teachers
Teaching EFL writing and other skills through technology	Try integrate modern EFL web-based skills, especially the 4 skills, through and for teacher training programs in Egypt
Brain based learning using cognitive science	
IT SKILLS	
Techniques for online courses	Participating in online courses
How to design a front page	
Designing web-based courses	I will try to apply it in designing teacher-training programs that could apply the same techniques for Egyptian teachers and educators
Internet	How to make a site
MANAGEMENT (Class/Organization)	
Creating an effective leader	In team leadership
Management	In our coming projects
How to solve problems and lead to changes as we teachers need to achieve	Apply in my iearn projects
Team work	Letting my ss depend on themselves and work in a team
Proposal writing skills	Implementing it while working on my organization's proposals and annual work plans
Strategies in cooperative writing	
CIVIC EDUCATION CONCEPTS & CULTURE	
Breaking stereotypes	
Ethics and academic responsibility1	Coming generations should be taught about
Social responsibility	Apply it in my society
Community and service-learning experience	
Knowledge of current education issues in countries of the middle east	Share it with other US teachers and with my students
Knowledge of other cultures through interaction in the conference	I will think of these individuals when I hear something happening in the middle east
Building a global bridge among all nations through web-based projects	Copied from the internet then printed then handed out the pupils in case of lack of computers in the classroom
So many ideas about iEARN and	Initiate new projects for iEARN

other youth/student projects	Egypt
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