GigaPan Dialogues
International Workshop 2010

CONCEPT NOTE
&
AGENDA

15-16 November 2010

Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA

A. Workshop context and background

The GigaPan School Dialogues: Diversity and Inclusion in the Community project is a joint venture between Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (UNESCO-IBE), in partnership with UNESCO's Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet). The overall objective of the GigaPan project is to promote empathy and understanding between cultures through the use of new technologies (GigaPan) in the context of student-friendly curricula and teaching and learning approaches. Using a robotic camera (the GigaPan), the children in participating schools take explorable, high-resolution panoramic images of the world around them. These images are then shared through the project's website with their contemporaries around the globe. By using GigaPan, students and teachers can explore different topics related to *cultural diversity*, *sustainable development* and *learning to live together* in their community in the context of a pedagogical project that each school defines with respect to their particular context. They can afterwards exchange on specific topics with schools from different communities via the Internet and customized platforms hosting the GigaPan Dialogues.

This pilot project began in 2008 and has been implemented in several schools in South Africa (2), Trinidad and Tobago (2), the United States of America (6), Indonesia (3), Brazil (1) and Switzerland (2). Finland (1) and Mali (1) are set to become the next countries included in the project in 2011.

Following a kickoff workshop in 2009, the 16 participating schools engaged in 11 projects: Alimentation/Nutrition; Biodiversity; Carnival/Carnaval; Environmental Learning; Festivals/ Cultural Celebrations; Geocaching and GigaPan; Nuestra Vida Escolar; Roller Coasters; School Daily Activities; Waste Management; and World Cup 2010. In keeping with the objective of developing projects to fit the curricular and logistical needs of the partnering schools, implementation of the projects varied considerably, ranging from short projects between two schools with a clear start and end point, to open-ended, multi-school collaborations with new students and teachers joining the project as it progressed.

Evaluations of the program in the spring of 2010 pointed to two primary challenges: scheduling of interactions between student groups and resolution of projects. Additionally, re-convening with partner educators to reflect after the experience of implementing the projects was seen as a desirable step towards building strong collaborations. Finally, as the program moves past the pilot stage, providing opportunities and resources for the many schools that wish to join was seen as a priority in supporting growth and sustainability.

With these focus areas in mind, the project is hosting a workshop to bring together representatives of the participating schools, also welcoming representatives from four new schools, in Finland, Mali, and the United States of America.

B. Organizers

- Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)
- UNESCO International Bureau of Education (UNESCO-IBE)

C. Participants

- Approximately 32 teachers from Brazil (to be confirmed), Finland, Indonesia, Mali (to be confirmed), South Africa, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago and the United States;
- Representatives of the Ministry of Education of Brazil;
- Representatives of the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO and the Indonesian UNESCO ASPnet;
- Carnegie Mellon University (CMU);
- UNESCO International Bureau of Education (UNESCO-IBE).

D. Working Language

The workshop will be conducted in English, with possibility of personal direct translation to French if needed. The documents will be produced in English.

E. Workshop Methodology

The active engagement of the workshop participants is critical to ensure successful outcomes, as the input from the participants will be core to analysing the work done in 2010 and the development of the 2011 activities. As part of preparatory activities for the workshop, the participants will be asked to prepare reports on the 2010 projects that they will present during the workshop. School reports that have been submitted will be discussed and compiled into a collection of project examples that will serve as a resource for newly joining teachers, as well as a record of accomplishments by participating schools.

During the workshop, there will be a balance between small group activities and whole group plenary discussions. Participants will break into working groups to discuss and draft best practices for project development and execution, including: establishing a school implementation; project definition; scheduling interactions between schools; aligning the project to curricular goals / standards, implementing a project as an extracurricular activity; field trip logistics; technology management.

The workshop will be highly interactive and we will also make use of the robotic camera (GigaPan), computers, and projector.

F. Workshop objectives

The overall goal of the workshop is to set the stage for successful engagement with projects and program growth in 2011. Specifically:

- Welcome the new schools that are joining the GigaPan project in 2011;
- Train the new educators to use the GigaPan technology (robot and website);
- Presentation of the 2009-2010 activities by schools and reflect on the challenges and the lessons learnt;
- Identify the best practices for project development and execution;
- Compile and share the curriculum materials developed in the framework of the project ;
- Propose and discuss possible projects for 2011, deciding on approximately 5 projects to undertake according to the schools needs;
- Develop concrete action plans for interactions between schools and schedule a work plan for the 2011activities according to the schools needs;

G. Expected Outcomes

Documents generated at the workshop are intended to record the activities and achievements of school project participants in 2009-2010 and provide resources for new teachers joining the project. A tentative schedule of activities for 2011 will be a third output. Particularly,

- The new teachers that join the GigaPan project for 2011 have been introduced to the project and they are familiarised with the technical aspects of the GigaPan robot and website;
- Each teacher had the possibility to present the 2009-2010 activities of their own school and the other schools of their country, and have been able to identify challenges and to point out lessons learnt;
- The best practices regarding projects development and execution have been identified and shared among all the participants;
- The curriculum materials developed in the framework of the project have been compiled and shared among all the participants;
- Projects proposals for 2011 have been made according to the schools needs, and approximately 5 have been selected for the 2011 activities;
- An action plan for the interactions between schools has been developed and a work plan for the 2011 activities according to the schools needs had been scheduled.

H. Logistics

The workshop will be held at Carnegie Mellon University (5000 Forbes Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA) in the Gates Center for Computer Science room 4405, November 15-16, 2010.

The recommended hotel for the workshop is the Holiday Inn University Center (+1/412-682-6200). From the Pittsburgh Airport, the hotel can be reached either by taxi (approximately US$60) or by public bus 28X ($3.00, exact change only) at the "Lytton St." or "Tennyson St." stops. The workshop venue is within walking distance of the hotel.

A technical training will be on Sunday, November 14 for the new teachers (but all are invited) meeting at the Holiday Inn lobby at 1 p.m. A welcome reception will be held at the Holiday Inn Bridges Restaurant on Sunday, November 14 at 5 p.m.

I. Further Information
Up-to-date information for the workshop can be found at
http://education.gigapan.org/workshop/2010/program

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AGENDA

Sunday, 14 November 2010	
1:00-4:00	Technical training (all are invited, but particularly for new teachers) leaving from Holiday Inn Lobby
5:00-6:00	Welcome reception at the Holiday Inn Bridges Restaurant
Monday, 15 November 2010	
8:30-9:00	Check-in and light breakfast
9:00-9:30	Welcome remarks and introduction
9:30-10:30	School reports
10:30-11:00	*Coffee break*
11:00-12:00	Discussion and designation of best practices drafting groups
12:00-1:00	*Lunch*
1:00-3:00	Drafting of best practices
3:00-3:30	*Coffee break*
3:30-4:30	Presentation of best practices drafts and feedback from educators from other groups
4:30-5:00	Synthesis and closing
Tuesday, 16 November 2010	
8:30-9:00	Light breakfast
9:00-9:30	Outline of how projects will be proposed, discussed, and finalized, including introduction of curriculum maps
9:30-10:30	Presentation of project proposals
10:30-11:00	*Coffee break*
11:00-12:00	Project working group meet-ups - first session
12:00-1:00	*Lunch*
1:00-2:00	Project working group meet-ups - second session
2:00-3:00	Presentation of projects to be implemented
3:00-3:30	*Coffee break*
3:30-4:30	Development of 5 steps
4:30-5:00	Synthesis and closing